Payton's Pen

Overconfident!

"Therefore let the one who thinks he stands watch out that he does not fall. "1 Cor. 10:12

When we place our hope and confidence in Christ, that is a good thing, but confidence in self is dangerous. Writing to the church in Corinth, Paul issues a warning to believers who might be tempted to think they are spiritually immune to falling into sin. Israel's history shows that even those who have seen God work powerfully can still fall into sin if they grow careless, proud, or complacent.

Think of the Apostles at the Last Supper. If anybody should have been able to stand firm in their faith, it should have been them. Matthew records the following,

Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." But Peter answered and said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away." Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You."

Mat 26:31-35a

We are very familiar with Peter's sin of denying Jesus Christ. But look at what Matthew records: "All the disciples said the same thing, too." Mat. 26:35 b. All eleven would deny Him and scatter. They thought they could stand firm, but they did not.

The Christian life isn't about perfection, but about dependence. Standing firm means standing in Christ, not in ourselves. If you've been walking strong lately, praise God—but also remain watchful. Humility keeps us grounded, and grace keeps us standing.

Your shepherd, Pastor Mark Grace Gemy

Christian contentment -Don Fortner)

"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength!" Philippians 4:11-13

Here are five things which, if God the Holy Spirit is pleased to establish them in our hearts, will surely give every believer contentment:

- 1. The purpose of God. All things that have ever come to pass in this world . . .both great and small, both prosperous and adverse, both pleasing and painful, both good and evil--come to pass according to God's eternal, immutable, unalterable purpose. Learn this in your heart, and you will learn to be content. "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen." Romans 11:36
- 2. The providence of God. Everything in Heaven, earth and Hell is sovereignly ruled, governed and manipulated by God in infinite wisdom, according to His own holy purpose for the eternal, spiritual good of His people. Nothing in this universe breathes or moves without God's decree and God's direction. "We know that God causes all things to work together for good, to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose!" Romans 8:28

3. The power of God. Our God is almighty. He has purposed to do us good, and He has the power to accomplish His purpose. He cannot be frustrated or defeated. "All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as He pleases with the powers of Heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back His hand or say to Him: What have you done?" Daniel 4:35. He is God almighty! You can safely trust Him.

- 4. The presence of God. "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said: I will never leave you! I will never forsake you!" Hebrews 13:5. Can you get a sense of this fact? If you are one of God's believing children, then the omnipotent, eternal God is with you! Surely, the presence of God with you should give your heart contentment at all times.
- 5. The promises of God. Open the book of God's promises, and find a rich source of contentment for your soul. To all who are in Christ Jesus, "He has given us His very great and precious promises!" 2 Peter 1:4

"Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." 1 Timothy 6:6-8

Quote of the Week

"We must not adopt the world's view and then tweak it to make it Christian. We must draw a line in the sand and stand firm in the radical teachings of Christ and His gospel," -Paul Washer

Weekly Gatherings



Bible Classes

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



Weekday Meetings



Family Groups

All Family Groups on hiatus until September



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 School 9:00AM Children's Church 10:30AM Sunday Services 10:30AM Giving from service on 06/22/2025

 General Offering
 \$7,406.11

 Building Fund
 \$789.00

 Uganda
 \$550.00

 Benevolence
 \$50.00

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
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GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

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June 29, 2025

