

→ because the testing of our faith produces steadfastness

## Counting it All Joy: amidst Trials of Various Kinds

### 1. Heed James' Example & Message

- He had a high view of Christ & a humble view of himself

→ let steadfastness have its full effect, to become perfect & complete

- He exhorts dispersed believers to embrace a life of faith

### 2. Count it All Joy:

→ when we meet trials of various kinds

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There are at least four "James" found in the NT: two were apostles, James son of Zebedee and James son of Alphaeus (Mt 10:2ff); one was the father of the apostle named Judas (also known as Thaddaeus; Lk 6:16); and one was the half-brother of Jesus (Mk 6:3; Gal 1:19). Of these four, two have prominence in the NT: The Apostle James (brother of John) and James (half-brother of Jesus, leader of the Jerusalem Church). However, the Apostles James was martyred in A.D. 44 (see Ac 12:2), most likely before the book of James was written.

Some Evidence for James "the Lord's brother" as the author: 1) His Introduction and his audience (see Jm 1:1), where he identifies himself simply as "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" (v1). This implies both humility but also name recognition (this "James" is someone who is well-known enough that he doesn't need to explain who he is). He writes to the 12 tribes scattered abroad, which implies he has the authority to do so. 2) The book of James has some striking similarities (linguistically in the Greek) to the speech given by James the Lord's brother in Acts 15:13-21. 3) "The Jewish Atmosphere of the book" (Douglas Moo; NT Scholar): There are frequent references to OT and Jewish teachings, and the meeting place of the church is called a synagogue (2:2). This does not rule out other men named James, but are characteristics that also fit James the brother of the Lord. Additional information about James: he was originally a skeptic (Mk 3:21), but Jesus appeared to Him after the resurrection which would have led to his conversion (1Co 15:7).

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