

TOPIC	COUNT IT ALL JOY
DATE	Sunday, June 1, 2025

MEMORY VERSE	“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” <i>1 Thessalonians 5:18</i>
BIBLE TEXT	Habakkuk 3:17-19

INTRODUCTION
<p>God wants us to rejoice in all situations. The enemy specializes in stealing, killing, and destroying and as believers we must not be ignorant of his devices especially in trying times. Our passage which examines the life of Habakkuk is a good example of rejoicing in unpleasant situations. In this lesson, we will discuss ways to ensure we remain joyous regardless of the situation we are going through. It is our prayer that the Lord will open our inner mind to His Word in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.</p>
<p>LESSON OUTLINE</p> <p>A. BE READY</p> <p>B. KNOW THAT WE ARE BEING MADE STRONGER</p> <p>C. BETTER DAYS AHEAD</p>
<p>A. BE READY.</p> <p>Trials and tribulations will come irrespective of the person. We should therefore prepare for it. Matthew 6:13 talks about being delivered from evil. Therefore, when that evil day comes, we must stand firm in our conviction that we shall be delivered. Part of our preparation is to be determined to be of good cheer during those tough times because He has overcome the world; and because He has overcome the world, we will overcome also (John 16:33). We must learn to rejoice now even before those moments come so that when those trying moments come, a life of rejoicing would have become an unshakeable part of us. According to Philippians 4:4, we are called to rejoice in the Lord always irrespective of situations. We should also rejoice in the knowing God has not changed and His promises are yea and amen. Habakkuk 3:17-19, 2 Corinthians 1:20.</p> <p>B. KNOW THAT WE ARE BEING MADE STRONGER</p> <p>The trials and temptations of life are to make us stronger. Even when the trials appear to be so tormenting and we are lost in fear, we are to "count it all joy" (See James 1:2). The passage didn't say that it will all be joy but rather, we should count it all joy. The choice therefore is ours.</p> <p>Sometimes God uses trials to refine, prune, and make us stronger (2 Corinthians 12:9-10) knowing fully well that we will not be consumed (Isaiah 43:2). He also uses it to strengthen</p>

our relationship and knowledge of Him. We tend to remember God when things are not going so well, and God being the all-knowing God, uses tough times to force us to draw near unto Him so He can in return draw near unto us (**Isaiah 43:2, James 4:8**). Our trust in God is being developed. We trust that He is ever faithful and does not change (**Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8**).

Why is it important for us to grow in our trust in God?

1. When we trust Him more, we won't fear. **Psalm 27:1**
2. To renew our strength in Him (**Isaiah 40:31**). When we trust in Him, we will be able to wait on Him.
3. To carry out all He has assigned us to do. **Philippians. 4:13**
4. To have the boldness to do the impossible. He will make me walk upon my high places. (See the Red Sea experience in **Exodus 14:12-15**).

C. BETTER DAYS AHEAD

We must never forget that everything that starts must come to an end, that better days are ahead of us (**1 Peter 1:3-4**), and we will be made perfect in Him (**1 Peter 5:10**). We know that we have a glorious end because Christ has redeemed us (**Galatians 3:13**) and we are therefore saved. We should therefore rejoice in the God of our salvation. Remember, salvation is higher than any problem because salvation gives eternal life (**John 3:16; 5:24; 1 John 5:11-15**).

CONCLUSION

We must make up our minds to count all that we go through in life, all joy (**James 1:2**), and make the joy of the Lord our strength, irrespective of the situation. (**Nehemiah 8:10**).

SUMMARY

1. How do we maintain our Joy in Christ?
2. In what ways does the enemy attempt to steal, kill, and destroy our joy?