

**GOD
NEVER
SAID
THAT**

HOLY
BIBLE

Examining Common
Statements That You
Will Not Find in the Bible

PRAYING

FOR

OTHERS

- Pray silently for the prayer request printed in your worship guide.
- Our Interns
- Our small group led by Zack & Andrea Bartol.
- The Community Prayer Center.
- Neighboring church service this morning at Hosanna Houston Church.
- The Makas*ar of Indonesia.
- Conflicts in the Middle East, Africa and Eastern Europe

We ask all this for the glory of Your name.

Need Prayer? Prayer opportunities in the Community Prayer Center:

- **Prophetic Prayer** – 2nd Sundays, 10:30AM
- **Healing Prayer** – 4th Sundays, 10:30AM
- **Submit a Prayer Request** – [WhatlsGrace.org/prayer-wall](https://www.whatlsgrace.org/prayer-wall)

Victory Over The Darkness Class – Starting Sunday, May 17 from 4 - 6PM: Are you in need of Freedom, Healing, Hope or Community? Realize the Power of Your Identity in Christ – Renew Your Mind in Biblical Truth – Find Freedom from Your Past and Spirit-Led Transformation. More info and registration at [WhatlsGrace.org/Prayer](https://www.whatlsgrace.org/Prayer)

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



God Never Said That

“Forgive and Forget”

John 2:23-25 – May 17, 2026

Our Sermon Series

GOD NEVER SAID THAT		
<i>Examining Common Statements That You Will Not Find in the Bible</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
April 4/5	God Helps Those Who Help Themselves	Ephesians 2:1-9
April 12	God Wants You to Be Happy	2 Corinthians 12:2-10
April 19	God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle	1 Corinthians 10:13
April 26	Money is The Root of All Evil	1 Timothy 6:6-19
May 3	To Thine Own Self Be True	Luke 9:23-26
May 10	Heaven Needed Another Angel	Romans 12:15
May 17	Forgive and Forget	John 2:23-25
<i>Sermon notes are available in Mandarin and Spanish at the Welcome Desk</i>		

God Never Said That

- Barna survey on forgiveness: 1 in 3 adults believe you cannot truly forgive someone unless you also forget the offense.
- Only 11-20% of Americans have read the entire Bible.
- More than 57% of American adults are “Bible disengaged” (defined as rarely or never interacting with the Bible).
- ***Hosea 4:6*** – *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*
- ***The Dangers of Forgive and Forget***
 1. **It Sets a Trap for Re-Victimization**— If you believe you must forget an offense to truly forgive it, you effectively wipe away the data needed to set healthy boundaries. Without the memory of the harm, you are likely to walk back into the same unsafe situation.
 2. **It Enables the Offender**— “Forgive and forget” often demands that the victim act as if the sin never happened, which removes the natural consequences for the offender and it implies that the relationship must immediately return to its original state. This prevents the offender from seeing the weight of their actions and can hinder their own repentance. It creates an environment where toxic behavior can flourish under the guise of “grace.”
 3. **It Breeds False Guilt and Spiritual Shame**— When a victim is told they must forget, and the memory inevitably resurfaces, they often feel they have failed God or haven't “really” forgiven. This creates a cycle of shame.
 4. **It Prevents Genuine Healing**— Healing requires processing grief, and you cannot process what you are trying to ignore or forget.
- ***Acts 17:11*** (NIV) – *Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message*

with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

- **Grace Fellowship Application:** Let's be Bereans who examine everything with and through Scripture!

What does the Bible say about Forgive and Forget?

1. It is _____

- The exact phrase does not appear anywhere in the Bible.
- **Hebrews 8:12** (NIV) - For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.
- **God is omniscient** (All Knowing)
 - **Psalm 147:5** – Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite
 - **Revelation 20:12** (NIV) – Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.
- “Remember no more” (לֹא אֶזְכָּר) lo ezkar is a covenantal legal term, not a statement of divine amnesia.
- It means God will **not hold our sins** _____ . He chooses not to bring our sins forward as evidence of condemnation. This is grace, not forgetfulness.
- **Pastor Alistair Begg** – *“Forgiveness is a beautiful word, but it is also a legal word. It means the debt has been paid in full, and the Creditor (God) has shredded the invoice. He doesn't forget the debt existed; He simply refuses to collect on it.”*
- **Corrie Ten Boom** – *“God takes our sins, the past, present, and future, and dumps them into the deepest ocean and puts up a sign that says, ‘No Fishing Allowed.’”*
- **Charles Spurgeon** – *“He forgets the sin in the sense that He will never punish us for it, never love us the less for it, and never upbraid us with it. It is gone as though it has never been committed.”*
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** – *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*
- **Romans 8:1** – *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*
- **Psalm 103:12** – *As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*
- **Application #1a** – If you haven't received forgiveness from God, do it today by placing your faith in Jesus.

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned and that I cannot save myself. I place my trust in You Jesus and Your death, burial, and resurrection. I invite You into my life. I receive Your FULL FORGIVENESS of my sins, and I receive the free gift of eternal life. Now, make me into a new person. I choose to follow You.

- Go public with your faith through water baptism. Our next immersion baptism service is on Sunday, June 7th at 12:45pm. Get more info or sign up here: WhatIsGrace.org/Baptisms
- Application #1b – If you have accepted Christ, live in the freedom that you’re fully forgiven.
 - Meditate on Psalm 103:8-12 this week and imagine your sins being carried away.
 - Replace “I can’t believe I did that” with “I can’t believe God chose to strike that from my record!”
 - Place a **'No Fishing Allowed'** sticky note on your mirror as a daily reminder to stop digging up the sins God has already cast into the sea of His forgetfulness.

2. Fully Right: Forgive Fully and _____ (John 2:23-25)

- **John 2:23-25** - *Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.*
- The word entrust (Greek: episteusen) is the same root word as “believe.”

Forgiveness	Trust / Reconciliation
Focus: past offense	Focus: present and future risk
Timing: Can be immediate	Timing: Gradual over time
Control: Entirely up to you	Control: Dependent on both parties
Condition: Unconditional	Condition: Trust is earned, requires a behavior change
Cost: Letting go of justice	Cost: Letting go of control
Goal: To release resentment and personal healing	Goal: To build safety and intimacy

- **Dr. Henry Cloud (*Boundaries*):** *"Forgiveness does not mean tolerating the continuation of evil. Boundaries and forgiveness are not opposites, they work together.*
- **Lysa TerKeurst:** "Forgiveness is a decision of the heart, but trust is a measurement of the relationship. You can forgive someone and still say 'I am not safe with you.'"
- **Genesis 37-50** Joseph forgave his brothers, but he also tested them to see if there was a truly repentant heart change.
- **Dallas Willard:** "Grace is not opposed to effort. It is opposed to earning. Forgiveness is a grace but applying wisdom to how we trust is never a betrayal of that grace.

- Applications# 2

- Read Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend's book, "Boundaries"
- Ask the Joseph Question: Have I seen genuine, demonstrated change over time or just an apology in the moment?
- Talk to someone you trust and work together in setting up good boundaries.
- Write a release letter— Write out exactly what was done to you and how it hurt. Then at the bottom write: "I release this debt. I will not collect on it." Pray over it, then shred it or burn it as symbolic gesture of giving it to God.

3. Forgiveness is not a feeling, it's a _____

- **Matthew 18:21-22** (NIV) – *Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answer, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."*
- **Ephesians 4:31-32** – *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*
- **Colossians 3:13** – *...forgive each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*
- **C.S. Lewis:** "Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive... To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."
- Applications# 3
 - Is there someone I need to forgive? Not forget. Not excuse. Not trust blindly. But *release* — choose not to hold the debt.
 - If the wound is deep, get support. A Christian counselor can help you grieve what was lost and walk toward freedom at the same time. Connect with our Care Ministry WhatIsGrace.org/Care
 - Pray Corrie Ten Boom's prayer: "Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me your forgiveness."

2025 Highlights



NEXTGEN MINISTRIES

KIDS (Infant – 5th Grade)

545 VBS ATTENDEES who learned about Jesus with the help of **265 VOLUNTEERS**

49 FAMILIES equipped through the Kids Foundations class

200 FAMILIES AT THE FALL FESTIVAL found connection & fellowship

31 BABY DEDICATIONS celebrated

STUDENTS (Jr. High & High School)

292 RENEWED their relationship with Jesus at retreats

125 SERVED ON MISSION TRIPS and shared God's love

195 SMALL GROUP ATTENDEES that connected, grew, and prayed weekly

Haven't submitted your Estimate of Giving yet? We'd love for you to be part of what God is doing here — turn in a card or go to [WhatIsGrace.org/Giving](https://www.whatisgrace.org/giving)

Marriage Matters Testimonial

Coming to **Marriage Matters** was just something my husband and I thought would be good to continue to grow in our marriage. For me, these classes showed how God intended our marriage to be and made me realize I need to do self-reflection often. It is not enough to just love one another but putting God first and trusting him through it all, especially in the hard times. Learning things like 69% of conflict doesn't get resolved and seeing other couples either going through it, been through it, or on the verge of destruction, was very eye opening to me. Our mentors were amazing and that is why we strongly feel a pull to help in other marriages in the hopes God will use us to be that hope and encouragement for other couples. You should never stop learning new things about your spouse, and this taught me a little more about myself as well. **Highly recommend!** —LM

Learn more about **Marriage Matters** and other Care classes at [WhatIsGrace.org/Care](https://www.whatisgrace.org/care)

summer OPPORTUNITIES

Groups
&
Classes



Gather with the Girls – Bible Study

Starting
Tuesday, June 16
6:30–8:30PM

Men's Bible Study

Starting
Tuesday, June 16
6:30–8:30PM



Summer Alpha

Starting Monday,
June 15 | 6:30–8:30PM

More info and registration at
[WhatIsGrace.org/SpiritualFormation](https://www.WhatIsGrace.org/SpiritualFormation)



Adult Baptism Class

Sunday, May 24

If you're 18 or older and you'd like to know more about being baptized at Grace, come to this 1-hour class, where you'll learn:

- What baptism is and what it isn't
- Who should be baptized
- Why be baptized
- When to be baptized
- How to be baptized

We also share specifics about the next upcoming baptism at Grace Fellowship. This class is not required, nor does it obligate you to be baptized. It is offered to help you decide if water baptism is your next step in following Jesus.



Register
today!



Ways to GIVE

1. **WEBSITE** – Visit [WhatIsGrace.org/Giving](https://www.WhatIsGrace.org/Giving).
2. **CHURCH CENTER APP** – In the Church Center App, login with your phone number, and click "Give". It's super easy. Choose ACH to avoid fees.
3. **STOCKS OR OTHER ASSETS** – Please email us at Finance@WhatIsGrace.org for stock transfers, non-cash donations, or estate planning.

