

Finding Joy in Brokenness

“That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

- 2 Corinthians 12:10

I could never really grasp or relate to the concept of “finding joy in suffering and trials” until the fall semester of my third year. During this time, a personal experience left me with feelings of hurt, sadness, anger, and bitterness and a deep void in my heart. But through the brokenness, I was able to refocus on my relationship with God. I desired to know Him further and felt His closeness. I was able to more deeply understand His love for me and find joy in my situation, and gradually, I felt the void in my heart being filled by Him again.

I also experienced His love so personally from the brothers and sisters I opened up to, through their support, encouragement, and prayers. I saw God in the brokenness when they stood by me during this time. This made me realize the importance of sharing your burdens with others and how essential it is to have openness and vulnerability in a fellowship.

“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

- Romans 5:3-4

Through this experience, I understood God’s love more deeply and found joy in Him, despite my brokenness. Because of this joy, I held onto the great hope that God had better things planned for me, even better than what I could think or want for myself.

My vision is to see UTCCF be a community in which we are open with one other and feel that we can share our burdens with each other. I think that all of us are suffering with something at all points in our lives, regardless of how big or small we may perceive our struggles to be, because we are broken people, more broken than we can ever admit. So as we lay down our burdens, we can find the joy that we have in God and His immense love for us, no matter what circumstance we may be in, no matter what brokenness we feel inside. Even in the midst of heartache, emptiness, and even in feelings that seem impossible to get out of or heal from, God is so much bigger than our pain and our situations. He alone will carry us through anything and everything, and we will grow from our experiences and come out stronger. We must believe that and stand firm in that hope! I want us to be a community of believers that can see God and find joy in our brokenness, and one that chooses not to fall away from Him in the face of trials but instead, grow closer to Him, because of our unshakeable hope for God’s greater and better plans.

I would love to see this vision through by serving on committee as Secretary/Treasurer in these ways:

- I will strive to be intentional about promoting a culture of vulnerability and transparency by first being open with others, whether that be in IGs, ministries, or large group
- I will support my committee by encouraging them to implement more personal sharing and prayer time in IGs
- In terms of the administrative aspect, planning ahead and staying organized for CCF meetings/events will help ensure that we have a space week by week where we can feel comfortable and come as we are