GIVING 10.25.26

General Offering	$7,678.00
Building Fund	$1,050.00
Uganda	$290.00
Benevolence	$460.00
Total	$9,478.00
Attendance	214

> "The Holy Spirit does not merely improve the old nature; He creates a new nature that produces a new life."
>
> — R.C. Sproul

VISITORS + MEMBERS

For ALL church announcements, our church calendar, ministries for serving and small groups to join, please see our Church Center app.

ghbcva.org
9821 S Redfield Drive
Amelia, VA 23002
804.561.3742

Welcome to Grace Harvest Bible Church

11.01.26

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES
9:00am

Elders - 2 Samuel
Sanctuary A

Bereans - Luke
Upstairs C

Young Adults - 1 Corinthians
Downstairs B, Gray Room

Surge (10 - 12 Year Olds)
Upstairs C

Youth (13 - 18 Year Olds)
Basement A

Children's SS
(Birth - 9 Year Olds)
Downstairs C

SUNDAY SERVICES
10:30am

Worship Service

Children's Church
(Birth - 9 Year Olds)

WEEKDAY EVENTS

Trail Life &
American Heritage Girls
Mondays 6:30pm

Men's Book Study
Mondays 7pm | Fridays 6am

Women's Walk & Book Study
Mondays 6:30pm

Worship Team Practice
Tuesdays 7:00pm

Awana
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Surge (10 - 12 Year Olds)
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Youth (13 - 18 Year Olds)
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Men's Alliance
Wednesdays 7:00pm

Family Groups
Every other Thursday
9:00am, 6:30pm, & 7:00pm

Pastor's Pen

The Fruit That Proves the Root

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

Many people think Christianity is primarily about changing behavior. Try harder. Do better. Be more patient. Be more loving. Be more disciplined. But the Christian life is not first about what we produce for God; it is about what God produces in us.

The Holy Spirit produces nine specific attributes in the life of a person who is connected to Christ: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Paul calls these qualities ***"the fruit of the Spirit"*** in Galatians 5:22-23. Notice that Paul does not say "fruits" of the Spirit, as if the Spirit gives out separate gifts one at a time. He says fruit, singular. It is one work of the Spirit with many expressions, like a single cluster of fruit with many parts.

This fruit is not random. When we look closely, we see that the Spirit is shaping every area of our lives. Love, joy, and peace reveal how the Spirit transforms our relationship with God. Patience, kindness, and goodness reveal how the Spirit changes the way we relate to others. Faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control reveal how the Spirit transforms who we are deep within. But how does the Holy Spirit produce this fruit in us? Jesus answered that question in John 15:5: ***"I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."***

Fruit doesn't appear because a branch tries harder. The branch doesn't strain, struggle, or work to produce fruit; it simply remains connected to the vine, and the life flowing from the vine produces it. The same is true for the believer. The fruit of the Spirit doesn't come from human effort apart from Christ. The Spirit produces it as we remain connected to Christ through faith, obedience, prayer, and His Word.

The fruit was never ours to manufacture. It was always His to produce. The question is not merely, "Am I trying hard enough to be more loving, patient, or self-controlled?" The deeper question is, "Am I abiding in Christ?" Because ***"every good tree bears good fruit"*** (Matthew 7:17). The fruit reveals the root. When the Holy Spirit is at work in a person's life, He produces evidence that points back to the One who gives life. Stay connected to the Vine—and He will produce the fruit.

Your shepherd, Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Don't be the slave of worldly amusements!
(George Everard, "Words of Counsel to the Newly Converted" 1866)

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2

Be separate from a world that lies in wickedness. Of course, in some measure you must mix in the world, while you live on earth - but let it be evident that you rise above it. Don't be the slave of worldly amusements! God loves that His people should be cheerful and happy - but there is little true enjoyment in the excitement of the theater, the race-course, the ball-room, the gambling-table, and the like. Choose something higher and better.

Consider how such things check the growth of true piety. If you err, let it be on the safe side. Do not ask, "How far may I go, and yet be guiltless?" Rather ask, "How may I walk more closely with God?" "How may I enjoy most of the love of Christ?" "How shall I best glorify my Father in Heaven?" Whenever you stand in doubt as to whether it is right or not to go to any place, bear in mind the old rule. Ask yourself, "Can I kneel down and with a good conscience ask the Lord to go with me?" If not, be sure that it is not safe for you.

Above all, bear witness for Christ in the world by a very holy and consistent life. Manfully resist sin in every shape and form. Watchfully guard against the least approach to youthful lusts. In thought, word, and deed - be pure, be chaste. Regard the least allusion to anything impure, as the poison of the old serpent which is death to the soul.

Keep a very tender conscience. Don't make light of little sins, as many think them. Little acts . . .of dishonesty, of selfishness, of neglect, of indulged vanity, of pride and self-conceit, of the love of dress, of petty deceits and half-untruths - who can tell how much harm is often done by these things, and to what far greater evils they often lead?

Do not judge of sin by the standard of those around you, but . . .
in the light of God's Word,
in the light of the cross, and
in remembrance of the day of judgment.