

Grace Church of Central Point

100 Oak Street
Central Point OR 97502



A praying, family-centered congregation that loves Jesus!

GRACE NOTES

Vision 2024: Being light in a dark world

May 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

Making Decisions According to God's Will

We are all faced with many decisions that need to be made on a daily basis. While most are fairly easy and benign as far as their outcome (What should I eat for breakfast? What should I wear today? What am I going to fix for dinner?) they are still decisions that are being made. But what happens when we have to make the BIG decisions (Changing jobs? Should I marry this person? Do we move or not?)

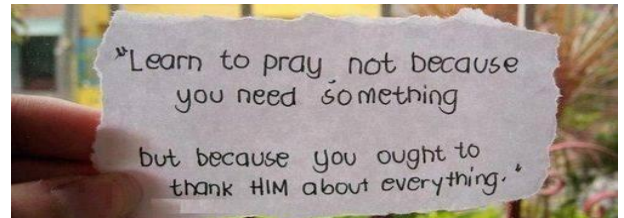
Then how about if we are planning for something, how do we know that the plans we have made are the right ones? How do we assure ourselves that the decisions and plans we make are the one we should be making? The result, lots of valid questions. With this in mind, let's look to the Word of God for some answers.

First, we know that we should plan because God makes that clear in the Bible, in the book we look to for so much wisdom; the book of Proverbs. We find the following verses in Proverbs chapter 16; verse 1 *"The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD"* and then in verse 9 *"The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps."* These two verses make it clear that we can plan all we want to, but ultimately it is the Lord that will bring about His will in our lives. Does that mean there is no reason to plan, since God already has it all figured out? No, because God doesn't expect us to just sit around and wait on Him to do things in our lives. It just tells us that we need to pray about the plans we've made, and ask the Lord to work out our plans *according to His will*. That's the important part. We can plan, but if what we have in mind is not the right thing to do, we can rest assured that God will make it clear to us how to proceed. It's the same way with decisions.

We see a concrete example of this in the life of Paul in Acts chapter 16:6-33. Here we read about Paul and Silas wanting to go to Asia to share the gospel, but they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit. Then we find Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia calling for him to come there and help them. Paul wisely follows the Holy Spirit's leading in that he does NOT go to Asia or Bithynia to share the gospel, but instead goes to Macedonia. And following this departure into Macedonia, we find the passage regarding Lydia and her family being saved, followed by Paul and Silas later being imprisoned, a mighty earthquake occurring and ultimately the salvation of the jailer and his entire family.

So, based on what we have seen here, let me propose these guidelines for making decisions and plans. First, pray before decisions or plans are made. Pray for wisdom to make the right decision, pray for guidance in discerning God's will and pray for open or closed doors as an indicator for direction. Then, make the decision, or follow the plan where you sense the Lord is leading you.

And once you make the plan or decision, don't look back or waiver. God will make it clear what you are to do. Pray that the Lord will close the door and keep it closed if your path is not His desired one. But, and again this is important – once you follow the plan or decision, go forward trusting God to guide you just as He guided Paul and Silas. They were at the right place at the right time, and so too will you be.



ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

Sunday: Morning prayer	9:30 am
Sunday School	10:00 am
Worship Service	11:00 am
Tuesday: Women's Bible Study	10:00 am
Men's Bible Study	5:30 pm
Wednesday: Mid-week prayer meeting	6:30 pm
Thursday: Women's Bible Study	6:30 pm



Women of Grace
Woman's Fellowship Dinner
May 3, 2024
Grace Church
6:30 pm

Apr. 28 is last day to get your tickets! \$10
Speaker: Sue Hamilton

Up-coming Activities

May 2:	National Day of Prayer: 12-12:30 pm at the church and on livestream
May 3:	Women's Fellowship Dinner

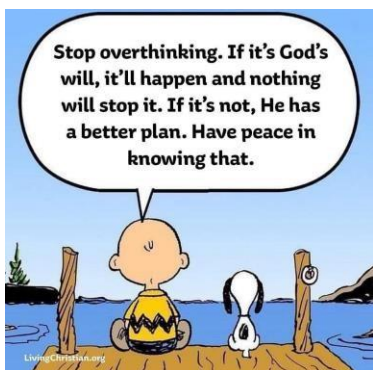


MAY 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Jim Hamilton	2 Sue Hamilton	3 *John Leuthold	4 Sally Hellyer
5 Josh Hellyer	6 Jim Hibbs	7 Debbie Hibbs	8 Barbara Higginbotham	9 Jim Hinks	10 *Marianne Catlett	11 Danielle Hvall
12  Mother's Day	13 *Carol McLean	14 Pastor Howard	15 *Roy Fielding	16 Nancie Jenkins	17 Scott Johnston	18 *Connor & Hunter Cavin
19 Jackie Jones	20 *Rusty Lamb	21 *Evie Collins	22 Ernest Kronquist	23 Marilou Kronquist	24 Nita Lamb	25 Carol Leuthold
26 Franklin Line	27 *Mary Ashton	28 Jane Line	29 Russell Logan	30 Frieda Logan	31 Gale Mattern	

Please pray for one another each day – those with a birthday are shown with an *



Home with the Lord
 You may have lost a loved one, but heaven gained another saint.
Harris Harper - March

The Pastor

A pastor never gets to say “I’m off duty”. Never gets to punch out at 5. Never gets to have a normal schedule. We don’t know how many sleepless nights they spend on their knees praying for their church. How much opposition they face. How many family opportunities they miss to meet with hurting people. We can’t carry their burden for them, but we can do what the Bible tells us to: **Pray for them. Encourage them. Support them.** By blessing them, we will only be blessed in return.

A dash of salt can make all the difference in the flavor of a dish. And so it is with a dash of faith. It can make all the difference in the flavor of a life.
 A hope-filled note can brighten a hopeless day. A kind word, a loving touch could be just the glimpse of Jesus that some lost soul needs.
 Wherever you go, whatever you do, whatever words you speak, season them with a dash of faith—because God loves the way you flavor His world. (100 things God loves about you)

