James 1:1-4 *“James, a servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.*

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*2 Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various tests, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith brings about steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its perfect effect on you, in order that you may be perfect and complete falling short in nothing.”*

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***Spiritual growth is cause for joy.***

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**Perspective.**

*2 Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various tests…*

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Hebrews 12:5b-6 *“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,*

*nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,*

*and chastises every son whom he receives.”*

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**Perception.**

*3 …knowing that the testing of your faith brings about steadfastness.*

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**Perseverance.**

*4 And let steadfastness have its perfect effect on you in order that you may be perfect and complete falling short in nothing.*

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***Our joy is not based on circumstance.***

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***We need to keep our eyes up.***

***--***

***Difficulties are really opportunities.***

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***Spiritual growth is cause for joy.***

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