

Look through the trial and trust James 1:2-8

Joy in the midst of trials? At best that sounds like a paradox; at worst, ridiculous and insulting. And yet James commands us to count trials as complete joy! Such a perspective is only possible when we embrace God's perspective on our hardships with a whole heart, trusting in His infinite goodness, wisdom and power to produce abiding maturity in our lives.

"when you encounter various trials"

"trials"	external hardships that test us
"various"	any hard circumstance
"when"	trials are inevitable
"encounter"	to fall into unexpectedly

"consider it all joy"

"entire joy"

"joy" is not "happiness"

"...settled assurance...quiet confidence...determined choice." —Kay Warren

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks...

Joy is a *choice* to delight in God's goodness even when life is falling apart

"consider it"

choice to regard something to be true, even when it doesn't feel true

Hebrews 11:11

By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.

choice to regard something to be true, even when it doesn't feel true

...[we are] as sorrowful yet always rejoicing...

2 Corinthians 6:10

The root of all sin is the suspicion that God is not good.

God's purposes in trials

1. To build character now (1:3-4)

- trials "refine" our faith
- trials produce endurance
- endurance produces maturity

2. To bring reward later (1:12)

"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matthew 5:48

"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts."

1 Chronicles 28:9

*For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods;
and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been.
1 Kings 11:4*

ask God for wisdom

wisdom = applied knowledge

living according to God's true and eternal perspective

ask without conditions

- ask in faith -
- ask without "doubting" -

"...to divide, to be at variance with one's self..."