

FAITH IN TRIALS

HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

FAITH



WORKS

THE BOOK OF JAMES

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,
James 1:2 (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: LIVING FAITH / PRACTICAL WISDOM

James 1:1 (NKJV)

PRACTICAL WISDOM

LIVING
FAITH

FROM THE BOOK OF JAMES

¹ James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

Epistle of Common Sense

- “The Letter, because of its eminently practical character, has been quite properly styled ‘the Gospel of Common Sense’” (Woods. 17-18).
- “There are over 50 imperatives in the Epistle, he did not suggest – he commanded!” (Wiersbe. 10)

INTRODUCTION: LIVING FAITH / PRACTICAL WISDOM

James 1:1 (NKJV)

PRACTICAL WISDOM

LIVING
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FROM THE BOOK OF JAMES

¹ James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

Epistle of Common Sense

- The value and necessity of faith in every aspect of the Christian's life - especially in view of the challenges and trials of this life!

**WHY DOES GOD ALLOW
HIS PEOPLE TO
EXPERIENCE TRIALS?**

**HOW CAN TRIALS BE
GOOD FOR US?**



FAITH IN TRIALS
HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,
James 1:2 (NKJV)

FAITH IN TRIALS

HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, — James 1:2 (NKJV)

Christians persecuted & scattered – (1,2, cf. Acts 8:4)

- **Need correct perspective (2)**
- **When, NOT IF (cf. 2 Tim. 3:12)**
- **Christians will encounter MANY types and degrees of trials. (2)**
- **We can be victorious (3-12)**



FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

James 1:2–12 (NKJV)

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

James 1:2–12 (NKJV)

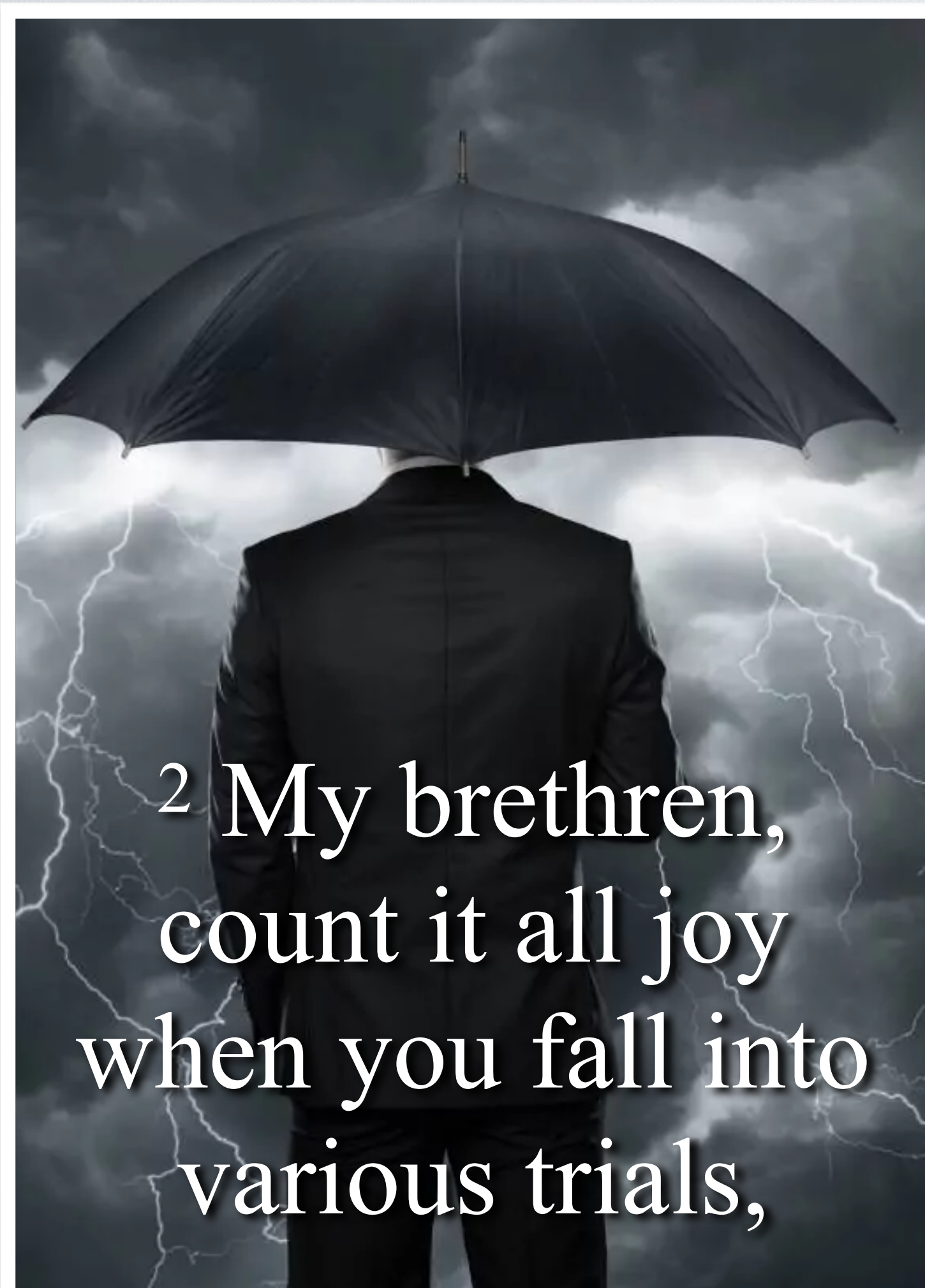
⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. ⁹ Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, ¹⁰ but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. ¹¹

For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits. ¹²

Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

“Count It All Joy . . .” vs. 2



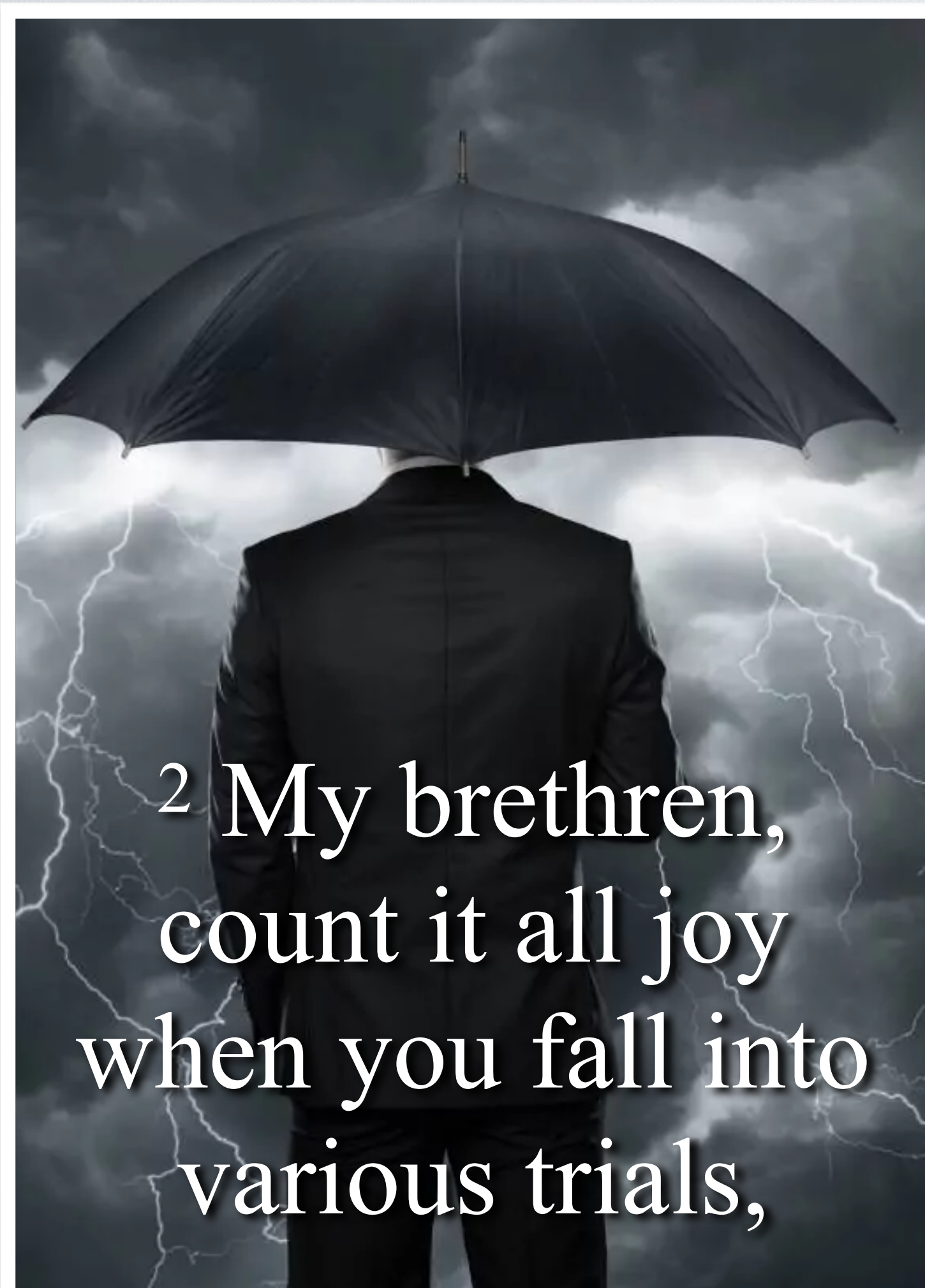
2 My brethren,
count it all joy
when you fall into
various trials,

COUNT IT ALL: (*hegeomai* (ἡγέομαι, 2233)

- “signifies “to lead;” then, “to lead before the mind, to suppose, consider, esteem;” Vine's — to consider, deem, account, think (Thayer)
- “to hold a view or have an opinion with regard to something—‘to hold a view, to have an opinion, to consider, to regard.’” (Lou Nida)
- Matt 14:5; Luke 14:28; Acts 20:24; Rom 4:4; Phil 3:7-13; 2 Thess 3:15; James 5:11; etc.

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

“Count It All Joy . . .” vs. 2



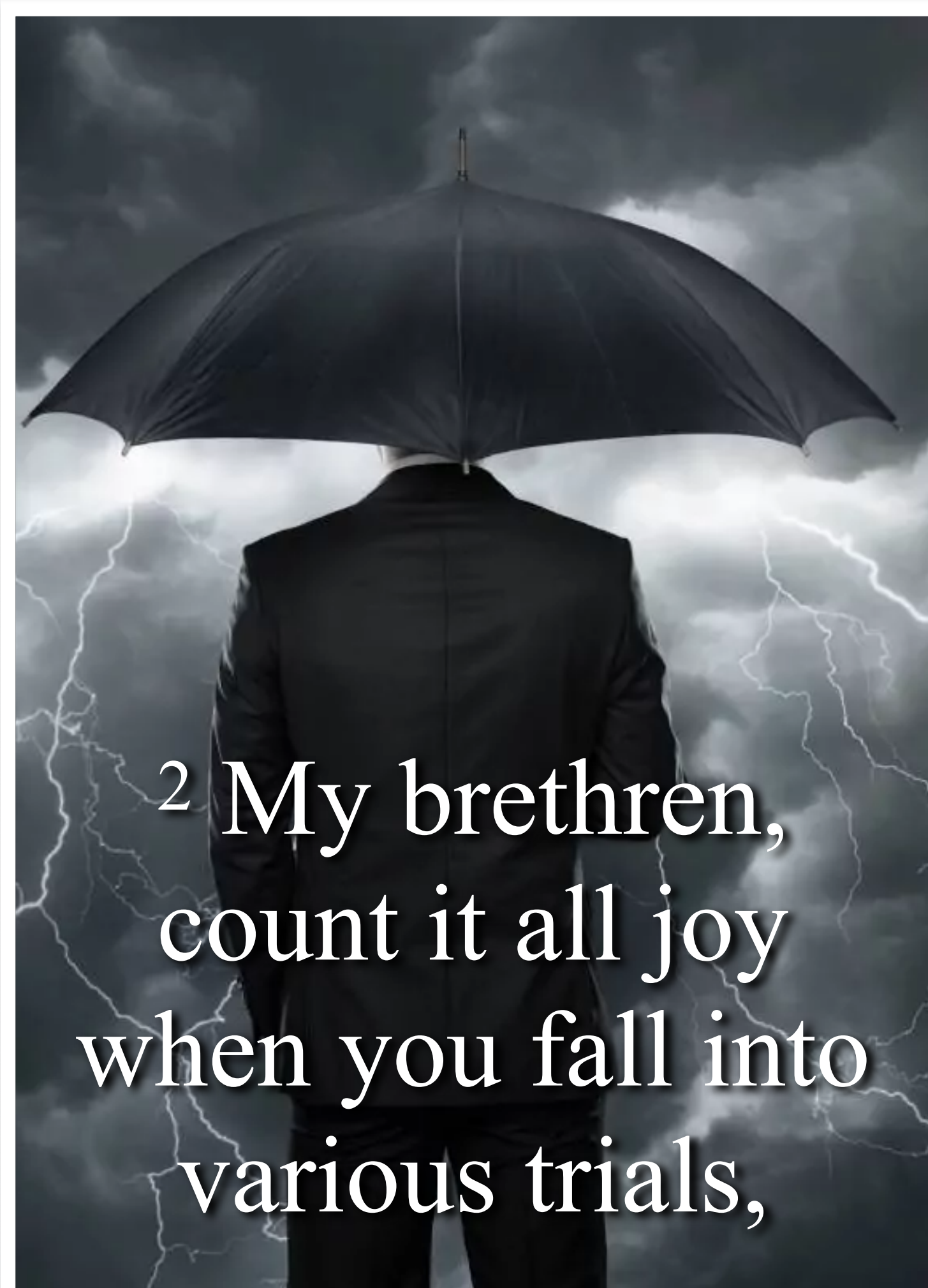
2 My brethren,
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various trials,

COUNT IT ALL **JOY:** (*chara* (χαρά, 5479))

- “the experience of gladness” [BDAG]; *chara* (χαρά, 5479), “joy, delight” (akin to *chairō*, “to rejoice”) [Vines];
- An informed and enlightened perspective allows us to see all trials through the eyes of faith.
- Faith motivates and sustains endurance with the view of our joyful expectation, i.e., hope, in mind (Rom. 5:1-5; 8:17, 18; Heb. 11:1, 13, 14, 31-12:3)

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

“Count It All Joy . . .” vs. 2



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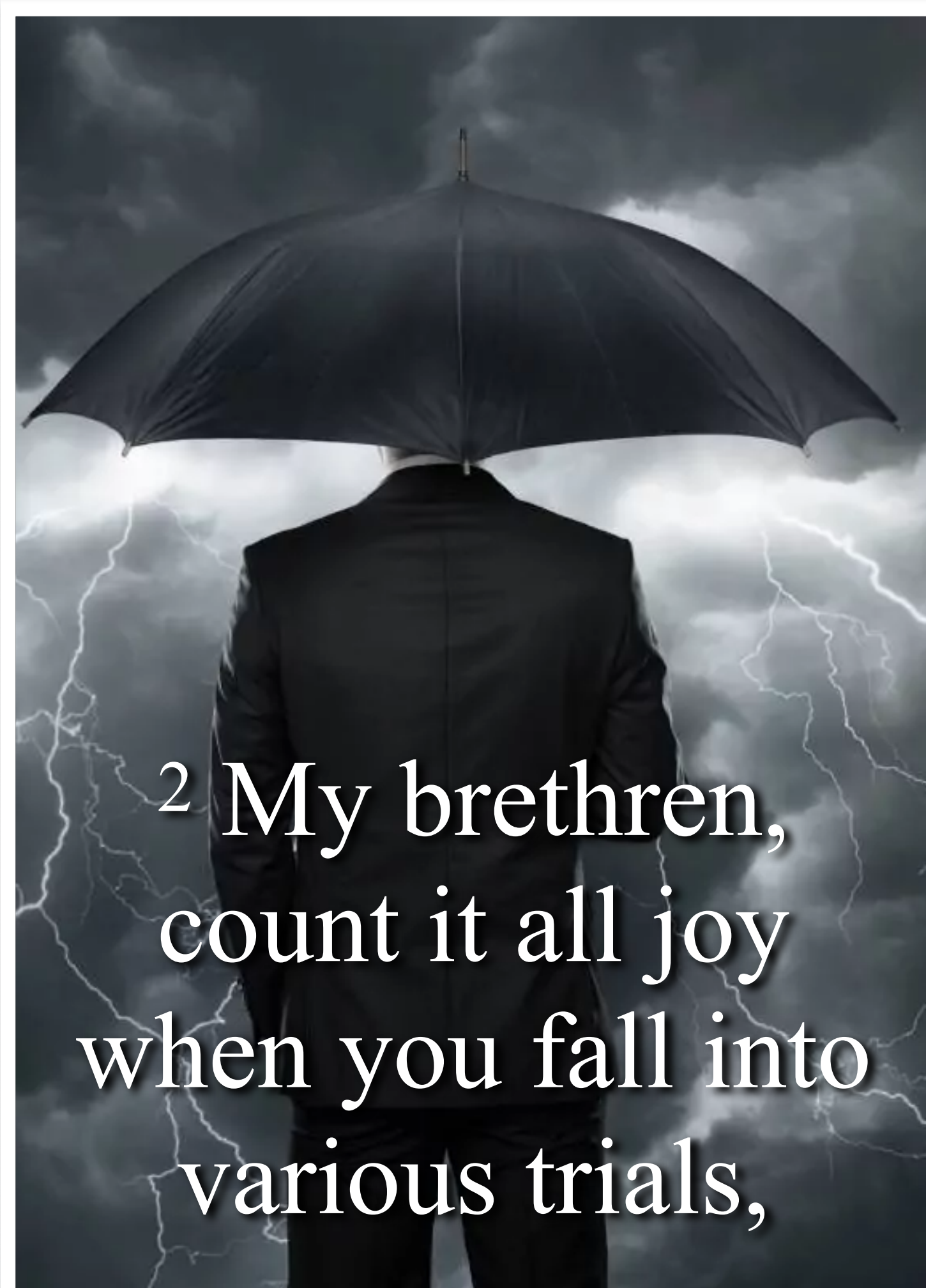
COUNT IT ALL **JOY:** (*chara* (χαρά, 5479))

Romans 5:1–4 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

“Count It All Joy . . .” vs. 2



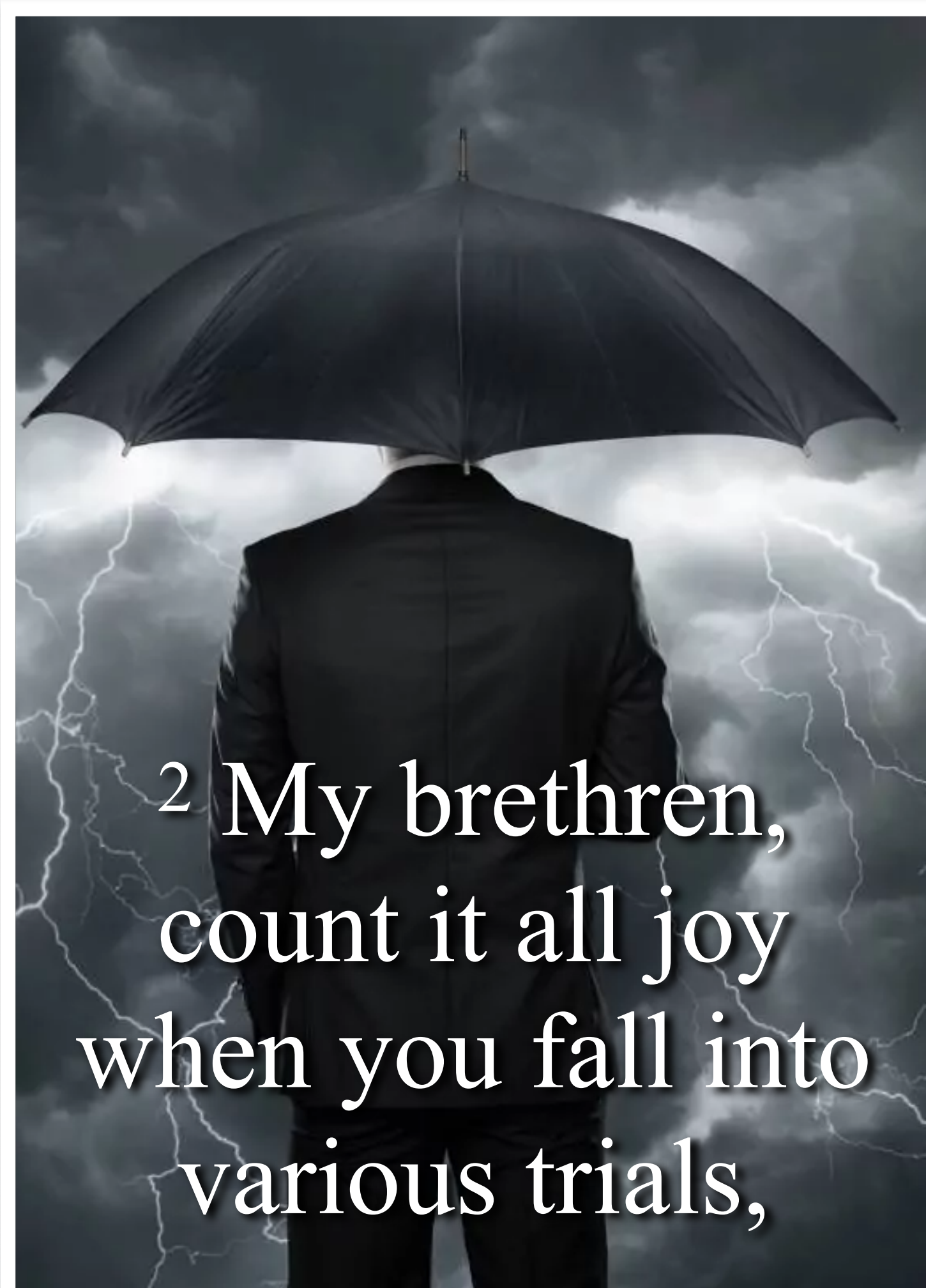
2 My brethren,
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EXEMPLIFIED:

- The apostles: “rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.” (Acts 5:41)
- Paul: “¹⁷ Yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.” (Phili 2:17–18)
- Paul: “⁴ Great *is* my boldness of speech toward you, great *is* my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation. (2 Corinthians 7:4)

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

“Count It All Joy . . .” vs. 2



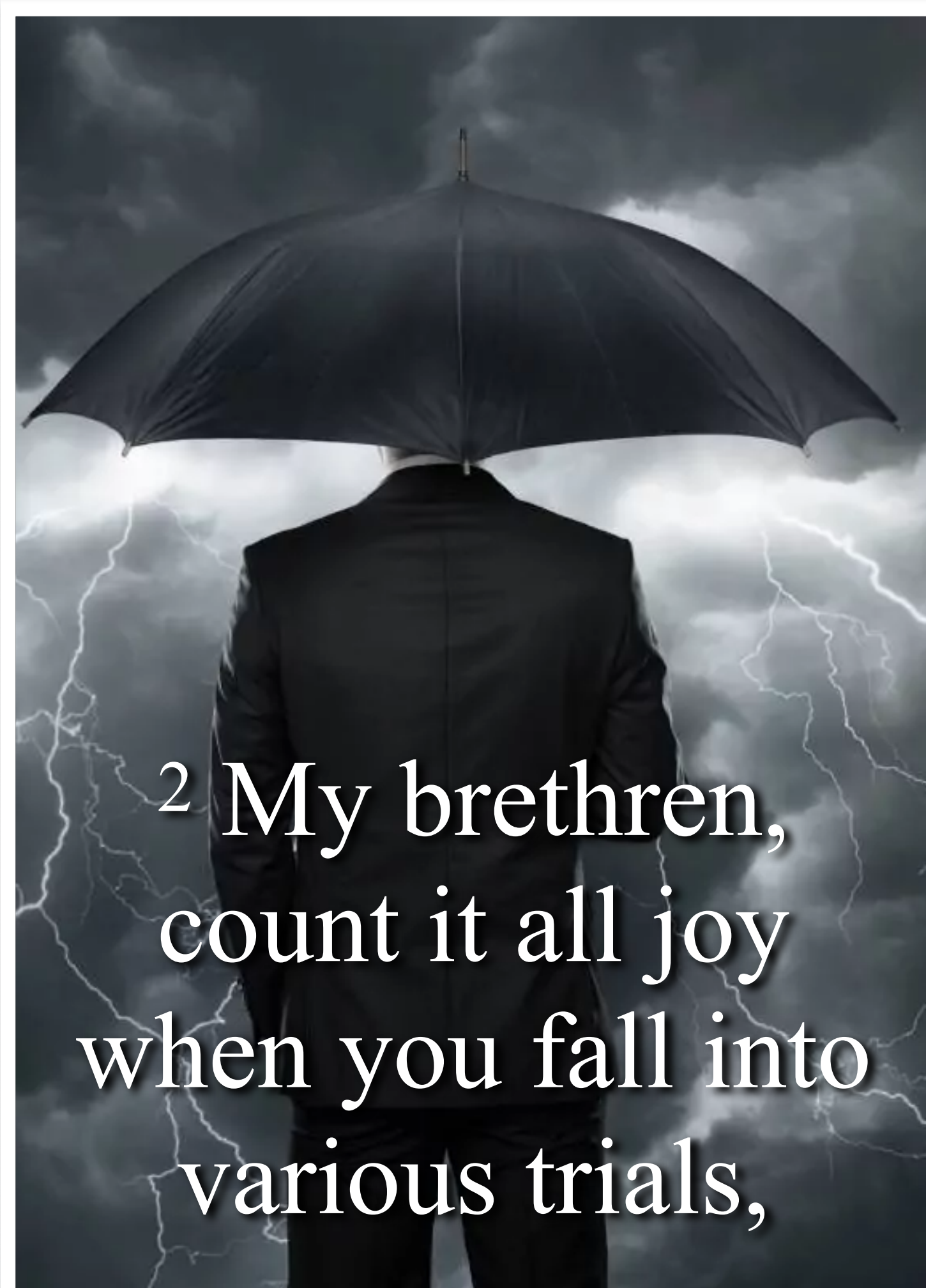
² My brethren,
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EXEMPLIFIED:

- Paul: “²⁴ I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, (Colossians 1:24)
- Paul: ⁷ therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith. ⁸ For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord. ⁹ For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, (1 Thessalonians 3:7–9)

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

“Count It All Joy . . .” vs. 2



² My brethren,
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EXEMPLIFIED:

- Hebrew Christians: “you endured a great struggle with sufferings: ³³ partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; ³⁴ for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. (Hebrews 10:32-39; 11:1-12:1)

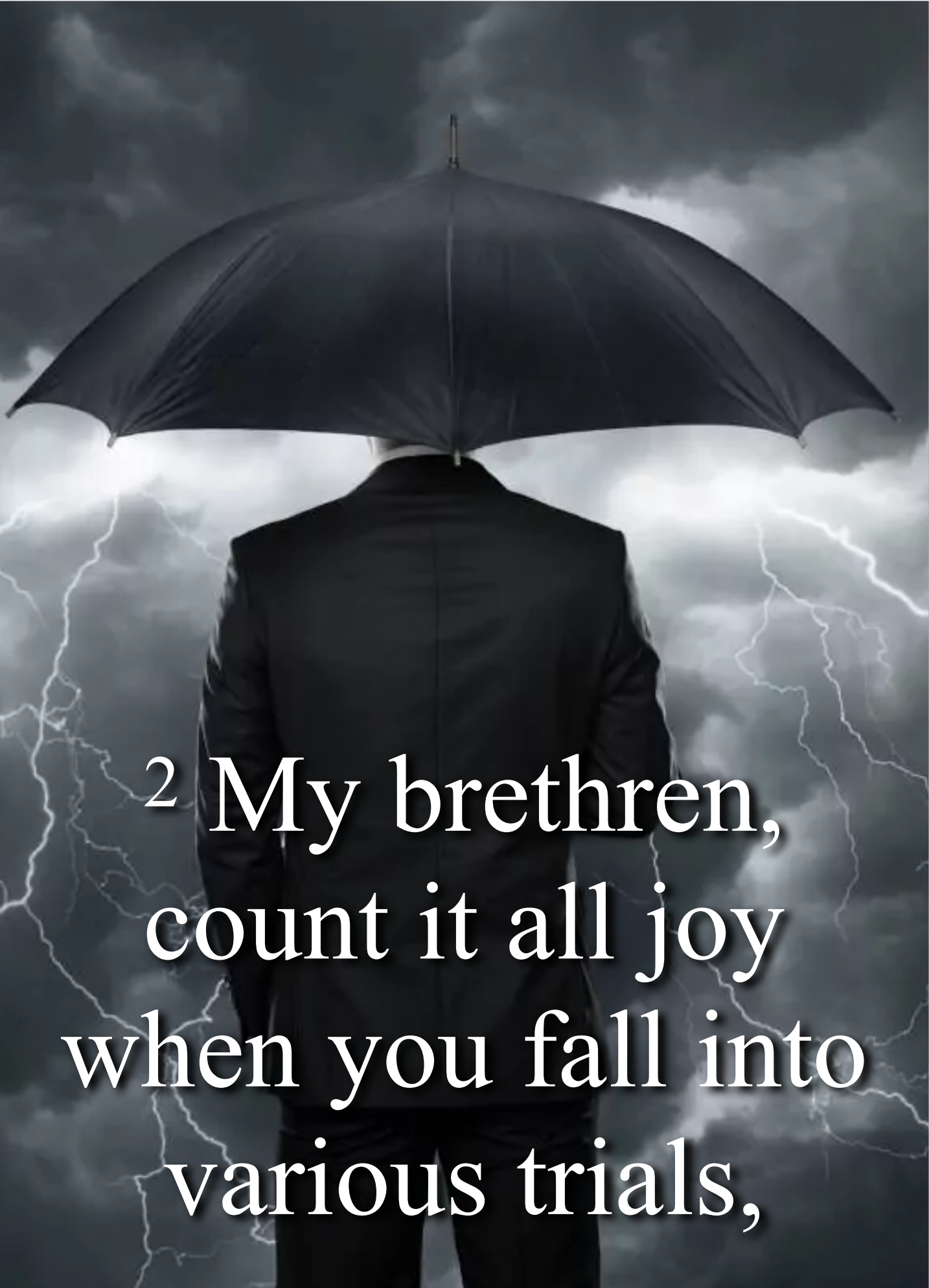
FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

“Count It All Joy . . .” vs. 2

EXEMPLIFIED:

Hebrews 12:1–2 (NKJV)

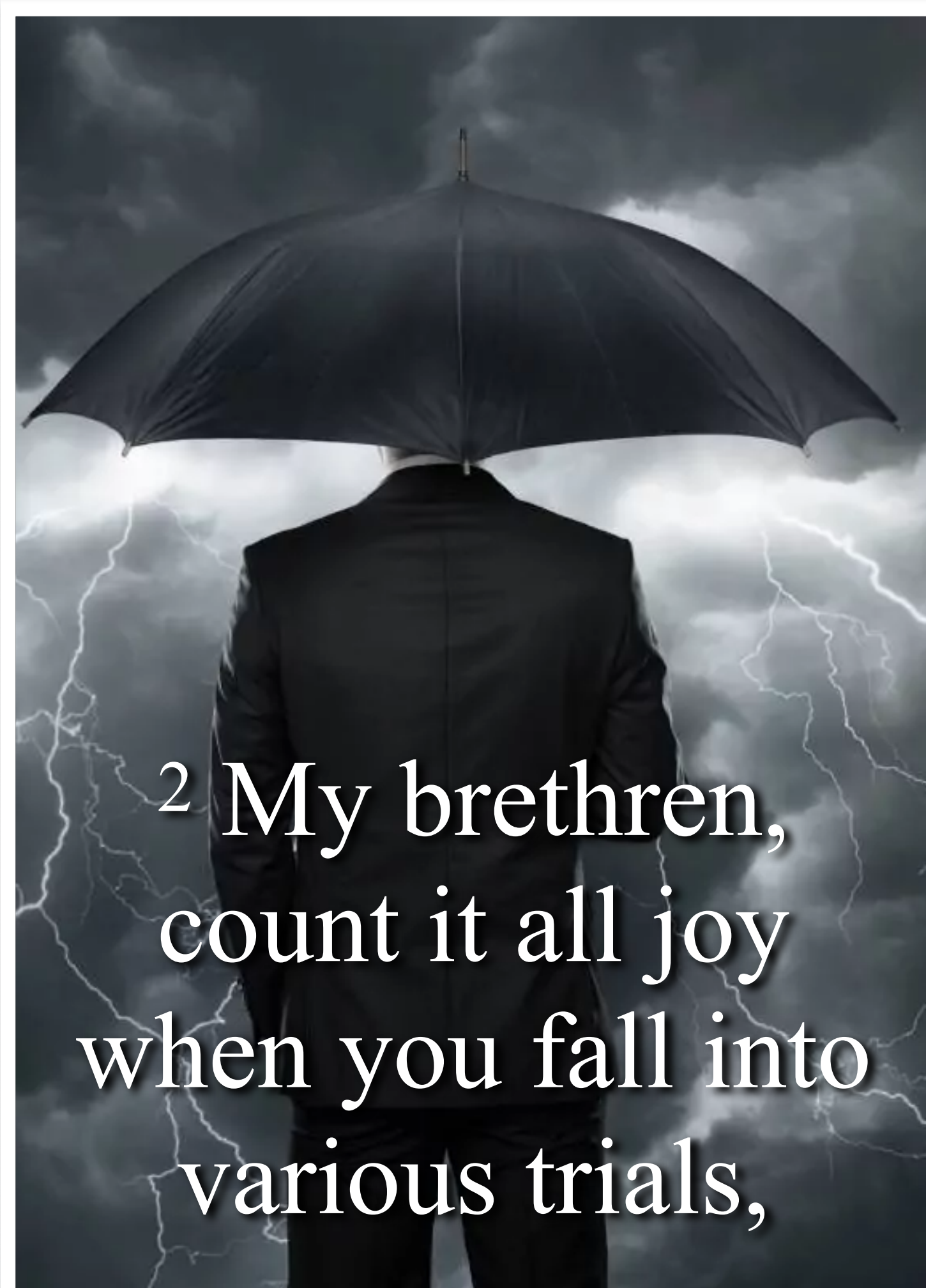
¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



² My brethren,
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FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

“When you fall into ...” vs. 2

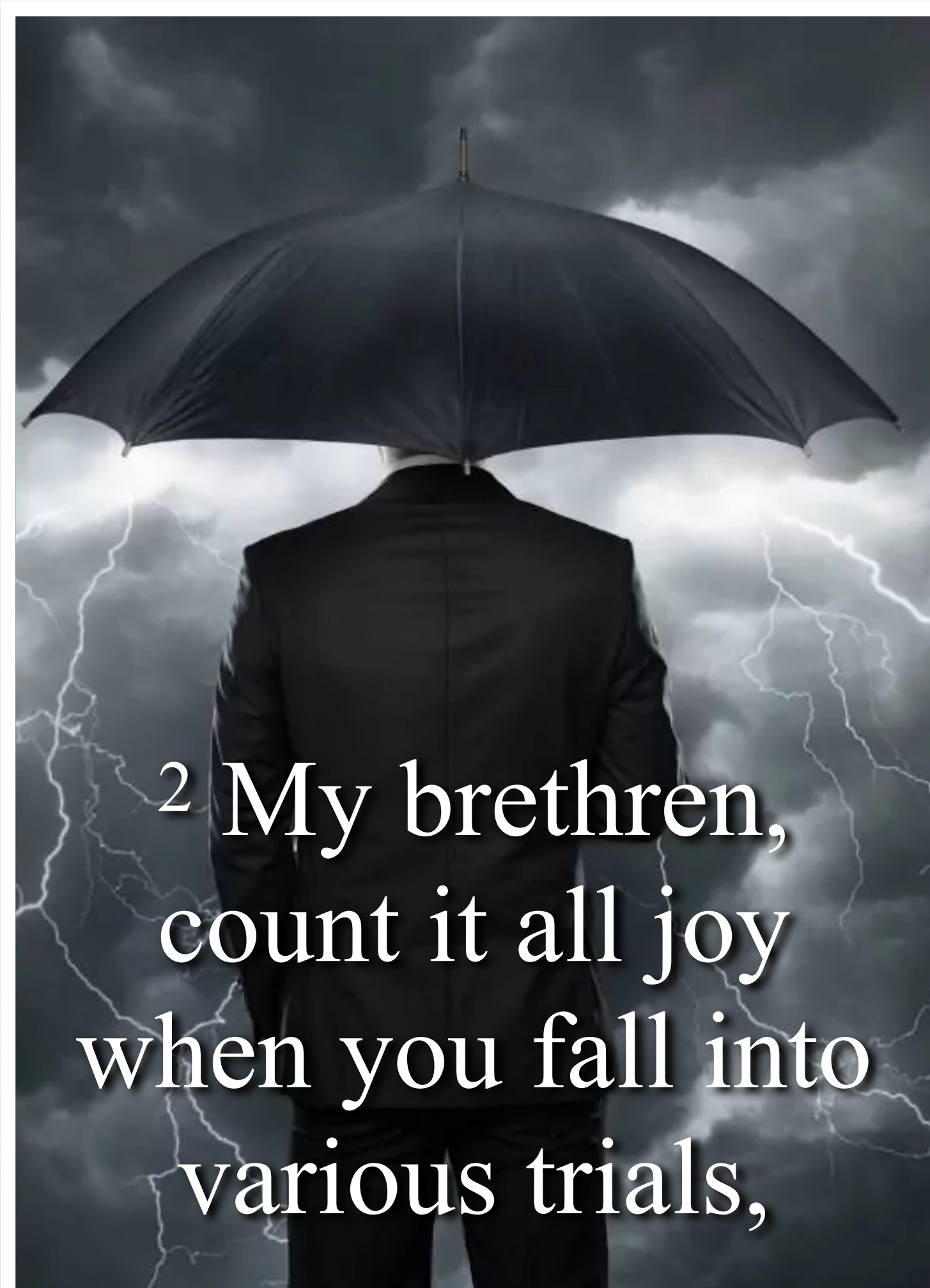


2 My brethren,
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various trials,

- All who live godly in Christ will suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:15; John 16:33; Acts 14:22)
- Jesus told His apostles they would be persecuted, but they should rejoice because if they were persecuted for His sake they would be blessed (Matt. 5:10-12).
- Peter later wrote that saints should rejoice in the sufferings we undergo as Christians (1 Pet. 4:12-16).
- This sounds absurd to those focused on the present - but for those whose focus is on eternal things, and whose minds are enlightened by God's word, trials do indeed bring about joy (2 Cor. 4:18; Col. 3:1-2).

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

“Various trials ...” vs. 2

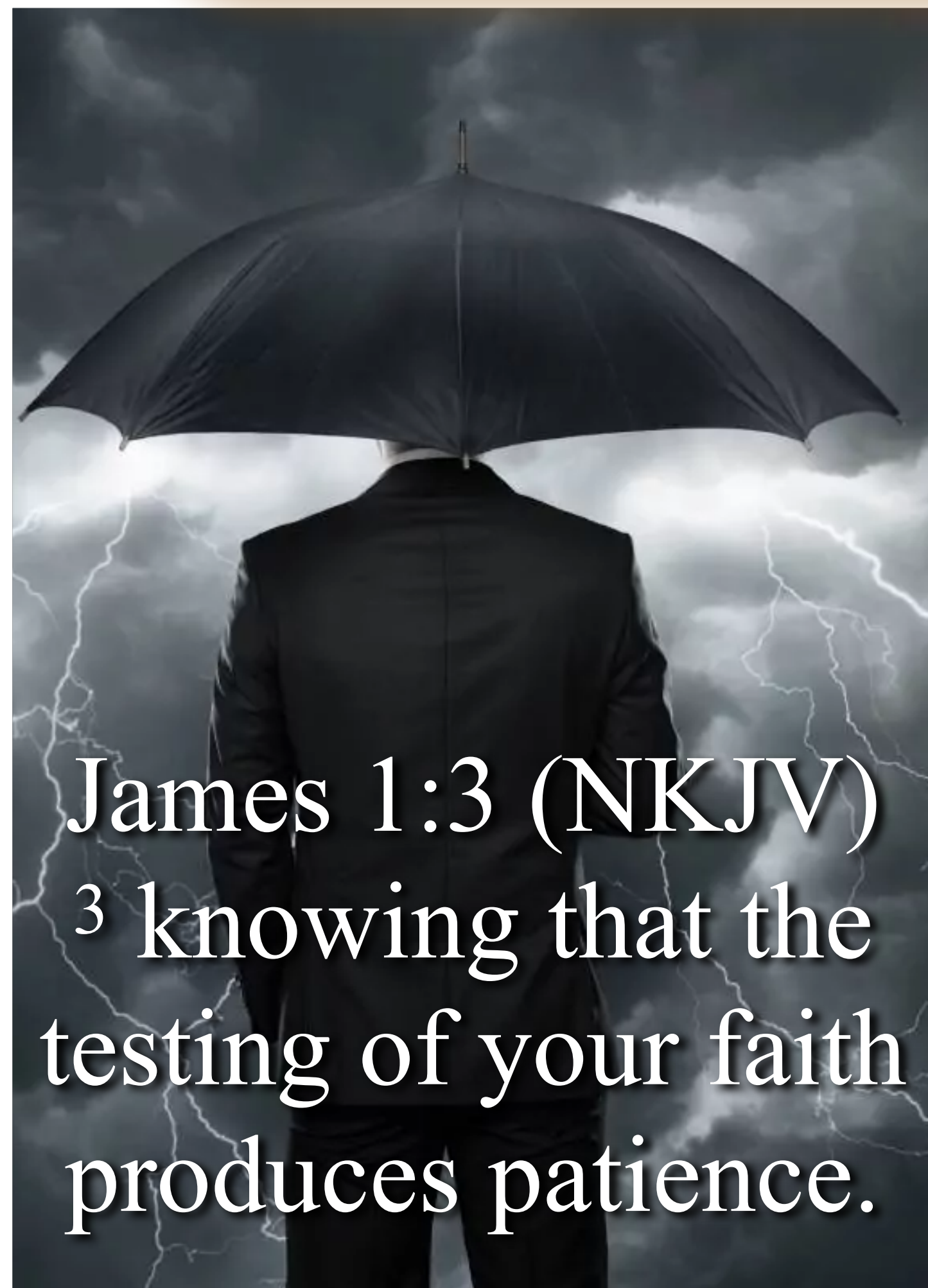


2 My brethren,
count it all joy
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various trials,

- Some trials come simply because we are human [disappointments; temptation; failure; sickness; accidents; death ...]
- Other trials come because we are Christians [persecution; ridicule; mocking; demeaned; marginalized, etc. (1 Pe 4:12; 1 Thes 3:3,4)]
- Since Satan fights against us, and the world opposes us, we should expect various trials!

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

3 IMPERATIVES - KNOW / LET / ASK (3-8)



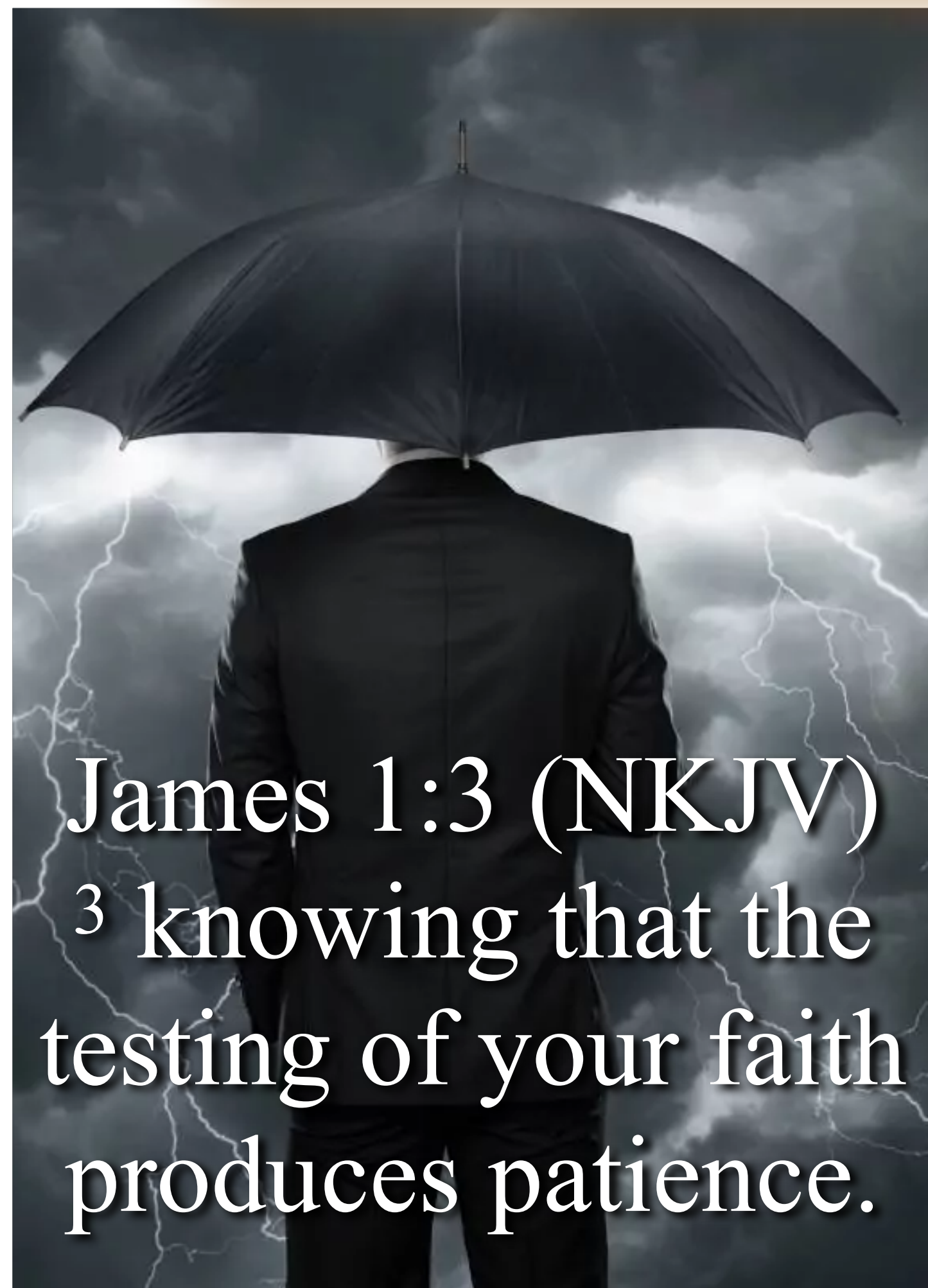
James 1:3 (NKJV)

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

- **KNOWING** - “to possess information about—‘to know, to know about, to have knowledge of, to be acquainted with, acquaintance.’” - (Lou Nida)
- ▶ Trials test our faith - They work for us NOT against us - IF we endure (2 Cor. 4:17)
- ▶ When trials are met and endured by faith, we mature, our faith is strengthened, and we are purified - (1 Pet 1:7; Rom 5:3,4)

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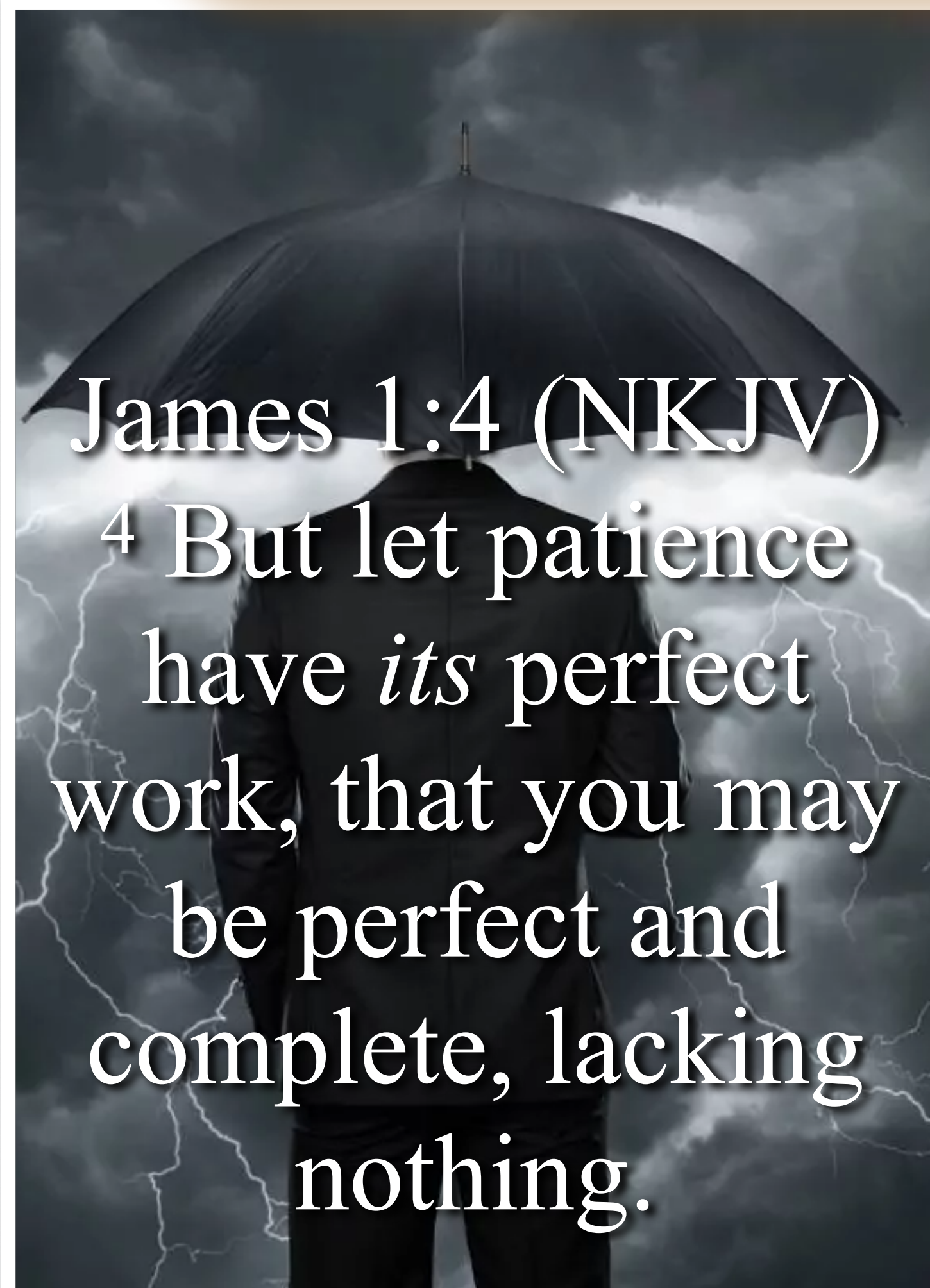
James 1:3 (NKJV)

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

- **KNOWING** - “to possess information about—‘to know, to know about, to have knowledge of, to be acquainted with, acquaintance.’” - (Lou Nida)
- ▶ Patience is NOT passive acceptance; It denotes steadfastness and constancy in the face of difficulty!
- ▶ It is a courageous perseverance in the face of suffering, faithfulness in spite of circumstances.

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

3 IMPERATIVES - KNOW / LET / ASK (3-8)



James 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

■ BUT LET PATIENCE HAVE ITS PERFECT WORK ...

- ▶ The word LET does not mean that we are allowing something to be done to us passively, (to hold one's self to a thing, to lay hold of a thing, to adhere or cling - (Thayer)
- ▶ We want to get our trials or difficulties over with quickly, but true growth occurs best through resistance training, (*knowledge & wisdom; immune system; muscle strengthening; physical stamina ...*)

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3 IMPERATIVES - KNOW / LET / ASK (3-8)



James 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

■ BUT LET PATIENCE HAVE ITS PERFECT WORK ...

- ▶ Instead of grumbling and complaining ... Hold to patience – patiently endure the trial, doing good despite the trial
- ▶ Patience doesn't do the work for us – but we, by holding onto patience, eventually will receive the fruits of endurance ... IT PRODUCES "MATURITY" and "SUFFICIENCY!" (PERFECT - "completeness, wholeness, maturity)

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

3 IMPERATIVES - KNOW / LET / ASK (3-8)

James 1:5 (NKJV)

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

■ ASK FOR WISDOM ...

- ▶ Not merely Knowledge (involves information, facts, etc.)
- ▶ Wisdom is the ability or insight to properly use those facts in the most expeditious way.
- ▶ Wisdom is applied knowledge
- ▶ Wisdom is having a grasp of the principles needed in circumstances that allow us to succeed.

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■ ASK FOR WISDOM ...

- ▶ **Knowledge** – of what God says - - (Thus it comes from God)
- ▶ **Practice** – (The product of following God's instructions)
- ▶ **Experience** – (Living through the opportunities God provides)
- ▶ Through **God's** providential care – (Always a way of escape - 1 Cor. 10:13)

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■ ASK FOR WISDOM ...

- ▶ God has told us the purpose of trials – let us believe Him!
- ▶ God has told us how to live and react to trials – let us obey Him!
- ▶ God has promised to be with us, aide us, strengthen us, - let us trust Him!
- ▶ Let us pray for the wisdom to allow God to use whatever means He sees fit to bring us to maturity

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

3 IMPERATIVES - KNOW / LET / ASK (3-8)

James 1:6–8
(NKJV)

⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

■ ASK IN FAITH WITHOUT DOUBTING

- ▶ MUST **BELIEVE** God's revealed word regarding the purpose and benefits of trials.
- ▶ MUST **FOLLOW** God's Word – will grow in grace and knowledge of God's word, gaining wisdom!
- ▶ MUST **TRUST** in God's providential care – Will understand God is with us and will use trials for our good (*to bring his children to maturity, and purity*)

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

3 IMPERATIVES - KNOW / LET / ASK (3-8)

James 1:6–8
(NKJV)

⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

■ ASK IN FAITH WITHOUT DOUBTING

- ▶ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways - like a ship tossed about - without anchor (Eph 4:14)
- ▶ A double minded man cannot please God! (James 4:8; Mat. 6:24; 1 Kings 18:21)
- ▶ Such a one will not receive wisdom - He lacks the values, focus, devotion and dedication that is necessary . . .

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

TEMPORARY NATURE OF TRIALS (1:9-11)

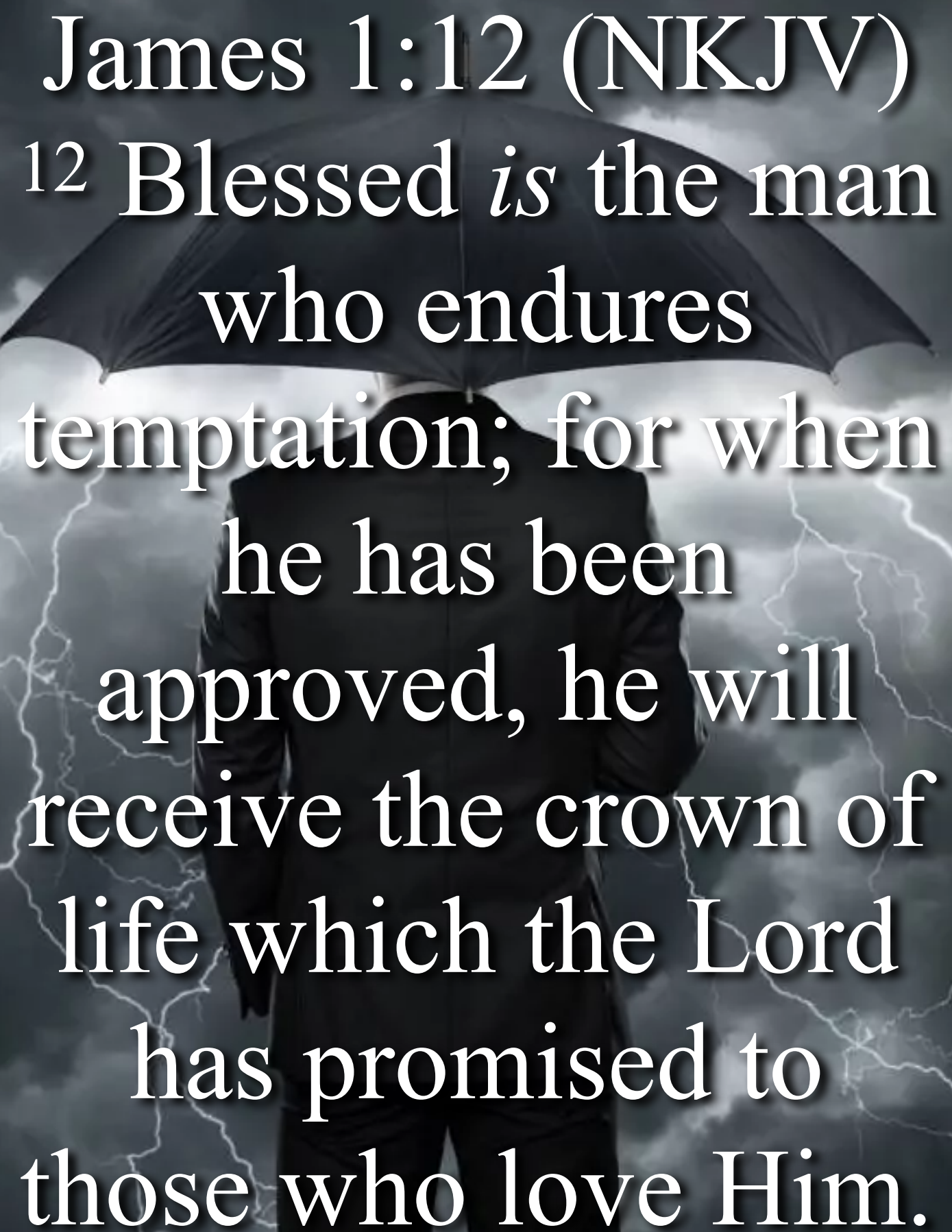


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TEMPORARY NATURE OF TRIALS (1:9-11)

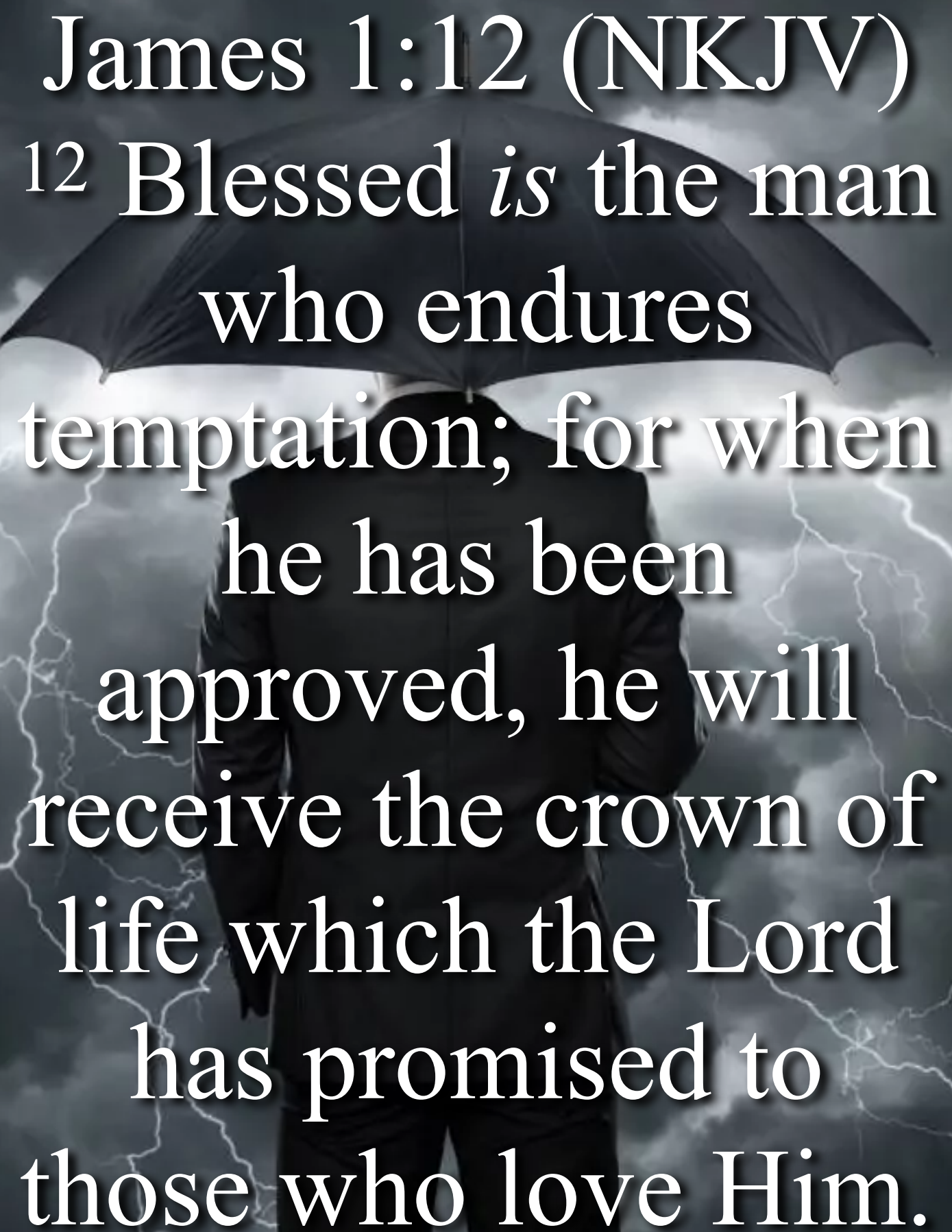


James 1:12 (NKJV)
12 Blessed *is* the man
who endures
temptation; for when
he has been
approved, he will
receive the crown of
life which the Lord
has promised to
those who love Him.

- **TRIALS ARE TEMPORARY** -
1:9-11 “because as a flower of the field he
will pass away.” — Earthly wealth &
pursuits perish.
- **ENDURANCE RESULTS IN
VICTORY** - 1:12 “he will receive the
crown of life which the Lord has promised
to those who love Him.” (Rom. 8:17,18,28;
1 Pet. 1:3-9)

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

TEMPORARY NATURE OF TRIALS (1:9-11)



James 1:12 (NKJV)
12 Blessed *is* the man
who endures
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receive the crown of
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- Job (Job 1-3)
- Joseph (Gen. 37,39,40)
- Moses (Num. 11:14-15)
- Elijah (1 Kings 19)
- David (1 Sam. 18-30; Ps. 41-43)
- Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (Daniel 1:3-21; 3:8-30)
- Paul (2 Cor. 12:7-10)
- Jesus (Luke 22:42-44; Heb. 5:7; 12:1,2)

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

GUIDANCE FROM THE BOOK OF JAMES



- Our fears can be conquered through genuine Faith, hope and love (Psalm 56:3–4; Isaiah 26:3–4; Philippians 4:6–7; 1 Peter 1:3–5; 5:6–7; 1 John 4:18–19; Heb. 11:1–12:3)
- The book of James provides much valuable & practical instruction on how to respond to adversity ...

FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

GUIDANCE FROM THE BOOK OF JAMES

WITH AN INFORMED PERSPECTIVE (1:2-20)

DON'T BLAME GOD (1:13-20)

BY BEING DOERS OF THE WORD (1:21-3:12)

WITH WISDOM FROM ABOVE (3:13-18)

DRAW NEAR TO GOD (4:1-12)

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TODAY (4:13-17)

BE PATIENT / DON'T COMPLAIN (5:1-12)

EFFECTIVE, FERVENT PRAYER (5:13-20)



FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

² My brethren, count it all
joy when you fall into
various trials,
James 1:2 (NKJV)

**Instead of
becoming
VICTIMS, we
can BE
VICTORS!**

Whether we are dealing with trials on the outside or temptations on the inside, through faith in God and Jesus Christ we CAN experience victory!

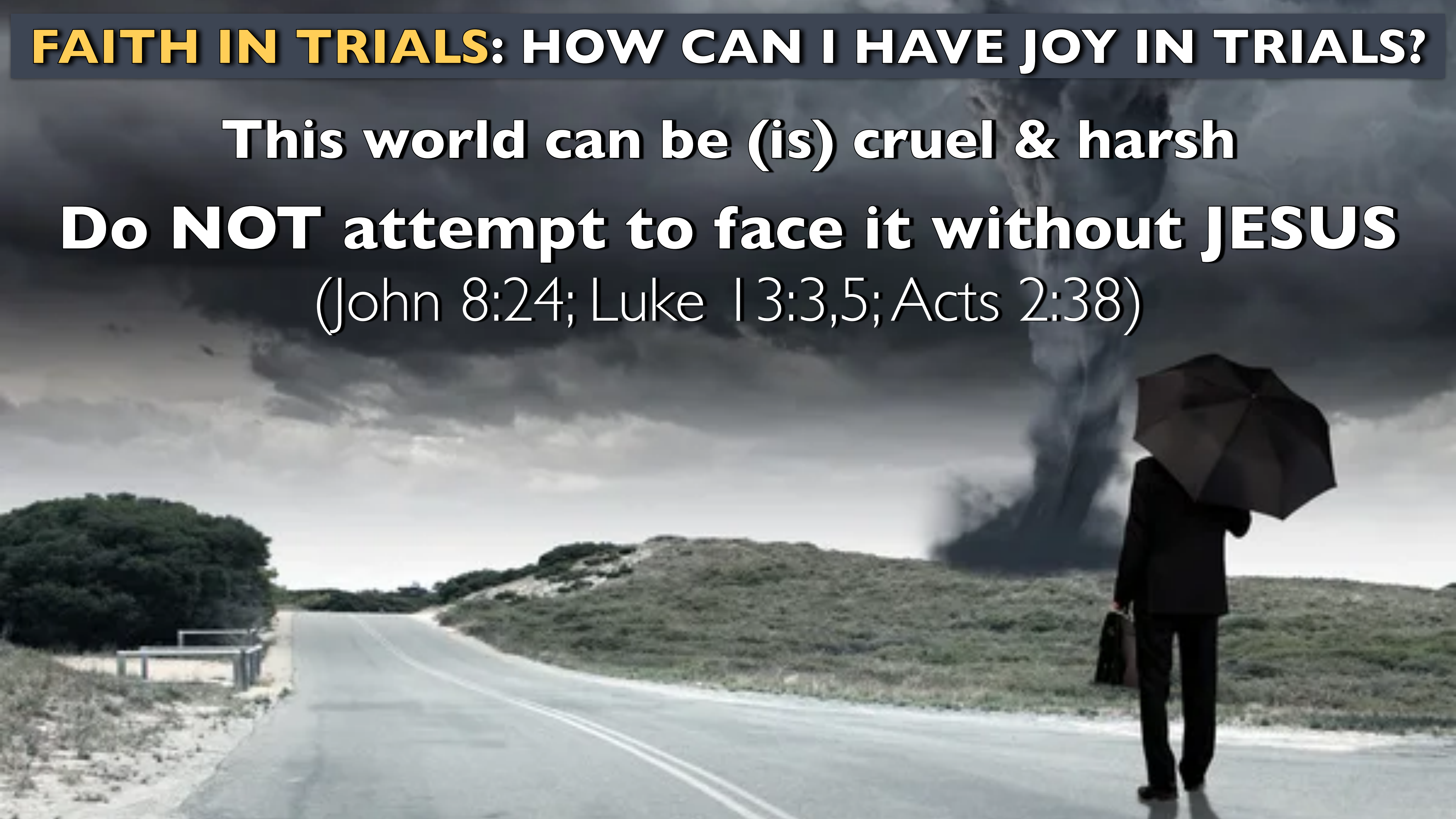


FAITH IN TRIALS: HOW CAN I HAVE JOY IN TRIALS?

This world can be (is) cruel & harsh

Do NOT attempt to face it without JESUS

(John 8:24; Luke 13:3,5; Acts 2:38)



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WORKS

THE BOOK OF JAMES

INTRODUCTION: LIVING FAITH / PRACTICAL WISDOM

Romans 5:1–5 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.