

COUNT IT ALL JOY!

We learned from (Heb.10:32-34) that the 1st century AD New Covenant believers had the spiritual growth capacity to apply faith to the loss of their earthly possessions (details of life) without losing God's joy of life.

(Heb.10:34) "For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and **accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing** (ginosko/ p.a.ptc.npm) [what 2 things?] that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one."

- What do you have left when you lose everything? (Matt.6:25-34)

The doctrinal answer for the believer is the spiritual growth capacity to accept the loss of everything JOYFULLY! (Rom.8:28; James 2:1-4).

(James 1:2-4) "**Count** (hegeomai/ a.m.impv.2pl) [to give an account, to consider] (Heb.11:26) **it all joy**, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing (ginosko/ p.a.ptc.nplm) [knowing what 2 things?] that the testing of your faith produces endurance. **And** let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Knowing (ginosko) [to understand completely] was a key word in both passages dealing with undeserved suffering (suffering for Christ) (Phil.1:29).

<p style="text-align: center;">This lesson will study <u>two aspects</u> of how believers can "count it all joy" when they experience the loss of their earthly possessions (details of life).</p>

1. Every spiritually advancing believer has this promise.

"count it all joy" - no matter how long it last because God is faithful (James 1:2-4; Heb.13:5).

- **The size or length of undeserved suffering is not an issue.**

(1 Cor.10:13) "No temptation has overtaken you but such that is common to man; and **God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.**" (1 Pet.5:6-9)

- **For Israel, it lasted 400 years in Egypt (Acts7:6).**

(Rom.4:21) "And being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform."

- **For Mary, it lasted 33 years.**

(Luke 2:34-35) "And Simeon blessed them and said **to Mary His mother, 'Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed – **and a sword will pierce even your own soul** – to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."**

2. Every spiritually advancing believer can reach that level of spiritual growth maturity where he can lose all his details of life (earthly possessions) without losing God's joy of life (Heb.10:34).

He can reach a place of spiritual maturity where he can “**count it all Joy**” no matter what the loss.

There are three stages of spiritual growth

(2 Pet.3:18) “But grow in grace (charis) and knowledge (gnosis) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

- **New born baby** (brephos)
 - A believer on his mother's milk (1 Pet.2:2). The new born goes through infant stage (nepios) believer (Heb.5:13) to bottled milk (Acts 20:32; 1 Cor.13:11).

- **Immature believer** (teknion)
 - Educating and training stage of taking in the basic doctrines of the Christian Way of Life (2 Tim.2:1-7).
 - The immature believer is taught to walk the walk (John 13:33-35; Eph.5:8; 1 John 3:7, 18; 1 John 4:4; 5:21).
(Gal.4:19) “My children, with whom I am again in labor **until Christ is formed in you.**”

- **Mature believer** (teleios)
 - A meat eater and educator-trainer (Heb.5:11-14)
 - (Heb.5:13) nepios (Educator)
 - (Heb.5:14) teleios (Trainer)

The goals of the Christian Way of Life

(Heb.6:1) Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

(Gal.4:19) “Until we all attain to the **unity of the faith**, and of the **knowledge (epignosis) of the Son of God**, to a **mature man**, to the **measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.**” (Eph.4:13) (Eph.1:17-19)

Spiritual growth maturity brings confidence to the throne of God's grace “to receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

(Heb.4:16) Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(1 Cor.10:13) No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

(Heb.10:35) “Therefore, do not throw away your confidence (ten parrhesis) [bold speech] which has a great reward.” (1 John 5:14-15)