

# Grace Fellowship Baptist Church

The Church

With a Heart 

Sunday, March 9, 2025

Devotional Thought From the Pastor...

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

March 9—15, 2025

Sunday School	9:45 am
Worship Service	11:00 am
Int. Harvest Church	1:30 pm
Praise Team	4:30 pm
Evangelism	6:30 pm

### Mid-Week

FB/YouTube Bible Study

### Wednesday

Bible Study	6:00 pm
Praise Team	7:00 pm

## Worship Service

### TIME OF QUIET MEDITATION

### TIME TO GATHER

That's Why We Praise Him

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Find Him Faithful

**SCRIPTURE:** James 2:14

I Give All To You/Lead Me Lord

### TIME OF GIVING

Offering\*

Hymn 54

### TIME IN GOD'S WORD

**Message:** Is Your Faith Alive or Dead?

James 2:14-26

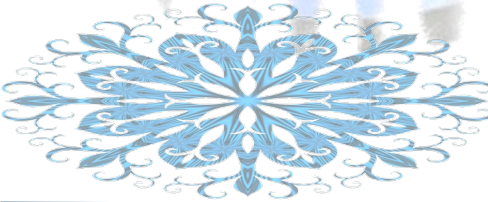
Bro. Oscar

### CLOSING PRAYER

\*Please place offerings in the wooden box in back of the church.

## March Birthday

Kimberly Esquivel	3/17
Carla Pohl	3/15
Anna Jo Spotted Bear	3/19
Kristie Teneyuque	3/29



## Ministry Gifts

Offerings for Budget	\$1,519.00
Designated Offerings	\$ 496.00
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$2,015.00
10% Taken out for Missions	\$ 151.90

Needed This Week for Budget \$ 1,137.68

## Christ's Visual Paradox

Matthew 5:4, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

One of the great hymn writers of all time, Isaac Watts, wrote "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." In penning its lyrics, he used the poetic device of paradox to show a contrast in themes: "my richest gain I count but loss" and "pour contempt on all my pride." We sometimes call these oxymorons, "words used in seeming contradiction to themselves"—like "awfully good" and "jumbo shrimp." In the case of Watts' lyrics, this device is far more profound.

Jesus used paradox often. "Blessed are the poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3), He said, suggesting that those who have no hope will receive more than they could ever hope for. When you or I mourn the loss of someone dear and are sad, Jesus says we "will be comforted" (v. 4). Christ was showing how in God's kingdom the common rules of life don't apply.

These paradoxes tell us that life in Christ defies all expectations: we who are nobodies are cherished as somebodies. It was on the cross that Jesus bore a visual paradox—a crown of thorns. Isaac Watts took this symbol of ridicule and, paradoxically, gave it soaring beauty: "Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, / or thorns compose so rich a crown?" In this we thrill yet are mindful of the final line of the hymn: "Love so amazing, so divine, / demands my soul, my life, my all."

## Stewardship Thought...

**James 1:22**—"Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

It is true. Evidence that we have been instructed by God's Word is seen in the way we apply God's truths in our daily lives. One obvious truth in the Bible is that God's people give gratefully.

### Contact Us At:

3801 McCart Ave

Fort Worth, TX 76110

Office: 817.924.2415

FAX: 817.924.6318

Bro. Oscar: 817-791-0311

— [www.gfbc-fw.org](http://www.gfbc-fw.org) —

Email: [gfbcfw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gfbcfw@sbcglobal.net)

# Announcements . . .

- **Mid-Week Activities—Bible Study**—EVERYONE is invited to join us for mid-week Bible studies on YouTube prior to Wednesday and at church on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. This week we'll begin in 1 Chronicles 13:12.
- **Mission Emphasis Coming Soon**—We will begin our North American Mission Board (NAMB) emphasis and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) at the end of this month. It will run through the end of April.
- **Donations Toward Our Church and Various Ministries**—Please consider donating toward our CHURCH BUDGET, WHICH IS OUR MOST CRUCIAL NEED. Some of our ministry needs are our 2025 VBS, Operation Christmas Child (OCC), Children/Preschool fund, Youth fund, Sharing the Load, new A/C fund, Together We Build, Benevolent Ministries, Music Ministry, North American and IMB/International missionaries, J & T, Texans on Mission, Samaritan's Purse, , etc. You may place your donations in an offering envelope and write the name of the ministry/organization on a "Special Offering" line (the amount goes on the right). Remember to place your regular tithe on the short line after the words, "Budget Offering." Then place all donations in the offer-

ing box in back of the church. Or—you may also send your donations through Zelle (ask Becky how to do it). Please do not make donations through PayPal.

- **Church Website**—If you have internet you can go to our website—<https://www.gfbcfw.org>—to find lots of information such as sermon notes, pastor's weekly YouTube messages, Bro. Frank's YouTube Bible studies, giving opportunities, ability to leave prayer requests and much more.

- **Instagram**—Also, please remember to follow our church on Instagram at @gfbcfw where you can receive inspiration and information!

- **Toiletry Items for the Homeless**—Since the homeless are always in need, please continue to collect travel-size toiletry items, and bring them to the church.

- **Budget Needs**—Please, prayerfully consider your part in support of our church missions, ministries, utilities, and upkeep. This week, we need to pay our AT&T, gas, pest control and building security bills. Please pray, trust God and be faithful.

## What Is A Missionary Facts Christians Should Know PART 2

### The Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and

teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In the Great Commission, Jesus instructs his disciples to spread the gospel to all nations. Jesus tells them to make more disciples throughout the world as they preach, baptize, and teach the gospel.

Wake up, Grace, WE are Jesus's disciples today, and we are commanded to make more disciples. But how can we actually preach, teach and spread Jesus' message throughout the world?

### All Christians are Missionaries

As Christians, we will have a desire to let the world know about God. And it is our responsibility to carry out the great commission whenever or wherever we are. We can use all our talents and abilities for God's kingdom and reach out to more people. As we go on in our daily lives, we are also missionaries that fulfill this calling along the way.

Some people are called and gifted by God for cross-cultural missions. In the book, When Everything is Missions, a missionary is defined as someone who is sent out to plant the gospel within a target culture. Missionaries do it until it expands throughout the culture and beyond.

As Romans 10:15 says, "And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Therefore, it is up to us who stay behind to pray for and give to those who are called and sent by God to the world. If everyone will give a little, it will indeed add up. When added to what other churches give it will be enough!

## Today's Scripture

**James 2:14**—"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?"

**Is Your Faith Alive or Dead?**

*James 2:14-26*

**“Dead” Faith**

- Genuine saving faith is more than just saying that you are a \_\_\_\_\_.
- If we say that we are \_\_\_\_\_, then we ought to be moved with compassion for our brothers and sisters.
- The evidence of a relationship with Jesus Christ is manifested in the things we do on a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Works are the evidence of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Satan and his demonic host’s \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is probably greater than yours or mine.
- Real faith must be made manifest in real \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

**“Alive” Faith - Abraham**

- Abraham was the father of the Jewish people and archetype of a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ before God.
- Abraham’s son, Isaac, was born when Abraham was \_\_\_\_\_ and Sarah was \_\_\_\_\_.

- God promised Abraham that he would have descendants more numerous than the \_\_\_\_\_.
- It was important that Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ God’s request because his \_\_\_\_\_ was at stake.
- Abraham’s belief was not merely a confession or an agreement with God: it was a \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ that affected the way he did almost everything.

**“Alive” Faith - Rahab**

- James points to Rahab’s \_\_\_\_\_, her \_\_\_\_\_ to the Jews, and her ministry.
- By welcoming the Jewish spies into her home, Rahab unwittingly became the great-great grandmother of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Rahab not only sheltered the spies but helped them \_\_\_\_\_ the city.
- Rahab became a part of \_\_\_\_\_ plan as she \_\_\_\_\_ the spies in their reconnaissance mission.
- Rahab’s actions \_\_\_\_\_ her and her faith before God.



**Conclusion**

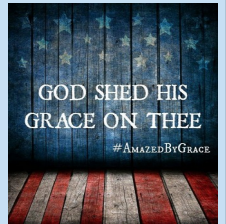
- Being a Christian happens by God's \_\_\_\_\_ as we trust in \_\_\_\_\_ to save us.
- When we become God's handiwork, our \_\_\_\_\_ for anything good that we do is a tribute of \_\_\_\_\_ to Him for all that He has done for us.
- We do good things because we \_\_\_\_\_ God and we want to \_\_\_\_\_ Him for His generosity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_ is dead.



# Remember in Prayer . . .



those who have suffered loss from various disasters; for the thousands in California who have lost their homes; for the homeless, refugees and those suffering from hunger in our nations; for large and small churches that are struggling; for wisdom for our political leaders, including our president, VP, governors, senators and congressmen; for our government officials to pass wise laws.



†**Pray for the nations**—for Samaritan's Purse as they minister to hurting people around the world; for our International missionaries; for J and T as they minister to Afghan refugees; for the peace agreement in Israel; for the situation in Ukraine to be resolved; for Burmese Christians and missionaries who remain in Myanmar; and for other Christians, missionaries and refugees who are suffering from persecution in Taiwan, N. Korea, India, Africa, Viet Nam, China, Russia, Turkey and other countries.



## Prayer Works!

### Prayer Requests & Announcements

You may email new prayer needs, announcements, edits and deletions to [gfbcfw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gfbcfw@sbcglobal.net) or enter them on the website by Tuesday at noon, 12:00 pm. You may also text your prayer requests to 817-937-5974.

†Each week, please read through and update our prayer requests. Let us know if we need to keep praying for something or if the prayer has been answered.

†**Please pray for continued strength and healing** for serious health issues for Tony; for Frank's hip to heal; for Manuel's niece's healing from cancer; for Kevin to heal from pancreatitis; for health issues for Bill and Alice; for healing for Herbert, Barbara and Kitty; for healing for a growth on Ashlyn's brain; for Armida's



heart and lungs and for her loneliness to heal; for healing for Virgie as well as Rose E; healing for Carmon; for Oscar A; for Robert and Annie, Nora and Doyle; for John's head and memory; for Donna's vein procedures to heal quickly; for Susen's eyes & feet; for Laura's vision and memory issues; for Paige and Kristie's health issues; for Amy's mother-in-law's upcoming transplant.

†**Pray for the Children**— Continue praying for the children, youth and teachers throughout the year.

†**International Harvest Church and Ministries**—Please continue to pray for the International Harvest Church and Ministries as they worship and praise God in the GFBC facilities.

Pray for the missionaries they are supporting.

†**Miscellaneous praises and prayer needs**—Prayers for Rachel and the family and friends of Lenny Sanders in their grief regarding his passing; for an unspoken need for Tiffany; for an unspoken request for Becky; for David's unspoken requests; praises and prayers for Paige, Jacob and Stetson; for an unspoken need for Nick; for an unspoken prayer for Donna; for Jim and his business; for family challenges for Daisy; for needs of the Polk/Flores family, their needs for God's guidance, and for Andrew's daughter; for Paige and Brian as they continue to learn how to care for Dakota's type 1 diabetes; for Jourdeah's best interest in her family and for unity in the Maroney family; for Chris and his little girl—Amiyah, and for their unspoken needs; for Ryan and his unspoken needs; for Genna, Nick and RJ's family needs.

†**Pray for our church**—for our pastors and their families; for REVIVAL among our members; for our ministries, financial needs, and for a miracle involving the demolition of the south building.

†**Pray for peace and protection in our nation**—for North American missionaries; for Texans on Mission and their ministries around the state, nation and world; for first responders and