



COUNT IT ALL

JOY

JAMES 1:1-4

PRAYING

FOR

OTHERS

- Pray silently for the prayer request printed in your worship guide.
- Our Infants
- Our small group led by Melissa Campbell
- The Bible Seminary
- Neighboring church service this morning at Second Baptist Church
- The Af*ar of Ethiopia
- Conflicts in the Middle East and Eastern Europe

We ask all this for the glory of Your name.

Need Prayer? Monthly prayer opportunities in the Prayer Center.

- **Prophetic Prayer** – 2nd Sundays 10:45AM-12:30PM.
- **Healing Prayer** – 4th Sundays 10:45AM-12:30PM.

Daily Prayer Meeting: Monday-Friday 11AM-NOON live and online at thegreatsouthwestprayercenter.org. **We have special prayer for the Middle East every Thursday at this time.**

Worship With the Word: Worship and Prayer through Scripture every Tuesday 10-11AM.

Scan the QR code for the full schedule of prayer opportunities.



Count It All Joy

James 1:1-4,12 – April 13, 2025

Easter at Grace Fellowship

Three Identical Services:

- *Sat, April 19th (5pm)* – No Kids or JH Ministry
- *Sun, April 20th (9 or 11am)* – Full Kids, No JH Ministry

Sunrise Service:

- *Sun, April 20th (7am)* – Covered Parking Lot

Maundy Thursday Service (North Katy Campus):

- *Thurs, April 17th (7pm)* – No Childcare

Spring Sermon Series

DOUBTERS ANONYMOUS		
<i>Authentic Conversations About Real Doubts We Have</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Test
April 19/20	Doubting My Faith	John 20:19-21
April 27	Doubting God's Goodness	Psalms 73
May 4	Doubting Prayer	Mark 9:14-29
May 11	Doubting God Can Use Me	Ephesians 2:10

MAIN IDEA: Count it all joy because no _____ is trivial,
and no _____ is in vain.

Who is James? (v. 1)

- **James** = The half-brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55)
 - Became one of the earliest leaders of the church (Acts 12,15).
 - *“Servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ”*
- **Audience:** “The twelve tribes in the Dispersion.”
 - Acts 7-8: Stephen is stoned, persecution scatters the believers, finally obey Acts 1:8.
- **“Greetings”** = Literally means *Rejoice!*

Count It All Joy (v. 2)

- “Consider it pure joy” (NIV)
 - Greek: *hēgeomai* – to lead your mind to a conclusion
- Joy (Greek: *chara*) – a received joy
 - "Joy is a lasting emotion that is not achieved in life, but received from God who felt it first and feels it most."
- **Theodore Epp** – "Joy doesn't mean we're laughing through trials, but that we have deep confidence that God knows what He's doing—for His glory and our good."
- **Samuel Rutherford** – "You will not get leave to steal quietly to heaven without a conflict and a cross."
- Joy is not the denial of pain, nor the enjoyment of it. It's defiant hope *in* the pain. In fact, it's a command, which may sound crazy. Here are three reasons why it's not...

THREE REASONS TO COUNT IT ALL JOY:

1 – There's _____ in Pain (v. 3)

- “For you know...”
 - **Psalms 56:9** – *This I know, that God is for me.*
 - **Lamentations 3:21** – *But this I call to mind...*
 - **Romans 8:38** – *For I am sure...*
- “The testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”
 - **1 Peter 1:6-7** – *The tested genuineness of your faith...*
 - **2 Corinthians 4:16-17** – *“For this light and momentary affliction is preparing an eternal weight of glory...”*
- **Elizabeth Elliot** – “God never wastes a wound.”

Question: Where is life hard right now? Instead of asking, “*Why me?*” ask “*God, what are you doing in me?*”

2 – There’s _____ in the Process (v. 4)

- **Perfect** (Greek: *teleios*) – whole, complete, mature
- **Tim Mackie** – “In Biblical Hebrew and in Greek this word refers to wholeness. It means living a completely integrated life where your actions are always consistent with the values and beliefs that you’ve received from Jesus. Most of us actually live as fractured people with big inconsistencies in our character. We are all more compromised than we want to admit. However, God is on a mission to restore fractured people to make them whole.”
- God isn’t just trying to get you *through* the trial. He’s trying to grow you *in* it.
- **Hebrews 5:14, Ephesians 4:13-14, Romans 12:2** – God’s goal is maturity, not comfort.
- **Anonymous** – “Adversity introduces you to yourself.”

Question: Where is your life fractured? Where is God inviting you to become more whole?

3 – There’s a _____ in the End (v. 12)

- **Blessed** (Greek: *makarios*) – deeply happy, spiritually rich

- James doesn't say: *Blessed is the one who avoids trials*. He says: *Blessed is the one who remains steadfast under them*.
- What is the "crown of life?"
 - Not a ruler's crown, but a victor's wreath (1 Cor. 9:25)
 - Eternal reward to those who stay faithful
 - Ex. championship team
- This is *promised* to those who...
 - Work hard? Persevere? Believe in Him?
 - No. To those who *love Him*.
 - This is about relationship, not performance.

Question: Trials are the battleground where love is proven. What lies from the enemy are you tempted to believe in your trial? How can you fight them with the truth of God's promise and His love?

CONCLUSION: Jesus as Our Model & Our Means of Joy

Isaiah 52:3 – *He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.*

Hebrews 12:2 – *Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Revelation 5:12 – *Worthy is the Lamb who was slain...*

At the first communion, the lamb was not *on the table* because the Lamb was *at the table*.



PARENTING WITH GRACE – SPECIAL EVENT

WED APRIL 16 from 7-8:30PM

With national speaker and author Laura Gallier

While parenting can be one of the most gratifying endeavors
it can also bring you the most challenging lows!

More info at WhatIsGrace.org/Care or contact Michelle Sliva
at 281.646.1903 or MSliva@WhatIsGrace.org



CONNECTING at GRACE

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It took me almost a decade to find a church where I truly felt at home. When I first stepped through the doors of Grace Fellowship, I knew immediately that this was the church I was looking for. I also knew that I wanted more than just to attend on Sundays—I wanted to get connected.

That's when the Connection Team at the welcome desk encouraged me to attend the Connecting with Grace course. It was the perfect next step. Through those classes, I learned more about Grace Fellowship's beliefs and mission, and discovered so many ways to get involved—whether through volunteering, joining a small group, or simply building relationships with others.

”



Delia L.

Next Sessions: Sun, April 27 and Sun, May 4
Register today at WhatIsGrace.org/GetConnected.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 1 at 7PM

Katy Community Fellowship
24102 Kingsland Blvd. Katy TX, 77494

JUST JESUS.



Scan the QR code for more information



FIRE ON THE ALTAR

**50 HOURS NON-STOP WORSHIP
& PRAYER TO FOLLOW**

At The Vista (Cinco Ranch
Campus Ministry Center)



GENERATE

MARSHALL, TX | JUNE 2-6

**OPEN TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE
COMPLETED 6TH-12TH GRADE BY
SUMMER 2025.**

Generate is intentional about creating experiences that lift up the name of Jesus and proclaim the Gospel through preaching and studying the Word. Students are encouraged to grow in their faith and challenged to make a global impact through personal devotions, small groups, service, worship, and meaningful time with the church.

More info and registration at
WhatIsGrace.org/StudentEvents



**REGISTRATION
CLOSES TODAY!**