

Pastor's Pen

Faith: Just the Right Amount

"For through the grace given to me I say to each one among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound thinking, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith." Romans 12:3

Paul starts the practical part of Romans by emphasizing humility. After describing God's mercies, he focuses on perspective rather than immediate action. Maintaining the right view of ourselves is vital for faithful service.

When Paul refers to God giving each person ***"a measure of faith,"*** he is not describing saving faith, where some believers seem more justified than others. The Scripture does not recognize partial justification; all who are in Christ are equally forgiven and accepted by God. Instead, Paul is addressing service within the body of Christ. God grants spiritual gifts and provides the faith needed to use them. The ***"measure of faith"*** is the divine ability to trust God for obedience and effectiveness in the role He has assigned.

This truth dismantles pride. No believer chooses his gift or creates his ability. Even the confidence to serve is a gift from God's gracious provision. Therefore, arrogance has no place in visible ministry, and discouragement has no place in unseen service.

Paul's teaching also upholds unity. When believers understand that God alone determines both gifting and ability, comparison loses its influence. The focus shifts from seeking prominence to remaining faithful. The calling is not to pursue a different standard but to steward the gifts God provides. To think soberly means acknowledging our reliance on grace and our duty to serve. God provides precisely what is required for obedience. Our role is to trust Him and stay faithful.

Your shepherd, Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Unknown mercies- Charles Spurgeon

Psalm 121:7-8, ***"The Lord will keep you from all harm--He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going, both now and forevermore!"***

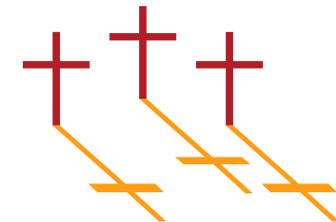
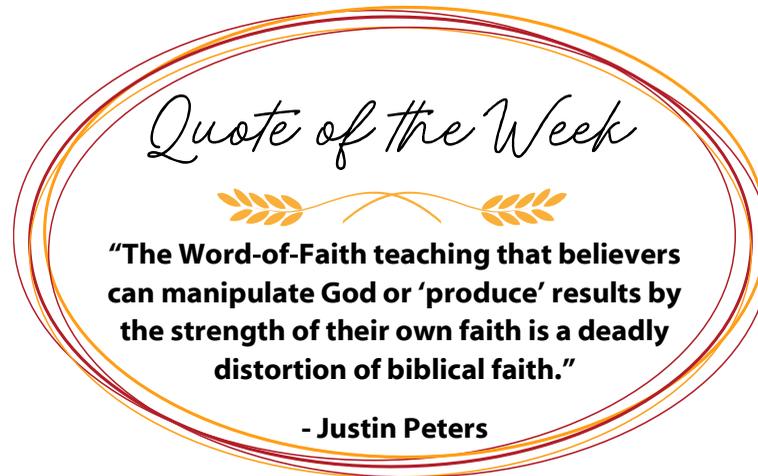
When I look back over the path the Lord has led me, I can trace certain mercies clearly: answered prayers, near-escapes, unexpected provisions. Yet I often wonder how many more mercies lie hidden in the folds of His providence--unseen, but no less real. How many times has His hand turned aside the danger I never sensed, hushed the accusation I never heard, or stilled the storm I never saw gathering?

The psalmist calls Him ***"my strength and my shield"*** (Psalm 28:7.) Strength is felt within; the shield guards externally. I feel His strength in the hour of trial, but His shielding is mostly secret. Every peaceful night's rest, every uneventful journey, every quiet day untouched by calamity--is the fruit of His invisible mercies.

The Lord protects His redeemed people from unknown adversaries: from the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil; from all the arrows that fly by day, and from all the terrors that haunt us by night. Knowing as we do that our adversary, the devil, walks about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour; our security from his hostile attacks is this--the Lord is our shield. Though earth and Hell should combine their malice--they are safe, whom God protects.

If I could read the full record of His care, I would find that many a sorrow never came, because He forbade it; and many a snare never closed, because He broke it first. Someday in glory, when the curtain of time is drawn aside, I shall behold the multitude of dangers from which He rescued me--and my praise will swell for mercies once unknown.

Until that day, I would walk quietly under His watchful eye, thankful not only for what I remember, but for what I never knew. The same hand that fashioned the stars, guards my steps upon the earth. The same Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep, now guides and keeps them in paths of peace.



Weekly Gatherings



Sunday Bible Classes

Elders- Old Testament (Sanctuary A)
Bereans- New Testament (Sanctuary B)
Young Adults- (Downstairs B, Red Rm.)
Youth and Surge (5th-6th)- (Upstairs C)
Children & Nursery (Downstairs C)



Weekday Meetings

AWANA—Wednesday's 6:30-8:00 pm
Trail Life—Monday's at 6:30 pm



Family Groups

All Family Groups began **Sept 25th**
Host Families: Tom & Penni Cox, Jesse & Deborah Royall, Larry & Gina Covington, Jeff & Bridget Brown, Alan & Leigh Anne Chambers and Mark & Trisha Keffer



Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and need to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email



Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study & Surge!



Service Times

Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church 10:30AM
Sunday Services 10:30AM

Giving from service on 02/8/2026	
General Offering	\$15,558.19
Building Fund	\$2,021.25
Uganda	\$.522.00
Benevolence	\$110.00
Total	\$18,211.44
Attendance	214

Build the Body Ministries

- Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
- AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
- Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
- Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
- Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
- Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
- Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
- Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
- Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
- Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
- Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
- Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
- Widows-admin@ghbcva.org
- HH-HomeschoolHub@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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Grace Harvest Bible Church

Feb 15, 2026

