



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 Senior Class
- Our small group led by Daniel Baut
- The Bible Seminary
- Neighboring church service this morning at River Bend Baptist Church
- The Makas*ar 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 Sincere and Pure Devotion”
2 Corinthians 11:1-33 – March 23, 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 Sincere and Pure Devotion	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)

Summary of 2 Corinthians 11

- At first blush, Paul comes across as a little bit crazy and paranoid and almost childish, but as you dig deeper, you see that he has a passionate concern and love for the Corinthians' walk with Jesus.
- Summary: Paul is concerned that the Corinthians are being led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ by following false apostles who are communicating a different Gospel in a different spirit. The false apostles' spirit is one of boasting in their speaking abilities when what we should all be boasting about is our weaknesses. For when we are weak, then we are strong in Christ's strength.
 - **vv.1-3** – Paul is concerned that the Corinthians are being led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
 - **vv.4-5** – The ones leading them astray are these “super apostles” who are preaching a different Jesus and a different Gospel with a different spirit.
 - **v.6** – They might be better speakers than I (Paul) am, but they are not giving you God's truth. I am.
 - **vv.7-15** – Just because I did not charge you financially to preach God's Word to you does not make my message less. These other guys are false apostles.
 - **vv.16-33** – But if you want to play the boasting game with these false apostles, I will play. They boast in their flesh. I boast in my weaknesses. For when I am weak, then Christ's strength is put on display.

How to Be Led Astray from a Sincere and Pure Devotion to Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 11:1-33)

1. Let _____ deceive you (v.3)

- How did the serpent deceive Eve (and Adam) in Genesis 3?
 - (1) Satan questioned God's Word: *"Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'"* and *"You will not surely die."* (Genesis 3:1,4)
 - (2) Satan questioned God's goodness: *"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."* (Genesis 3:5)
 - (3) Satan tempted her with *the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and pride in possessions* (1 John 2:16).
 - (4) Adam was passive: *She also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate* (Genesis 3:6). Rather than leading his family and saying, "Quit talking to snakes. We are not going to eat of that tree. We are going to obey God," Adam was passive, said nothing, and ate with her.
- Jim's definition of a man that I taught my sons:

A real man is one who rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously, loves sacrificially, and expects the greater rewards as he seeks to become more and more like the ultimate Man, Jesus Christ.

- **Application #1** – You grow in your devotion to Jesus by rejecting satan's lies, renewing your mind to the truth, resisting the devil, fleeing temptations, and actively obeying God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit. My spiritual devotion growth Scripture today is...
 - 1 Peter 5:8-9** – *Be sober-minded: be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*
 - John 8:31-32** – *If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*
 - Romans 12:2** – *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
 - Psalms 119:9,11** – *How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your Word. I have stored up Your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.*

2. Follow a different _____ than the real _____ (v.4)

- John MacArthur: "The false apostles preached another Jesus, not the true Lord Jesus Christ whom Paul preached. An errant Christology has always been a hallmark of false religions and cults."

- Application #2a – Five errant views of Jesus to stay away from:

Religion	What That Religion Teaches About Jesus
Mormonism	Jesus is a separate god from the Father (Elohim). Jesus was created as a spirit child by the Father and Mother in heaven and is the “elder brother” of all men and spirit beings. His body was created through the sexual union between Elohim and Mary. Jesus was married. His death on the cross does not provide full atonement for all sin but does provide everyone with resurrection.
Jehovah’s Witness	Jesus is not God. Before he lived on earth, Jesus was Michael the archangel. Jehovah made the universe through Jesus. On earth he was a man who lived a perfect life. After dying on a stake (not a cross), he was resurrected as a spirit; his body was destroyed. Jesus is not coming again; he “returned” invisibly in 1914 in spirit. Very soon, he and the angels will destroy all non-Jehovah’s Witnesses.
New Age Movement	Jesus is not the one true God. He is not a savior, but a spiritual model, and guru, and is now an “ascended master.” He was a New Ager who tapped into divine power in the same way that anyone can. Many believe he went east to India or Tibet and learned mystical truths. He did not rise physically, but “rose” into a higher spiritual realm.
Unity School of Christianity	Jesus was a man who had “Christ Consciousness.” “Christ” is the state of perfection in every person. Jesus had lived many times before and was in search of his own salvation. Jesus did not die as a sacrifice for anyone’s sins. Jesus did not rise physically and will never return to earth in physical form.
Progressive Christianity	Jesus is a powerful moral example and guide for living a life of compassion and justice. Jesus did die on a cross but not to save us from our sins. Jesus did rise from the dead but not by walking out of an empty tomb. Jesus did not perform miracles, but he did heal people’s psychological wounds inflicted by massive oppression.

- Application #2b – My biblical faith declaration about Jesus:

I believe that Jesus is God the Son, the second Person of the Trinity (John 10:30-39; 14:6-11). Jesus has always existed and was never created (John 1:1; Col 1:16-17). Jesus is fully God and fully Man (John 1:14; Phil 2:6-11). In becoming man, Jesus was begotten through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:26-38). He died on the cross taking on the sin of the world as our substitute (Colossians 2:13-15; John 1:29; 12:32) and then was resurrected (physically and spiritually) on the third day after His death (Luke 24:36-53; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8). Jesus ascended into heaven and will return again to judge the living and the dead (Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thess 4:13-18). Jesus is Lord!

3. Fellowship with the _____ (vv.7-15)

- Colin Kruse: “Paul’s opponents are revealed here as instruments of Satan who masquerade as servants of righteousness. Satan’s attacks on the church are seldom frontal. They are more subversive and carried out by those within the church who misguidedly serve Satan’s ends.”

- **1 Corinthians 15:33** – *Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”*
- Application #3a – Are there any unhealthy relationships that I need to get out of in order to pursue devotion to Jesus?
- **2 Timothy 2:22** – *Flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*
- **Hebrews 10:24-25** – *Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*
- Henry Cloud: “Everyone needs at least five people in their lives that they have healthy relational bonds with and that help meet their basic relational needs. If your spouse is the only person in your human support system, then you don’t have a marriage – you have a parent-child relationship!”
- Application #3b – In order to pursue my devotion to Jesus, I am going to develop at least 4 significant, healthy, relational-need-meeting, same-gender friendships above and beyond my marriage that will encourage me in my devotion to Jesus including...
 - An accountability partner (Proverbs 27:17).
 - A small group within the church that is devoted to God’s Word, prayer, and fellowship (Acts 2:42).
- James Clear’s habit stacking principle.

4. Boast in your _____ (vv.16-33)

- The heart of Paul’s confrontation of the false apostles is the question in Verse 23: “Are they servants of Christ?” The answer is no. The Judaizing false teachers had a strong Hebrew pedigree, but they did not have a heart of sincere devotion and sacrificial service to Jesus. Paul then proceeds (apologetically) to list his sufferings and weaknesses as proof of servanthood (vv.21b-33).
- The truth principle that Paul introduces here will be completed in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 – namely, that Christ’s power is made perfect in our weaknesses. Don’t boast in your strengths! Boast in your weaknesses because, when you are weak, that is the exact place that Christ is strong as you surrender to Him in faith.
- Application #4 – Jesus, I give You all of my weaknesses and all of my sufferings. Please fill me with Yourself and display Your strength and power and glory through my weaknesses.

Celebrating God’s Servant Cindi Lomax – Cindi Lomax is retiring today after serving 21 years as Grace Fellowship’s Care Pastor. Thank you, Cindi, for 21 years of devotion and service to Jesus!! Well done, good and faithful servant!!!

WELL DONE CINDI!



Today, we celebrate the retirement of Cindi Lomax after **serving 21 years** as Grace Fellowship's Care Pastor! 21 Years!

Cindi's ministry has been saturated with and characterized by **2 Corinthians 1:4**—**"God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others with the same comfort God has given us."**

Thousands of lives have received this kind of care and comfort at Grace Fellowship and beyond! Well done, Cindi! Well done, good and faithful servant of Jesus! We are grateful for you!

Pastor Jim
(on behalf of all of Grace Fellowship)

THE CROSS PRESENTED TO CINDI:



- 21 inches tall representing Cindi's 21 years as Care Pastor
- Tiles taken from the threshold of the care offices where many walked to receive care
- Tiles are broken representing broken lives coming together to make something beautiful (that's the Church!)
- Each tile represents 100 households served in the 21 years of Cindi's service (50 tile pieces= 5,000 households!)
- Made from alder wood which is common in the pacific northwest, where Cindi is from

Ways to celebrate Cindi:



Write a Note: Stop by the lobby to leave a heartfelt message.

Share Your Appreciation in Person: Greet and congratulate her in the lobby.



Leave a Voicemail: Record a message in the lobby phone booth or call 949-850-2387

ONE-NIGHT PARENTING SPECIAL EVENT

With national speaker and author Laura Gallier

WED.
APRIL 17
7-8:30PM

While parenting can be one of the most gratifying endeavors it can also bring you the most challenging lows!

"How do I prepare if I am just getting started on this journey of parenting? How do I trust in God's purpose and plan for my child? What if they aren't making good choices? How do I know that I am doing everything the way I'm supposed to when I am tired, I'm being pulled in twenty different directions, and I feel overwhelmed?"

More info at WhatsIsGrace.org or contact Michelle Sliva at 281.646.1903 or MSliva@WhatsIsGrace.org



WE'RE HIRING

Kids Ministry Associate Director

Grace Fellowship Church is prayerfully searching for our next Kids Ministry Associate Director to join our Kids Ministry team.

The ideal candidate will be a Jesus follower with a passion for sharing the gospel, as well as a proven track record of success in Kids Ministry or a closely related role.

Read the full description and apply by scanning the code

