Welcome

Congratulations to all Graduates

Prayer

Ain't No "Cure For The Summertime Blues"

James 1:2-4

6/1/25

I have a deep love for 50's music. In 1958, young Eddie Cochran co-wrote "Summertime Blues," a song about the struggles between a teenager and his parents, his boss, and his congressman during the summer. The singer laments, "Sometimes I wonder what I’m gonna do, 'Cause there ain’t no cure for the summertime blues."

Many of us can relate to this sentiment. We face various reasons for feeling blue, such as financial struggles, work pressures, family dynamics, or just life. Today, people experience the “blues” for just about everything!

Today, I thought it would be fun to explore and find a "Cure For The Summertime / Anytime Blues."

The Book of James, a source of wisdom and encouragement, has an underlying theme of overcoming the “blues.” James, the brother of Jesus and pastor of the first church in Jerusalem, wrote to believers experiencing incredible persecution. He wanted to uplift and strengthen the church.

James 1:2-4

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

James reminds us that trials are:

* Unavoidable — Everyone encounters trouble. Trials come to everyone.
* Unpredictable — They are various. Often sudden and random.
* Uncomfortable — Thus the name... Trials – A testing or proving of our faith.

With that said, truth is, trials serve a purpose in our spiritual growth. We are called to count it all joy, to take charge and rule over our circumstances with faith and perseverance.

1 Corinthians 10:13

The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

Count It (hēgeomai): — Rule, Command, Govern, Engage in leadership, Take charge.

2 Timothy 1:11-12

And God chose me to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this Good News. That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.

All Joy

Colossians 1:11 (NLT)

We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy.

(Mess.) We pray that you’ll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross.

John 15:11

I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice!

Nehemiah 8:10

For the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Joy is more relational than it is emotional. True joy springs from the deep connections we share with God. While emotions can be fleeting and shaped by circumstances, our joy is, or should be, rooted in something more enduring—a sense of purpose, love, and spiritual grounding in God.

It thrives in relationships, where trust, understanding, and shared experiences create an unshakable foundation. This relational aspect of joy reminds us that it is not merely about personal happiness but about the bond we have in Christ and the encouragement we receive from Him even in difficult and “blue” times!

Joy can also come from the way we uplift one another. Joy is magnified when we align our lives with divine truth and rely on God's presence to sustain us through trials and in turn share that same joy with someone who may be facing the “blues.” True joy is, therefore, a reflection of the richness of our connections, both spiritual and human, and is a testament to the strength we receive in faith and love of our God.

Trials PROVE your FAITH!

Trials don't diminish you; they reveal God's abundant provision in you. “…it stirs up in you the power of endurance and durability to overcome ALL THINGS through the One we serve!”

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose—I am self-sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency; I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.

Romans 8:37 (NLT)

No, despite (IN) all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

Closing:

Let us embrace the cure to the challenges of life and the “Summertime Blues” with joy and faith, knowing that overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.