

Pastor's Pen

The Victory of Surrender

"And He was saying, 'Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.'" Mark 14:36

We Americans take pride in who we are. When we see the word surrender, it's not something we think of as positive. Surrender is what our enemies have always done. We think of the Alamo, where 250 men, including Davey Crockett, William Travis, and James Bowie, fought to the last man rather than surrender. The ancient Spartans, mothers would hand their sons their shields and say, "Return with your shield, or on it." It meant: come back victorious (carrying your shield) or come back dead (carried on it)—but never return in cowardice by throwing your shield away to run or surrender.

From a Christian perspective, individuals are encouraged to align their will with that of God. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus confronted the forthcoming challenges of the cross, fully aware of the suffering, shame, and separation from the Father that awaited Him. His prayer reflects both His humanity and divinity, expressing a wish for relief while simultaneously demonstrating a commitment to fulfill the Father's will.

True strength is not found in clinging to our own desires but in surrendering to God's plan. Our culture often defines strength as independence, control, and self-sufficiency. But in God's kingdom, strength is revealed when we release our grip and trust His will.

Jesus shows us that surrender is not a sign of weakness; instead, it is the pathway to victory. Through His surrender came the salvation of the world. Through our surrender comes peace, freedom, and the power to live in God's strength rather than our own.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

I am not what I once used to be!
(J.C. Ryle, "Are you regenerate?")

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14

The regenerate man is a holy man. He endeavors . . .
to live according to God's will,
to do the things that please God,
to avoid the things that God hates.

His aim and desire is to love God with heart and soul, and mind and strength—and to love his neighbor as himself. His wish is to be continually looking to Christ as his Example as well as his Savior; and to show himself Christ's friend, by obeying whatever He commands.

No doubt he is not perfect. None will tell you that sooner than himself. He groans under the burden of indwelling corruption cleaving to him. He finds an evil principle within him constantly warring against grace, and trying to draw him away from God. Yet, in spite of all short-comings, the average bent and bias of . . .
his ways, is holy;
his doings, is holy;
his tastes, is holy
and his habits, is holy.

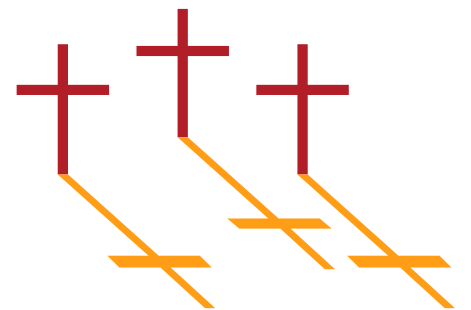
Quote of the Week

"If the Lord Jesus Christ does not have all of you, He does not want any of you. He will never be a part-Savior. You must give yourself up wholly to Him—body, soul, and spirit—or you cannot be His."
— Charles H. Spurgeon

In spite of all his swerving and turning aside, like a ship going against a contrary wind, the general course of his life is in one direction—toward God and for God. He will generally be able to say, with old John Newton,

"I am not what I ought to be.
I am not what I want to be.
I am not what I hope to be in another world.
But still, I am not what I once used to be!
By the grace of God, I am what I am!"

"Let none conclude that they have no grace, because they have many imperfections in their obedience. Your grace may be very weak and imperfect, and yet you may be truly born again, and be a genuine son of God and heir of Heaven." (Hopkins, 1670)



Weekly Gatherings



Sunday Bible Classes

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



Weekday Meetings

AWANA—Wednesday's beginning Sept 17th 6:30-8
Men's Book Study—Monday & Friday beginning Sept 15th @ 7pm and Sept 19th at 6am



Family Groups

All Family Groups beginning **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 09/14/2025

General Offering	\$11,845.93
Building Fund	..\$990.00
Uganda	..\$195.00
Benevolence	..\$180.00
AWANA	..\$50.00
Youth Trip	..\$1.107.00

Total.....\$14,367.93
Attendance 235

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

Sept 21, 2025

Welcome