

Grace Fellowship Baptist Church

The Church

With a Heart

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Devotional Thought From the Pastor...

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

May 18—24, 2025

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

Mid-Week

FB/YouTube Bible Study

Wednesday

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

Coming Soon:



Online registration is OPEN Now!

Stewardship Thought...

Exodus 22:21—"Do not mistreat or abuse foreigners who live among you. Remember, you were foreigners in Egypt."

Israel was commanded to show sympathy to the needy strangers. When we give to God through our church, a part of what we give reaches out beyond our church to others who are in need.

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Worship Service

TIME OF QUIET MEDITATION

TIME TO GATHER

Lord, Be Glorified Hymn 457

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Praise You & We Bow Down

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:15–16

Purer In Heart, O God Hymn 492

TIME OF GIVING

Offering*

Speak To My Heart Hymn 281

TIME IN GOD'S WORD

Message: A Holy People

Verses from Leviticus and Hebrews 9:11-14

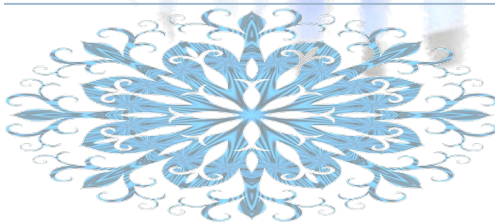
Bro. Oscar

CLOSING PRAYER

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

May Birthday

Annie Hayes	5/10
Zara Leonard	5/23
Oscar K. Pruitt	5/22
Frank Rike	5/19



Ministry Gifts

Offerings for Budget	\$ 1,398.00
Designated Offerings	\$ 40.00
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$ 1,438.00
10% Taken out for Missions	\$ 138.80
Needed This Week for Budget	\$ 320.00

A Pastry War

Ecclesiastes 7:9, "Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools."

Of all the foolish things that have led to nations going to war, could a pastry be the worst of all? In 1832, amid tensions between France and Mexico, a group of Mexican army officers visited a French pastry shop in Mexico City and sampled all the baker's goods without paying. Though the details get complicated (and other provocations compounded the troubles), the result was the first Franco-Mexican War (1838-39)—known as the Pastry War—in which more than three hundred soldiers died. It's sad what a moment of anger can incite.

Most human conflicts—shattered marriages and ruined friendships—are likely rooted in some form of unmanaged anger. Selfishness and power plays, unresolved misunderstandings, slights and counter-aggression—it's all foolishness. So often, our ill-advised perceptions or reactions lead to destructive anger. Yet Ecclesiastes offers wisdom: "Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools" (7:9).

It's foolish to have a short fuse and be easily provoked to anger, especially when God offers a better way—perhaps through "the rebuke of a wise person" (v. 5). Pursuing wisdom, we can "let the peace of Christ rule in [our] hearts" (Colossians 3:15). We can live in wisdom and forgiveness as He helps us.

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 our study will begin in 1 Chronicles 27.

•VBS Will Be Here Soon!

—We are  in full swing, preparing for VBS '25! There will be two extremely important Sunday training dates. The Power Session will take place next Sunday, May 25th, and the Safety Meeting will take place on June 8th. Both sessions will be held after church, and lunch will be included. The actual VBS dates are June 23 through 27, and VBS Sunday will be on June 29. We want to have a VBS activities day on Saturday, the 28th.

•National Day of Prayer for VBS

—Today is the National Day of Prayer for VBS. In light of that, we have included VBS Prayer Cards for you to use today and during the week.

•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 offering box in back of the church. Or—you may also send your donations through Zelle. The church's Zelle address is gfbcfw@sbcglobal.net. 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](https://www.instagram.com/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. How can you help? Please pray, trust God and be faithful.

ease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Franklin Graham is President and CEO of Samaritan's Purse, as well as President and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) gives a clear picture of God's desire for us to help those in desperate need wherever we find them. After describing how the Samaritan rescued a hurting man whom others had passed by, Jesus told His hearers, "Go and do likewise." For over 50 years, Samaritan's Purse has done their utmost to follow Christ's command by going to the aid of the world's poor, sick, and suffering. They are an effective means of reaching hurting people in countries around the world with food, medicine, and other assistance in the Name of Jesus Christ.

As their teams work in crisis areas of the world, people often ask, "Why did you come?" The answer is always the same: "We have come to help you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ." Their ministry is all about Jesus—first, last, and always. As the Apostle Paul said, "For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" (2 Corinthians 4:5, NIV).

Since the March earthquakes, Samaritan's Purse has been ministering to hurting people in Myanmar among other worldwide locations.



Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, dis-

Operation Christmas Child

Grace Fellowship still needs your help to collect enough funds to pack and send boxes for 100 children.

Please pray about giving to this year's OCC.



Today's Scripture

1 Peter 1:15-16—"But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

A Holy People

Leviticus 11:1-15:33, Leviticus 11:43-44, Leviticus 13:45-46, Leviticus 15:31, Hebrews 9:11-14

The Problem of Impurity

- The reality of uncleanness is not just about personal hygiene or physical contamination; it is about demonstrating that God's _____ - _____ every aspect of life.
- God's holiness is so complete and so absolute that even the smallest i _____ would _____ a person.
- Holiness is not just about following rituals; it is about _____ God's character in our daily living.
- We often settle for the appearance of _____ - _____ rather than the reality of **purity** in our lives.

The Inadequacy of Rituals

- Rituals might deal with the _____ of impurity, but they never _____ the disease of sin.

•The Old Covenant rituals are not designed to be the ultimate solution; they are a _____ - _____, pointing to the deeper need for _____ cleansing.

- No amount of _____ can erase the guilt and shame of past mistakes.
- We need something more than ritual, we need a _____.
- The **law** shows us the _____, but **Christ** came to bring the _____.

The Promise of Cleansing

- The Old Covenant's rituals only cleanses _____, while Christ's sacrifice cleanses us _____.
- Jesus' blood **purifies** us from within, setting us **free** from dead religious works and opening the way to _____.
- _____ under the New Covenant is not something we achieve by ritual or self-effort—it is a _____ that transforms us from the **inside out**.



•The _____ were never meant to be the solution, they were meant to **highlight** the **problem**.

•**Christ has made us clean**, not just to remove our guilt but to _____ our lives.

The Pursuit of Holiness

•Being made _____ in Christ is not just a status we receive; it is a _____ we pursue.

•Holiness is not _____ for believers.

•We are **not** called to fit into the world's mold but to stand out as _____ of a holy God.

•Holiness is not just about the big moral decisions; it is about our everyday _____.

•Living as a holy people is **not** about ritualistic purity but about _____ Christ's purity in every aspect of our lives.

Conclusion

•The _____ of holiness is not about perfectionism; it is about transformation.

•The _____ holiness in Leviticus finds its fulfillment in Christ.

•Only _____ can make us truly clean!

•Jesus calls us to live _____ for His **glory**, reflecting the _____ that He alone can give.



Remember in Prayer . . .



homa, Missouri and Pittsburgh; for first responders and those who have

†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 Tony and continued healing from back surgery; for Mark H. from cancer; for wisdom for Amy and healing from breast cancer; for Manuel's niece's healing from cancer; for health issues for Bill and Alice; for Tinny Sue who was in the hospital; for healing for Tonya from neurological issues and loss of mobility; for Frank's hip to heal; for Cliff Denney's health; for Kevin



to heal from pancreatitis; for healing for Herbert, Barbara and Kitty; for healing for a growth on Ashlyn's brain; for Paige and Kristie's health issues; 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 Laura's vision and memory issues; for Susen's eyes & feet; and for Susen's niece, Stacey.

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

†Miscellaneous praises and prayer needs—Please pray for an unspoken request for Becky; for David's unspoken requests;

for the Pruitt family as we travel this week; praises and prayers for Paige, Jacob and Stetson; for an unspoken need for Nick; for an unspoken prayer for Donna; for an unspoken need for Tiffany; for an unspoken need for Richard; for Jim and his need; 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, Carla and Tony 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; and for Shannon and Allison's relationship.

†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.

†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.

†Pray for wisdom, peace and protection in our nation—for North American missionaries; for Texans on Mission and their ministries, especially in Texas, Okla-

suffered loss from various disasters; for thousands who have lost their homes; for homeless, refugees and those suffering from hunger in our nation; for 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 who have been affected by the earthquake 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 others.



Prayer Works! ❤️

Prayer Requests & Announcements

You may email new prayer needs, announcements, edits and deletions to gfbf-fw@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.