

# "CONSIDER IT PURE JOY"

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."*

**James 1:2-4**

This scripture has always been close to my heart especially in times of crisis. It intrigues me. I feel the desire to persevere so that my faith in God grows to maturity...I want to be complete. However, considering the crisis from a perspective of "pure joy" is a challenge to my sinful heart and mind. This verse is what I cling to recently when I'm watching the news. I have decided to only watch the news in limited doses because it is the opposite of encouraging....very DIScouraging.

Spring is my favorite time of the year...especially RIGHT NOW. Taking a walk or a run outside or even walking around our yard, I can see the grass turning greener, see crocuses blooming, see the buds and flowers appearing on the trees, experience the birds singing again, and await the sound of peepers chirping. For me, I'm grateful to be able to go outside and receive the encouragement of God's beautiful creation all in visual and auditory worship to HIM! VERY ENCOURAGING!

*"Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;  
let the sea resound, and all that is in it;  
let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.  
Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy"*

**Psalm 96:11-12**

In Christ,

Laura Conant

## SONG:

Song I quoted in my chat...  
thank you Elle Holcomb and Kim C  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7fa\\_SNipwk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7fa_SNipwk)



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## QUESTIONS:

1. How do you feel you respond emotionally and/or spiritually when in crisis?
2. How can you surround yourself with more encouraging ways to spend your time?
3. As Easter approaches, consider the parallels of spring and resurrection.