



Do You Know True Joy?

Where do you find joy? In a society that often associates joy with money, pleasure, and possessions, true joy is never found. The world's happiness is primarily based on circumstances and ease. But how is happiness that is often fleeting the true source of joy? Where do I find joy that is always with me regardless of what is occurring in my life? When I was away from God, I searched for joy and happiness everywhere and in everything. I never found it! Instead, I found sorrow, deceit, pain, betrayal, and very little love. Finally, after basically being in exile, I returned to the Lord where true joy resides.

When the children of Israel returned from Babylonian captivity, thirteen years later, Nehemiah came to Jerusalem with the determination to rebuild the city walls. Upon completion, all the people gathered together, and Ezra read the law. The people began to weep, but Nehemiah told them that that day was to be holy to the LORD. He said, ***“Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength” (Nehemiah 8.10).*** It wasn't a mood or just a feeling of joy, it was the deep, abiding gladness rooted in the presence, promises, and person of God.

Biblical joy is more than just an uplifting of our emotions. It is a spiritual reality—a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5.22)—that flows from knowing God intimately. David said in **Psalm 16.11** ***“You [God] make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy.”*** This joy comes from a relationship with God. It is the assurance that God is with us, for us, and working through us—even when life feels chaotic, hectic, or confusing.

James 1.2, 3, challenges us to ***“Count it all joy...when you face trials.”*** Not because trials are pleasant, but because they produce perseverance. The trials we face in life strengthen our faith, draw us closer to God, and develop the character of Christ within us. It provides a better avenue for people to see “Jesus living in me.” Yes, we can count it all joy, because we know God is refining and preparing us for what He wants us to be. The Hebrew writer said that Jesus, ***“Who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame” (Hebrews 12.2).*** The joy came from fulfilling the will of His Father and tasting death for every man. Albert Barnes, in his commentary on Hebrews, said, ***“In view of all the honor which He would have at the right hand of God, and the happiness which He would experience from the consciousness that He had redeemed a world, was willing to bear the sorrows connected with the atonement.”***



Do I find true joy in Christ? Is my happiness grounded in my relationship with God, knowing that He is always with me and wants what is absolutely best for me? I can be happy in life, possessing true joy, if I will keep my life right with God. Are you filled with the joy of the LORD today?

Gary

A Cry For Mercy

Lamentations 5.1-3

1. Have you ever cried out to God in pain?
2. Did it seem like God was not listening?
3. As we conclude our study of Lamentations, it is a mirror for every soul that has tasted loss, shame, or silence from heaven.

I. The _____ Of _____ (Lamentations 4.1-12).

- A. The city of gold has turned to dust (4.1, 2).
 1. The description of God's people is almost too much to bear to read.
 2. The whole population has been discarded as broken pottery by the potter.
- B. When we abandon God's ways, even the most beautiful parts of life can _____.
- C. What gold in our lives has dimmed because of compromise?

II. The Sins of _____ (4.13-20).

- A. The prophets and priests had shed _____ (v. 13).
 1. Inadequate spiritual leadership had led to their doom.
 2. Spiritual leaders are required to teach the pure, unadulterated word of God, not what people want to hear (2 Timothy 4.2-4).
- B. Jerusalem had put their false hope in foreign alliances.
- C. When spiritual leaders fall, the _____ are devastating.

III. A Glimmer Of _____ (vv. 21, 22).

- A. Edom was rejoicing over Jerusalem's destruction.
- B. God's _____ is not _____.
 1. We must never think that God's justice will not come because of our sins.
 2. We must never think that God will not start His _____ with _____ (I Peter 4.17).

IV. A _____ From The _____ (5.1-18).

- A. The children of Israel cry out, "_____!"
- B. God invites us to bring our _____ to Him in prayer.
 1. Pain, grief, and suffering gives us the opportunity to look at our lives and see what we can learn from them.
 2. The greatest mistake we can make is not turning to _____ when _____.

V. The Bold _____ For _____ (5.19-22).

- A. God's throne endures forever (v. 19).
- B. The _____ of God is unbearable (v. 20).
- C. The people plea for restoration.
- D. Restoration begins with _____.
 1. The cry of Lamentations is not "fix our city," but "_____ our _____."
 2. Faith doesn't always tie things up neatly.

Conclusion: Do you need to cry out for God's mercy today?

C O N N E C T I O N

© Good morning WH family!

R I was shopping and getting gas at Sam's Club this week and they have a feature
N that I tried out last year and I really like. It is called:

E
R



As I shop, I just use my phone app, scan the bar code of the items that I am purchasing and when I'm ready, I hit the checkout button on my phone app, skip the checkout line, walk out the door through the security scanner and biff-bam-boom I'm on my way without ever having to talk to a single person.

The consumer's dream, get what I want and I'm outta there.

Sometime later, it got me to thinking that, occasionally, we want to handle our spiritual lives the same way—as "consumers"—get in, get what we need and boom, we're outta there, sometimes without ever having to talk to a single person. Or we treat our Bible study and/or prayer lives in a similar fashion – Scan & Go. Read a verse here or there and that'll do us. Bow our head and utter a few of the same old phrases, and off we go to live our lives with little spiritual connection, if any at all. I know, I've been there, done that.

We all go through rough times in our spiritual journey when we are hurting, stressed or too busy, and withdraw into that shell of just being spiritual consumers. And we need the blessing of someone reaching out to us and drawing us back in to "family." One of the things that I love about our WH family is that we do have so many who engage and connect with one another before and/or after services.

I want to encourage us this week to purposefully and mindfully set aside our fleshly desire to "Scan & Go" and take a few moments to reach out to someone you may not know well, and try to make a connection. I know that in my life, some of my best friends are church members that stepped out in faith and made a connection with me or someone that I took that leap of faith with and reached out to them. Maybe instead of "Scan & Go", try a "Meet & Greet" – You'll be blessed!

-- Les Keele



"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

Isaiah 55:10-11

SHEPHERDS

Greg Ball	214-801-7375
Russ Bartee	817-938-5825
*Dan Kille	817-793-7493
Chuck Meyer	682-553-5444
Ross Tomlinson	682-429-1983
John Walton	817-441-0000

*Shepherd of the month

MINISTERS

Gary Williams: <i>Pulpit Minister</i>	662-321-3208
Les Keele: <i>Associate Minister</i>	817-808-0566
James Bowie: <i>Youth Minister</i>	817-944-4492

LAOTIAN MINISTRY

John Boudtaroth	817-891-2132
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DEACONS

Jon Bartee	817-889-2686
David Birdow	972-310-1143
James Bowie	817-944-4492
Zach Brookshire	817-296-9918
Brandon Duncan	903-603-1059
Jay Garner	817-205-2070
Ben Meyer	817-673-8557
Robert Scott	817-246-0911
Matt Sloan	405-471-3404
Steve Taylor	817-291-2065
Buck Thomas	817-733-2620
Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726

MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

Welcome - Robert Scott

Song Leader - Russ Jones

Song - Thank You, Lord

Song - I Know Who Holds Tomorrow

Song - Follow Me

Opening Prayer - Brandon Duncan

Scripture - Lamentations 5:1-3

Song - Nearer, Still Nearer

Lord's Supper - Greg Ball

Prayer for Contribution - Greg Ball

Song - The Greatest Commands

A Cry For Mercy - Gary Williams

Song - Nailed To The Cross

Announcements - Les Keele

Shepherd's Prayer & Dismissal - Russ Bartee

Our Code for Tithe.ly

Giving



QR Code for

Attendance



Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, October 6

Psalm 75; Jeremiah 25-26; Hebrews 6

Tuesday, October 7

Jeremiah 27-29; Hebrews 7

Wednesday, October 8

Psalm 87; Jeremiah 30-31; Hebrews 8

Thursday, October 9

Jeremiah 32 - 33; Hebrews 9

Friday, October 10

Jeremiah 34-35; Hebrews 10

Saturday, October 11

Jeremiah 36-37; Hebrews 11

Sunday, October 12

Jeremiah 38-40; Hebrews 12

Last Week

Bible Class	126	Wednesday	
Worship	213	Contribution	\$ 11,703.34
PM Worship	68	Budget	\$ 14,216.88

Times of Assemblies

Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening:	7:00 PM

TRUNK OR TREAT

JOIN US FOR FUN AND TREATS, LAUGHS AND SMILES, WHILE MAKING
MEMORIES .

Play games and Get Candy!



**OCTOBER 31ST. FROM 6:30-8 PM.
8800 CHAPIN ROAD
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76116**