

## Devotional on James 1:2

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds..." (James 1:2)

### Reflection

James doesn't waste time with small talk. Right out of the gate, he hits us with a truth that feels like a punch to the gut: Rejoice in suffering. It's not a suggestion—it's a command. But let's be honest—when trials crash into our lives, joy isn't our first instinct. We question, we grieve, we resist. Yet James, writing to believers who knew persecution firsthand, insists there's a different way to see the storms we face.

The word "*count*" here isn't about feeling happy; it's about deciding to see trials through God's lens. It's a choice to trust that even when life blindsides us—when we "fall into" suffering unexpectedly—God is at work. Trials come in all shapes and sizes: a lost job, a broken relationship, a season of doubt. But no matter the form, James says they're not meaningless. They're part of the Christian journey, and we don't walk through them alone.

Think about that—"my brothers." James reminds us we're family, bound together in Christ. When the fire rages, we're not meant to stand in it solo. We lean on each other, pray for each other, and point one another back to the One who turns suffering into something purposeful. Joy isn't in the trial itself—it's in what God is forging through it.

### Meditation

Take a moment to picture a trial you're facing right now. Maybe it's overwhelming, maybe it's confusing. Now imagine Jesus standing with you in it. What might He be shaping in your heart—patience, faith, resilience? Whisper to Him, "I don't feel joy, but I choose to trust You're working here." Let that choice be your anchor today.

### Prayer

*"Lord, I confess that trials don't feel joyful. They feel heavy, unfair, and hard. But I want to see them the way You do—as chances to grow closer to You. Help me choose joy, not because the pain is good, but because You are. Thank You for walking with me and for the family of believers who share this road. Show me Your purpose in this fire, and give me strength to keep trusting. Amen."*

### Action Step

Today, reach out to a friend or loved one. Share a struggle you're facing, or ask how you can pray for them. Let community remind you that you're not alone in the furnace—and neither are they.

### Closing Thought

Trials will come—James guarantees it. But so does God's presence. Joy isn't pretending the flames don't burn; it's knowing they can't consume what God is building in you. Count it all joy, not because it's easy, but because He's enough.

