

The Joy Challenge

Life Group Questions and Message Notes

“...count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have it’s perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete lacking nothing.” James 1:2-4 (NKJV)

1. How often are you counting joy moments?
2. Has God ever used a moment of despair to get your attention and refocus you?
3. How are you going to prepare yourself to choose joy this week?

Week 1 – The Choice That Changes Everything
September 17th & 18th, 2022

Pastor Kerry Shook

“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 (NIV)

“The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected Your covenant, torn down your altars, and put Your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.” 1 Kings 19:11-18 (NIV)

CHOOSE TO BELIEVE GOD LOVES ME AND IS IN CONTROL

“Then he was told, “Go, stand on the mountain at attention before God . God will pass by.” 1 Kings 19:11a (MSG)

“Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind.” 1 Kings 19:11b (NIV)

“After the wind an earthquake, but God wasn’t in the earthquake.” 1 Kings 19:11c (MSG)

“After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire.” 1 Kings 19:12a (NIV)

“And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper.” 1 Kings 19:12 (NLT)

“When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And a Voice said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 1 Kings 19:13 (NLT)

CHOOSE TO TRUST GOD THAT EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALRIGHT

“The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came...” 1 Kings 19:15a (NLT)

“Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal...” 1 Kings 19:18a (NIV)

CHOOSE TO PRAISE GOD IN ALL THINGS

“Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NLT)