



James begins his New Testament letter with: “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.” At first glance, the message is contradictory: how can we possibly experience joy during life’s trials? I hate trials. They make me sad, anxious, depressed, and lonely. Yet I think the common misunderstanding and dissatisfaction with biblical joy comes from secular culture’s one-dimensional definition of joy.

Modern secular culture teaches us that joy is an emotion one can achieve by following a protocol. Go on this vacation and you will achieve bliss. Wear this new brand and people will like you and then you will be happy. Do this workout and bask in the post-sweat high. In this way, good feelings are like vending machine snacks: if you press a few buttons, put in a couple coins, you are fed what you desire. Dopamine released; joy acquired.

This secular joy is a temporary after-effect of something you had to work for. Once you feel it, it’s easy, one-dimensional glee—untinged by anger or sadness. It is conditional on what you do or get, and is therefore unstable. And most importantly, this type of joy is contingent on doing or getting a certain thing.

On the other hand, joy in Christ completely contradicts this contemporary understanding—appearing sometimes as the opposite of what you’d associate with happiness and ease.

Biblical joy is not a temporary emotion, a release of the right chemicals. It is a way of being, a lifestyle, a lens through which you walk through the world. Noticing the word “count” in James 1:2, I realize that it is a choice we deliberately have to make; our perceptions are our reality. Biblical joy serves as a tool to face the darkness. Biblical joy is a choice. It is hope and faith.

In Our Prayers

Thomas Pruitt
Zeb Carter
Juanita (Abby’s Mother)
Tim Taylor
Linda Fry
Bartlett Family

Pam Aldrich
Terry Nash
Vance Wendelburg
Dennis Rosenbaum
Brenda Reno
Merry Lynn Weatherby

Jack Bailey
Nolan Adams
Orvalee Aldrich
Terry Sallee
Bryce Gaines

Upcoming Events

Youth Group [Tonight]

The Youth Group will meet tonight at 7 PM at Carl & Janet's Home.

Ladies Bible Study [Wednesday]

Women's Bible study will meet Wednesday evening at 6:30 for a salad supper and Lesson 4. We will meet at Pam's old house (208 W 4th) instead of at the church. See Pam or Lory if you'd like to help with the meal.

Silver Maple Camp [Coming Soon]

Early bird registration ends today for Early Session. So get registered today if you plan to attend Early Session.

Save the Date:

June 1-7 - SMC Early Session
June 8 - Young Family Ministry (Stafford)
July 6-12 - SMC First Session
July 13 - Young Family Ministry (St. John)
July 13-19 - SMC Second Session
July 20-26 - SMC Third Session



Birthdays

None

Worship Order

Welcome Table & Greeters: Darrel & Shannon Bauer

Song Leader: Shawn Batten

Sound System: Zoey Carter

Gathering: #15 - Step by Step

Welcome: Chris Mansel

Scripture Reading: Hunter Marks (Psalm 34:8)

Shepherd's Prayer: Carl Feril

Song: #42 - How Majestic is Your Name

Song: #365 - How Beautiful

Communion: Jerry Kinnamon (JW Like, Chris Stott, Zach Marks)

Song: #147 - I Stand Amazed (vs. 1, 2, & 3)

Lesson: Zeb Carter

Song: #608 - He Gave Me A Song (vs. 1)

Closing Prayer: Gary Hornbaker

LTC Awards: Zeb Carter



Giving Link

Sundays:	Bible classes for all ages @ 10:00 am Worship service for everyone @ 11:00 am
Elders:	Tom Turner, Richard Brensing, Terry Sallee, Carl Feril
Deacons:	Jerry Kinnamon, Chris Mansel, Orrin Feril, Zachary Marks
Minister:	Zeborah Carter