

# Pastor's Pen

Did God say?

***And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" Genesis 3:1***

Isn't it amazing how quickly people who profess to be Christians will abandon God's commands when it conflicts with their personal beliefs? Eve was in the garden of Eden when Satan sought her out and asked her, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" Eve's response was to add to what God had told them. God told Adam, "From any tree of the garden you may surely eat; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat from it; for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die (Gen. 2:16)." Satan told Eve that she would not die but would be like God, knowing the difference between good and evil. Eve decided to trust Satan instead of God. When we give in to temptation or decide that God's word is not true, we are listening to Satan.

I have known individuals who claim to be believers but have denied God's Word when it interferes with their beliefs. One of the clearest examples is the role of women in the church. According to Barna, 62 percent of practicing Christians think it is ok for a woman to be a pastor, and 79 percent of the general population think it is ok. However, that is in direct conflict with what God has to say. Paul wrote, "But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet (1 Tim.2:12)." People will say that God never meant it for the modern church and that it was just applicable to the 1<sup>st</sup>-century church. However, God addressed that when Paul continued to write under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, "For it was Adam who was first formed, and then Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into trespass." You can hear Satan whispering, "Indeed, has God said."

Be careful, Christian, when you start to make God's Word arbitrary and decide to believe what you want and disregard what interferes with your feelings.

Your shepherd,  
Pastor Mark

# Grace Gems

- John MacArthur

**"Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (Matt. 6:13).**

Have a healthy sense of self-distrust.

At the moment of your salvation, judicial forgiveness covered all of your sins—past, present, and future. Parental forgiveness restores the joy and sweet fellowship broken by any subsequent sins. But concurrent with the joy of being forgiven is the desire to be protected from any future sins. That's the desire expressed in Matthew 6:13: "Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

That petition seems simple enough at first glance, but it raises some important questions. According to James 1:13, God doesn't tempt anyone to commit sin, so why ask Him to protect us from something He apparently wouldn't lead us into in the first place?

Some say the word "temptation" in Matthew 6:13 means "trials." But trials strengthen us and prove the genuineness of our faith. We are to rejoice in them, not avoid them (James 1:2-4).

The solution to this paradox has to do with the nature of the petition. It is not so much a technical theological statement as it is an emotional plea from one who hates sin and wants to be protected from it. Chrysostom, the early church father, said it is a natural appeal of human weakness as it faces danger (Homily 19.10).

## Quote of the Week

"Nothing sets a Christian so much out of the devil's reach than humility."  
- Jonathan Edwards

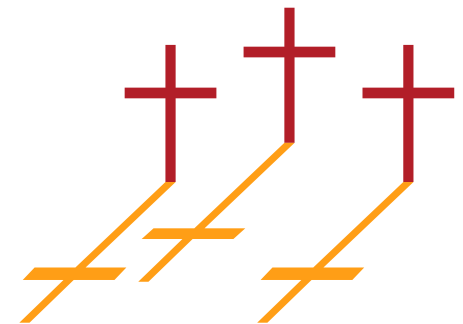
I don't know about you, but I have a healthy sense of self-distrust. That's why I carefully guard what I think, say, watch, read, and listen to. If I sense spiritual danger I run into the presence of God and say, "Lord, I will be overwhelmed by this situation unless You come to my aid." That's the spirit of Matthew 6:13.

We live in a fallen world that throws temptation after temptation our way. Therefore it's only natural and proper for us as Christians to continually confess our sins, receive the Father's forgiveness, and plead with Him to deliver us from the possibility of sinning against Him in the future.

Suggestions for Prayer

Thank the Lord that He loves you and ministers through you despite your human weaknesses.  
Ask Him to protect you today from any situation that might cause you to sin.  
For Further Study

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 and James 1:13-16



# Weekly Gatherings



## Bible Classes

Old Testament  
New Testament  
Young Parents  
Young Adults  
Sunday Morning @ 9AM



## Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM  
Men's Bible Study  
Every other Saturday:  
Women of Grace | 9am



## Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM  
every other week @ Chambers & Cox's  
& @ Patrick's  
Every Friday @ 7pm @ Royall's



## Build the Body Teams

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



## Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM  
Youth Study  
AWANA @6:30PM



## Service Times

Sunday Service 10:30AM  
Children's Church @10:30AM

Giving from service on 3/27/2022

General Offering .....	10,950.76
Building Fund .....	1,606.35
Uganda .....	140.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$12,697.11</b>

Attendance .....	210
Sunday School .....	167
Online .....	24

## 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  
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# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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