

# Pastor's Pen

Faith

***And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 1 Peter 1:8***

What comes to mind when you hear the word faith? The Oxford Dictionary defines it as complete trust or confidence in someone or something. Webster defines faith as allegiance to duty or a person, belief and trust in and loyalty to God. Have you ever wondered why you have faith in Jesus Christ even though you have never seen Him? You love Him and have never looked upon His face. How is that possible?

When I think about those I love and have faith in other than Christ, I realize that it is based on personal experience. I love Cathy and have faith in her because she has been the love of my life for 50 years. I have faith in my fellow Elders because I have seen their love for God and His church in action. I love you, the body of Grace Harvest, because God has given me the privilege to shepherd you. But I don't have faith in people I don't know or have never met. There is no personal connection. So, how is it that we have faith in Jesus Christ? Why do we declare Him King? Why do we devote our lives to following the commands of someone we have never seen or heard?

Jesus said, *"Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are those who did not see, and yet believed (John 20:29)."* Jesus calls every believer blessed because even though we have not seen Him we believe. But before you start patting yourself on the back, we must understand where our faith in Jesus comes from. Jesus said, *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day (John 6:44)"* and *"For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father (John 6:65)".*

Our faith to believe is a gift of God's grace in our lives. *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; (Eph.2:8).* By knowing that faith is a gift of God I understand what Paul was talking about in Romans 12:3 when he said, *"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."*

How is this faith by God given to His people? Paul gives us the answer: *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ (Romans 10:17)".* Let us be faithful to proclaim God's Word to a lost and dying world.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark Wells

## Quote of the Week

"A high view of God leads to a humble view of self. A low view of God leads to a haughty view of self."  
- Steve Lawson

# Grace Gems

This is the true grace of God!  
-(James Smith)

**"This is the true grace of God, wherein you stand." 1 Peter 5:12**

The grace of God is a subject which, of all others, demands our most serious attention. God's grace is nothing less than the free, sovereign, and eternal favor of God toward poor sinners in Christ! 2 Timothy 1:9

God's grace is manifested in the wonderful love, kindness, and condescension of our Lord and Savior: "You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might be rich!" 2 Corinthians 8:9

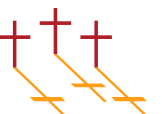
God's grace shines in all the doctrines of the everlasting gospel. They contain the revelation of grace, in the full, complete, and glorious salvation of the people of God.

The Father's grace appears in the CHOICE of a people to show forth His praise.  
The Son's grace is revealed in the REDEMPTION of that chosen people from sin, the world, Satan, death, and Hell.  
The Spirit's grace is manifest in the NEW BIRTH, sanctification, and teaching of that chosen and redeemed people.

Thus . . .the Father chooses a people by His grace, the Son ransoms these chosen people by His grace, and the Spirit makes these chosen people fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, by His grace. The Father marks the objects, the Son delivers from wrath, the Spirit leads to glory, and all in richest grace!

In a Word, grace is divine favor, which . . . arises in God as its fountain; centers in Christ as its depository; appears in the doctrines of the gospel as in a mirror; flows to sinners as its objects; and peoples Heaven with sanctified believers as its design!

Grace is . . .the glory of Jehovah; the charm of the gospel; the delight of Jesus; and the fountain of consolation to the church. Grace is . . .eternal in its existence; holy in its nature; free in its acts; sanctifying in its tendency; and glorious in its design!



# Weekly Gatherings

## Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes  
Ladies Class  
Young Adults    Young Parents  
Youth            Surge  
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM

## Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study  
1st and 3rd Saturday  
Women of Grace | 9AM  
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

## Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM  
Please check church website  
for start date and directions to each

## 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  
address on the back of this bulletin.

## Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM  
Youth Study & Surge!

## Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM  
Sunday School 9:30AM  
Children's Church @11:00AM

Giving from service on 11/05/2023

General Offering .....	12,405.75
Building Fund .....	10,802.50
Uganda Missions .....	215.00

Total.....\$23,423.25  
Attendance ..... 213

## 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  
Security-security@ghbcva.org



Grace Harvest  
Baptist Church  
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# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Nov 12, 2023

Welcome