



NEVER GIVE UP.

**A Study of the
Book of 2 Corinthians**

PRAYING

FOR

OTHERS

- Pray silently for the prayer request printed in your worship guide.
- Our Seventh Grade students
- Our small group led by Michael Zak
- The Great Southwest Prayer Center
- Neighboring church service this morning at Real Hope Community Church
- The Bug*is of Indonesia
- Conflicts in the Middle East and Eastern Europe

We ask all this for the glory of Your name.

Need Prayer? Monthly prayer opportunities in the Prayer Center.

- **Prophetic Prayer** – 2nd Sundays 10:45AM-12:30PM.
- **Healing Prayer** – 4th Sundays 10:45AM-12:30PM.

Daily Prayer Meeting: Monday-Friday 11AM-NOON live and online at thegreatsouthwestprayercenter.org. **We have special prayer for the Middle East every Thursday at this time.**

Worship With the Word: Worship and Prayer through 2 Corinthians every Tuesday 10-11AM.

Scan the QR code for the full schedule of prayer opportunities.



Never Give Up!

**“Never Give Up on Walking in Godliness”
2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1 – February 16, 2025**

New Years Sermon Series

NEVER GIVE UP!		
<i>A Detailed Study of the Book of Second Corinthians</i>		
Date	Message Title	2 Corinthians
Jan 5	Never Give Up!	2 Corinthians 1:1-11
Jan 12	Never Give Up on God’s Promises	2 Corinthians 1:12-2:13
Jan 19	Never Give Up on Being Transformed	2 Corinthians 2:14-3:18
Jan 26	Never Give Up on Finding Meaning in Your Suffering	2 Corinthians 4:1-18
Feb 2	Never Give Up on the Future	2 Corinthians 5:1-13
Feb 9	Never Give Up on Reconciliation	2 Corinthians 5:14-21
Feb 16	Never Give Up on Walking in Godliness	2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1
Feb 23	Never Give Up on Saying I’m Sorry	2 Corinthians 7:2-16
Mar 2	Never Give Up on Generosity – Part 1	2 Corinthians 8:1-9:5
Mar 9	Never Give Up on Generosity – Part 2	2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Mar 16	Never Give Up on Fighting Your Battles	2 Corinthians 10:1-18
Mar 23	Never Give Up on Upholding Your Character	2 Corinthians 11:1-33
Mar 30	Never Give Up on Jesus Christ	2 Corinthians 12:1-10
April 6	Never Give Up on Growing	2 Corinthians 12:11-13:14

Small group questions for each sermon are found at [WhatsGrace.org/smallgroupresources](https://www.whatsgrace.org/smallgroupresources)

The Problem of Besetting Sins

- Hebrews 12:1 (KJV) speaks of “besetting sins.” Other translations render it “the sin that so easily entangles us” (NIV) or “the sin that just won’t let go” (CEV).
- Michael Houdmann: “Besetting sins are ones that we continually struggle with and have a weakness toward. Everyone has besetting sins they constantly struggle with, whether it is gossiping, lying, losing one’s temper, or lust. Christians do not automatically become perfect and sinless when we are saved (1 John 1:8); rather, we are constantly fighting against our sinful nature. But besetting sins do not have to control us. In Christ, we have been set free from our sins and are no longer slaves to sin (John 8:36).”
- We CAN have victory over besetting sins!! (2 Corinthians 7:1)

Practical Helps to Having Victory Over Besetting Sins and to Walking Obediently in Godliness (2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1)

- 1. Receive God’s grace today and _____ (6:1-2)**
 - Today is the day of salvation! Right now is the day of salvation!
 - We need saving every day! Actually, we need saving every hour and every moment.
 - We need God’s mercy and grace for both JUSTIFICATION salvation and SANCTIFICATION salvation.

Justification	Sanctification
Being declared right with God through faith in Jesus.	Becoming more and more like Christ (godly) through faith in Jesus.
Instantaneous at new birth.	A daily process after new birth.
My position in Christ.	My growing condition in my living.
Romans 5	Romans 6

- **Galatians 3:2-5** (NLT) – *Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it? I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ.*
- **Lamentations 3:22-23** – *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.*
- **Application #1a** – Make sure that you are justified (declared right with God) by placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ for your salvation.

Lord Jesus, I am not right with You. I have sinned, and I am deeply sorry! I repent. I place my faith and trust in You for the forgiveness of my sins and for being declared right with You based on Your merits on the cross and resurrection. I believe, and I receive You. Now, please make me into the person You want me to be. I choose to follow You.

- **Application #1b** – Go public with your faith in Christ through water baptism. Our next immersion baptism service is on Sunday, March 2, at 12:30pm. Sign up at WhatIsGrace.org/Baptisms
- **Application #1c** – Practice spiritual breathing as a lifestyle. Whenever you realize that you have sinned, immediately...
 - **Exhale the bad** – Lord, I confess that I just took control of the steering wheel of my life and sinned by (name the sin). I am sorry, and I repent. I thank You that You have already forgiven me of this through my receiving Jesus and His work on the cross (Colossians 2:13-14).
 - **Inhale the good** – Spirit of God, I invite You to take Your rightful place again in the driver's seat of my life. Please fill me and direct, control and empower my life for godliness.

2. Never give up on walking in _____ (6:3-13)

- If anyone would have been tempted to give up on walking in godliness, it was Paul. He went through crazy difficult hardships including rejection by the Corinthians, and yet he persevered in walking in godliness.

- Chuck Swindoll: “We must all endure hardships. Paul battled inner struggles – afflictions, hardships, and distresses. He had become stressed out, mentally and emotionally drained. Paul experienced external troubles – beatings, imprisonments, and tumults. And Paul endured the private disciplines of commitment to the cause – labor, sleeplessness, and hunger.”
- **Philippians 4:11-13** – *I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound in any and every circumstance. I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*
- Application #2 – In vv.6-7, Paul lists nine practices or attitudes or aids that help him walk in godliness. Which of these nine do you need right now in your walk toward godliness?

Purity	Knowledge	Patience
Kindness	Holy Spirit	Genuine love
Truthful speech	The power of God	Weapons of righteousness

3. _____ from environments and people that fuel stumbling (6:14-18)

- To walk in godliness, we must carefully regulate our environment – the shows we watch, the websites we visit, the apps we peruse, the places we go, and the people that we hang out with.
- **1 Corinthians 15:33** – *Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”*
- Old saying: “A bad apple ruins the whole barrel.”
- Charlie “Tremendous” Jones: “You are the same person today that you will be in five years except for two things: the books you read and the people you meet. Choose both carefully.”
- Verse 17: “Go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord.” This is an exhortation from Isaiah 52:11 commanding the Jewish people to leave Babylon and go back to the Promised Land (their real home).
- Application #3a – In order to pursue godliness in my life and my relationship with God, I am going to...
 - Stop watching **that** TV show
 - Stop visiting **that** website
 - Stop using **that** app
 - Stop allowing ungodly people to influence me
 - Stop reading **those** books
 - Stop dating **that** person.
- Important note: These verses are a clear command to NOT engage in “evangelistic dating” or “evangelistic marrying.” The Bible is very clear that believers are to NOT marry unbelievers. Singles, do not date an unbeliever.

- Three important caveats:
 - (1) Once you marry someone (even an unbeliever), it is God's will that you stay married to that person unless they are unfaithful to you (Matthew 19:9), are physically abusing you (Matthew 5:32; *porneria* includes physical abuse), or are an unbeliever who deserts you (1 Corinthians 7:15).
 - (2) "Do not be unequally yoked" does NOT mean that we spend zero time with unbelievers (1 Corinthians 5:9-12). The Bible encourages us to build healthy relationships with unbelievers and to share Jesus with them (Matthew 5:13-16; Colossians 4:5-6). But we need to be influencing them, not them us. We are to be **in** the world, but not **of** the world (John 17:14-19).
 - (3) Do not be the one who causes someone else to stumble (Matthew 18:6-7; 1 Corinthians 8:13). This is why Grace Fellowship has a policy/practice of no alcohol at any GF events or small group functions. Not because we believe that drinking alcohol is inherently wrong, but because we want church to be a safe place that does not tempt our recovering friends to stumble.

4. Know, rehearse, cling to, and claim _____ in Scripture (7:1)

- Paul is referring to the promises of Leviticus 26:12 and Isaiah 52:11 that he just quoted in 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 – promises that God's Spirit will live inside of believers and be a Father to us as we separate ourselves from the world.
- Application #4 – A promise that I'm going to cling to this week is:

GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES		
Strength Psalm 18:32; Isaiah 40:31	Guidance John 16:13	Help Isaiah 41:10-14
Instruction Psalm 32:8; John 14:26	Wisdom Prov 2:6-8; James 1:5	Heaven John 14:1-3; 2 Peter 3:13
The Holy Spirit Acts 2:33; Eph. 1:13	Joy Psalm 132:16; Gal. 5:22	Spiritual Life Romans 8:9-13
Resurrection Life John 11:25	Sufficient Grace 2 Corinth 12:9	Eternal Rewards 1 Tim 4:8; James 1:12
Answered Prayer 1 John 5:14-15	Financial Provision Philippians 4:19	Forgiveness 1 John 1:9
Return of a Prodigal Prov. 22:6; Luke 15:17	He Will Finish His Work Philippians 1:6	Healing Isaiah 53:5
Reaching the Nations Matt. 24:14; 28:18-20	Marriage Oneness Genesis 2:24-25	I Can Do All Things Philippians 4:13

Gather²⁵

A Gathering of the
Global Church for
Prayer, Worship,
Repentance, and
Commissioning

GATHER25.COM

Friday, February 28, 7PM

We are encouraging small groups to gather in homes on Friday night, February 28, at 6pm to have a meal together and join the simulcast at 7pm. Each small group can decide how long to go (the North American portion lasts 4 hours; the entire global simulcast is 25 hours). One option is to join the simulcast for one hour, then mute it at 8pm, pray as a small group for 30 minutes, and then go home. Each small group (and person) can decide for themselves.

Register your
small group
and learn more



2025 CROSS CULTURAL MISSION TRIPS



*The World
Awaits*

- Colombia (Cartagena) / March 2–8
- Arlington, TX / March 7–12 (Students)
- Vietnam / March 26–April 5
- Caucasus Mountains / October 10–19
- North Carolina / June 14–20



Check out more upcoming trips and register at
WhatsGrace.org/Mission-Trips

MARRIAGE MATTERS

Testimonial

"God revealed to me what was happening in my marriage. He opened the door for me to walk through into a healthier life of peace and happiness."

Marriage Matters participant

Next session starts Monday, February 24
from 7–8:30PM

For questions about Marriage Matters or if you need assistance from the Care Ministry, contact Barry Morton at 281.646.1903 or BMorton@WhatsIsGrace.org



GRACE FELLOWSHIP

KIDS



**FRIDAY
FEB 21
6:30PM**



FAMILY GAME NIGHT



Join us for Family Game Night in the Student Building!

There will be Bingo and board games for the whole family, a photobooth, desserts, and MORE!



Church offices will be closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of the holiday.