

Pastor's Pen

When God Says No!

"But Yahweh was angry with me on your account and would not listen to me; and Yahweh said to me, 'Enough! Speak to Me no more of this matter.'"
Deut.3:26.

Every Christian has experienced disappointment in their lives. I have prayed for things that God has not answered in the way I would want. You may have prayed for a loved one not to die from cancer, but they died, healing in your marriage that ended in divorce, or salvation for someone you loved who died, not knowing Christ as Lord and Savior. Sometimes God says no.

Moses in Deuteronomy 3:23-26 was told no. Moses, God's faithful servant, pleads with the Lord to allow him to enter the Promised Land. He had led Israel through 40 years of wilderness wandering, interceded for them countless times, and obeyed God through trials and rebellion. But here, God says no. God's response may seem shocking: ***"That is enough. Do not speak to me anymore about this matter."*** It's a reminder that even the most faithful leaders don't always get what they hope for.

But God's "no" was not a rejection of Moses but a consequence of his sin when he doubted God. However, in His mercy, God allowed Moses to see the land from a distance and prepare Joshua to lead. When we face disappointment, especially after praying fervently, it can feel like God is distant or unfair. But like Moses, we are called to trust God's wisdom even when we don't understand His decisions. His "no" is never without purpose. Will we still worship, still trust, and still follow when the door we want doesn't open?

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Glorifying God With Every Gift- Alistair Begg

"Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."
1 Corinthians 10:31

Dramatic displays tend to draw our attention. Think about a hole in one on the golf course or the buzzer-beater on the basketball court. The steady putts and consistent lay-ups or free throws get overshadowed by the sensational moments.

The same thing that happens on the green or between the hoops can happen inside the church with spiritual gifts: we can end up focusing all our attention on the more visible, obvious gifts—perhaps like teaching or leadership—and neglect to see gifts that can be a little harder to glimpse, like helping or administrating. But what we must understand is that spiritual gifts are not valuable just because they are dramatic. The body of Christ needs every part, from head to toe, and every gift of each member (1 Corinthians 12:14-20). Every gift is important. Every gift matters.

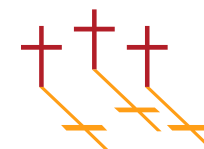
Quote of the Week

"I will cause a boy who drives a plow to know more of the scriptures than the pope."
-William Tyndale

Our external expressions of spirituality do not prove that we are pleasing God, nor do they guarantee our salvation. That's a sobering thought! It is easy to focus on what we do as the evidence of what we are. As we teach, help, give, speak, sing, create, or heal, we can be tempted to look to those deeds as the only necessary evidence of our spiritual life. But according to Jesus, even great performances of seemingly good works do not necessarily indicate that we truly know Him or that He truly knows us (Matthew 7:21-23).

So is there anything we can look to as evidence for faith? The apostle Paul offers us a simple yet profound criterion in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: ***"You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."*** As you serve God and exercise your gifts, what is your aim? What is your intention? We can't expect to have perfectly pure motives on this side of heaven, but as we recall the great purchase God has made, we can make it our goal to glorify Him in all that we do. And this is reliable evidence of real faith: for a Christian is someone who knows they have been bought from sin and death at the price of Christ's blood and who now seeks to serve God with all that they are—to ***"do all to the glory of God."***

This applies as much to the outgoing, well-known leader as it does to the quiet, unnoticed laborer. Whatever your gifts, whatever your role, whatever your situation, make it your goal to glorify God in all that you do. When that is your aim, you'll not only serve Him better, but you'll find yourself experiencing the great, counterintuitive truth that ***"it is more blessed to give than to receive"*** (Acts 20:35). Make it your goal today to ask yourself at every moment: "What would it look like, here and now, to do all for the glory of the God who loves me and gave Himself for me?"



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:00AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Book Study
Fridays | 6AM Men's Book Study
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please see website for locations

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; AWANA & Surge!

Service Times

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

Giving from service on 05/18/2025

General Offering	\$8,950.89
Building Fund	\$822.50
Uganda	\$215.00
Benevolence	\$161.29
Total.....	\$10,149.68
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
Security-security@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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Grace Harvest Bible Church

May 25, 2025

Welcome