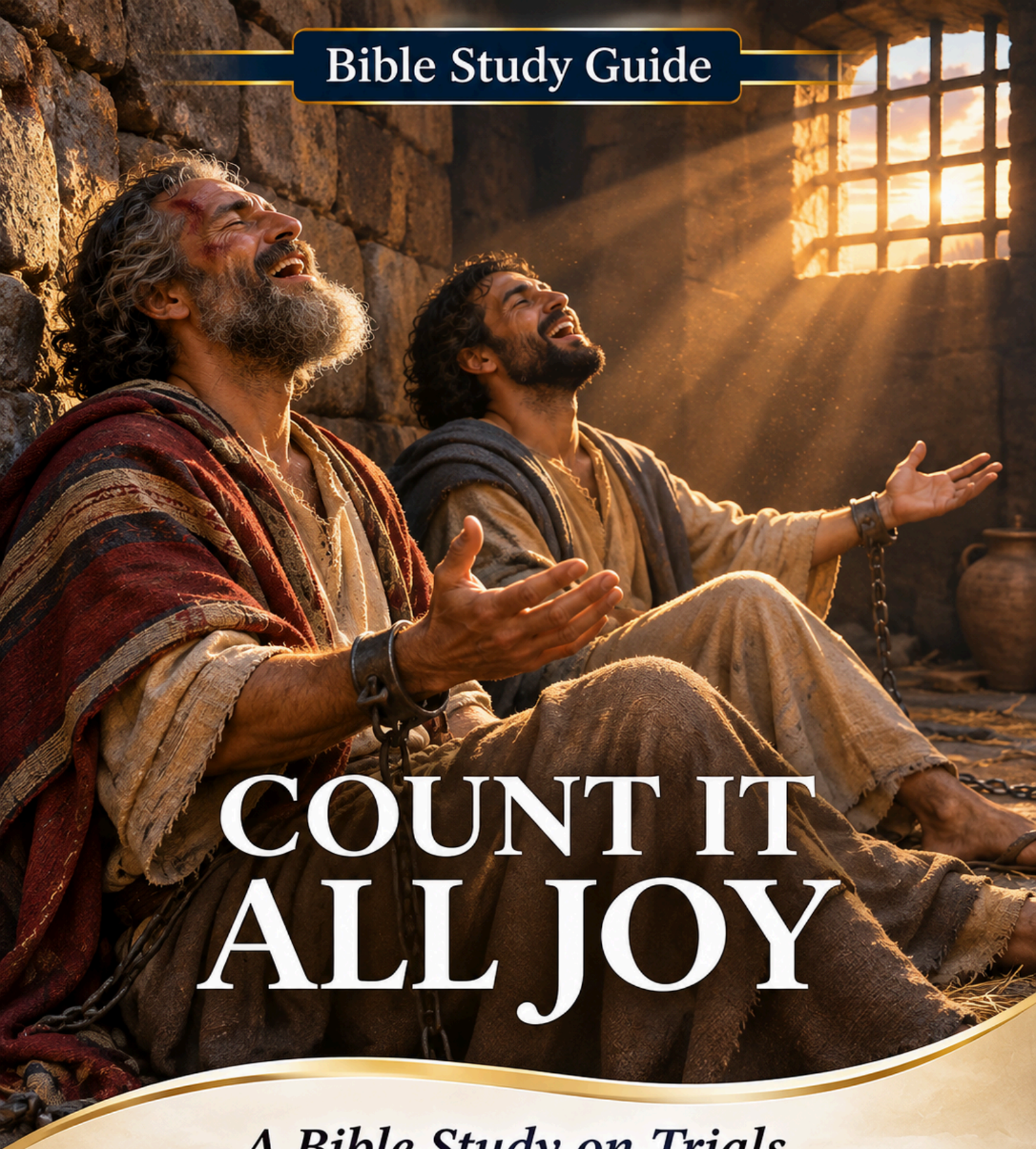
Bible Study Guide



COUNT IT ALL JOY

A Bible Study on Trials, Patience, and Mature Christian Faith

Introduction

A lemon is sour by itself, but combined with water and something sweet, it can become a refreshing drink. Trials are not sweet in themselves, and the Bible does not ask us to pretend they are. Yet God's promises, the life of His Spirit, and a willing heart can keep painful experiences from producing bitterness and make us a blessing to others.

Fill in the blanks from the KJV text, then read the brief explanation.

Bible Study Questions

1 **What does the trying of our faith produce according to James?** (James 1:2-3)

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh _____."

Joy is found in God's ability to develop endurance through trials, not in the suffering itself.

2 **What chain of growth can begin in tribulation?** (Romans 5:3-4)

"knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, _____:"

God can develop endurance and hope through difficult circumstances as we trust Him.

3 **What kind of root can trouble and defile many?** (Hebrews 12:15)

"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of _____ springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."

Resentment can spread beyond the person who first cherishes it. God's grace invites us to release it.

4 **What attitudes should be put away?** (Ephesians 4:31)

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be _____ from you, with all malice:"

Grace frees us from cherishing resentment and making suffering a source of hostility.

5 **How should God's forgiven people treat one another?** (Ephesians 4:32)

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, _____ one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

Receiving mercy changes how we respond to others' mistakes.

6 **What has God given believers so they may partake of His transforming life?** (2 Peter 1:4)

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and _____: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature...”

The promises of Scripture direct faith to God's provision rather than the bitterness of circumstances.

7 **What is one purpose of the Scriptures?** (Romans 15:4)

“that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have _____.”

The record of God's dealings with His people encourages us to trust His promises today.

8 **What does Jesus promise to the person who drinks the water He gives?** (John 4:14)

“But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never _____;”

Christ alone supplies the spiritual life that satisfies the soul and can overflow in service to others.

9 **What image describes the Spirit's work in the believer?** (John 7:38-39)

“out of his belly shall flow rivers of _____.”

John explains that Christ was speaking of the Holy Spirit, whose life flows through believers.

10 **What invitation does Jesus give to the spiritually thirsty?** (John 7:37)

"If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and _____."

Spiritual thirst is answered by coming to Christ; the Spirit is received as a gift.

11 **What did Paul remind Timothy to do with the gift of God?** (2 Timothy 1:6)

"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou _____ the gift of God, which is in thee..."

God's gifts are to be exercised in faith. We cooperate with His grace rather than allowing our spiritual life to become dormant.

12 **What practice can accompany faith in difficult circumstances?** (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

"In every thing give _____: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

We can give thanks for God's presence without calling evil good.

13 **What are we enabled to give others by the comfort received from God?** (2 Corinthians 1:4)

"Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to _____ them which are in any trouble,"

Our own experience of God's help can make us more sensitive to the suffering of others.

14 **How do believers fulfill the law of Christ?** (Galatians 6:2)

"Bear ye one another's _____, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Practical sympathy is one expression of Christ's love.

15 **What image does the psalmist use for being tested?** (Psalm 66:10)

"For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as _____ is tried."

Refining illustrates how God can develop character through trials without delighting in suffering.

16 **What can God cause all things to work together for those who love Him?** (Romans 8:28)

"And we know that all things work together for _____ to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

God does not author evil, but He can redeem even painful experiences for His purposes.

17 **What is the source of strength named by Nehemiah?** (Nehemiah 8:10)

"for the joy of the LORD is your _____."

Joy in God's goodness strengthens us without requiring us to deny our struggles.

18 **What is hope compared to?** (Hebrews 6:19)

"Which hope we have as an _____ of the soul, both sure and stedfast,"

God's promise anchors faith when life's circumstances threaten to overwhelm it.

Appeal

Will you bring your painful experiences to Jesus, receive His promises, and let Him turn what might produce bitterness into an opportunity for growth and service?

Commitment

I choose to trust God's promises in every trial and share the encouragement He gives me with others.

_____

Signature

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