

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

- Pray silently for the prayer request printed in your worship guide.
- Our Second Grade students
- Our small group led by Heather and Kelly Keahey
- The Bible Seminary
- For the launch of our North Katy Campus' new location
- 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? You're invited to experience God's presence through a variety of prayer gatherings hosted in the Prayer Center:

- Prophetic Prayer 2nd Sundays, 10:30AM-12:00PM
- Healing Prayer 4th Sundays, 10:30AM-12:00PM.

Prayer Ministry Training — Holy Spirit: Are you curious about the role of the Holy Spirit in prayer and in your everyday life? Join Prayer Ministry for this immersive and empowering training! Sign up on the Church Center app or at WhatlsGrace.org/Prayer.

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



Experiencing God Together

"Experiencing God Through Community" – Acts 1-2 August 17, 2025

Our Sermon Series

40 DAYS OF EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER A Journey to Encounter the Living God Together			
Date	Message Title	Bible Text	
Aug 17	Experiencing God Through Community	Acts 1-2	
Aug 24	Experiencing God Through His Word	Psalm 19:7-14	
Aug 31	Experiencing God Through Prayer	Acts 12:1-19	
Sept 7	Experiencing God Through Worship (Jimmy Needham)	Acts 16:16-34	
Sept 14	Experiencing God Through Watching and Obeying	John 5:19-20	
Sept 21	Experiencing God Through Faith Sharing	Acts 1:6-11	
Sept 28	Experiencing God as a Family	Joshua 24:15	

Two of My Experiences with God

- July 2025 With my son Smith and whole family.
- October 1987 Twila Paris concert in Hughes Auditorium at Asbury

<u>Lessons From Perhaps the Greatest Experience of God by a Community in All of History</u> (Acts 1-2)

- 1. Experiencing God at Pentecost was preceded by 120 people _____ in the Upper Room (1:13-15)
 - The greatest outpouring of God's Presence in history was preceded by a sustained, 10-day straight prayer meeting of 120 believers.
 - Math: 50 days (Day of Pentecost 2:1) minus 40 days (1:3) = 10 days
 - Peter Wagner: "The whole world has been ultimately blessed because the disciples in Jerusalem decided to be obedient to their Lord and give themselves to prayer. And they were unified. Verse 14 says they were in 'one accord.' One reason that corporate prayer is often more effective than solitary prayer is the principle of agreement. Jesus said, 'If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven' (Matt. 18:19). The prayer of one person alone is certainly not wasted, but the prayer of two in agreement is better, and presumably the prayer of 120 in agreement is better yet."
 - A.T. Pierson: "There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer."
 - J. Edwin Orr: "Whenever God is about to send revival, He always sets His people praying first."
 - The 1857 Businessman's Noon Prayer Revival started with a prayer meeting in New York City.

•	<u>Ap</u>	<u>olication #1</u> – Grace Fellowship, let's create Upper Room prayer
	me	etings all over our city to pray together including
		Families praying together for revival at every meal together for revival and spiritual awakening.
		Small groups dedicating time to pray for revival and spiritual awakening.
		Over 20 different time slots each week where live prayer and worship is happening in our prayer room called the "Community Prayer Center." Info at communityprayercenter.com/calendar
		Night of Worship on Sunday, September 7, at 6:00pm in the Cinco Ranch Worship Center.
		Consider how you and your family can participate in two special prayer opportunities during our 40 Days of Experiencing God Together: Global Week of Prayer (Sept 1-7) and Ten Days of Unified Prayer (Sept 22-Oct 2). Info at WhatIsGrace.org/Prayer
		Office i rayer (Sept 22-Oct 2). If no at Whatis Grace. Of girl rayer

2. Experiencing God at Pentecost happened as God on praying

believers (2:1-4)

- Warren Wiersbe: "Pentecost means 'fiftieth' because this feast was held fifty days after the festival of First Harvest (First Fruits; Leviticus 23:15-22). The calendar of Jewish festivals in Leviticus 23 is an outline of the work of Jesus Christ. Passover pictures His death as the Lamb of God (John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7), and the festival of First Harvest pictures His resurrection from the dead (1 Cor. 15:20-23). Fifty days after First Harvest is the festival of Pentecost, which pictures the formation of the church. At Pentecost, the Jews celebrated the giving of the law, but Christians celebrate this day because of the giving of the Holy Spirit to the church."
- Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity – one God who exists eternally in 3 Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 6:4; Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 28:19). The Holy Spirit is God's Spirit.
- Three pictures of the Holy Spirit in today's passage:
 - (1) The Holy Spirit as wind (v.2)
 - (2) The Holy Spirit as fire (v.3)
 - (3) The Holy Spirit as intoxication (v.13)
- Ephesians 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Drunk on Wine	Filled with God's Spirit
Intoxicated/controlled by alcohol	Intoxicated/controlled by God's Spirit
Do what alcohol influences you to do	Do what the Spirit influences you to do
Alcohol in the driver's seat of your life	The Spirit in the driver's seat of your life

 Experiencing God happens as we surrender the driver's seat of our lives to God's Spirit to direct, control, and empower our lives. Jim's take on two terms about the Holy Spirit:

Baptism of the Holy Spirit	Filling of the Holy Spirit
Happens once at conversion when a	Happens repeatedly whenever a believer
person is indwelled by God's Spirit	surrenders full control to God's Spirit
Acts 2:38; 1 Cor 12:13; Eph 4:5; Titus 3:5-6	Acts 4:8,31; 13:9,52; Eph. 5:18
All believers in Christ	Believers who yield and surrender to the
	Spirit's control

 Application #2a – Pray: "Spirit of Jesus, I repent of my sin, and I take myself out of the driver's seat of my life. Holy Spirit, please baptize me and fill me today. Sit in the driver's seat of my life. Direct, control, empower my life today and always"







- Application #2b When you invite Jesus Christ into your life, the Bible says your next step is to go public and to get water baptized as a picture of your being indwelled by (baptized in) God's Spirit. Our next immersion baptism is Sunday, September 7, at 12:45pm. Info and sign up at WhatlsGrace.org/Baptisms
- Revival happens as a whole group of people begin to surrender their lives to God's Spirit and are filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 19).
- Sidenote: Some people use Acts 2 to teach that if you have not spoken in tongues, then you have not been filled with the Holy Spirit. Although Grace Fellowship absolutely believes that speaking in tongues in believer's settings is a valid and positive gift for the church today (1 Corinthians 14:39-40), I do not believe Acts 2 is teaching that Spirit filling is exclusively tied to speaking in tongues.

TEXT	DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HAPPENED	TONGUES?
Acts 2:4	Conversion and Spirit filling	Yes
Acts 2:41	Conversion of 3000	No
Acts 4:4	Conversion of 2000 more	No
Acts 4:31	Filled with the Holy Spirit	No
Acts 8:14-17	Conversion and Spirit filling	No
Acts 8:36-39	Conversion of Ethiopian eunuch	No
Acts 9:17-19	Paul's conversion and Spirit filling	No
Acts 10:44-48	Conversion and Spirit filling of Cornelius-plus	Yes
Acts 16:14-34	Lydia and Jailer's conversions	No
Acts 19:1-7	Conversion and Spirit filling of Ephesians	Yes

- 3. Experiencing God at Pentecost did not happen just for the 120 they ______ their experience with others (2:5-11.37-41)
 - When the Holy Spirit fell on the 120 believers, they proclaimed the Good News about Jesus to all the people who had shown up for the Pentecost festival in Jerusalem (2:11). Peter then preached the first sermon of the church ever (2:14-36), and 3000 people repented of their sins, received Christ's Spirit, and were baptized (2:37-41).

	Bill Bright: "There is no higher calling or greater privilege known to humans than being involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission. And yet only 2% of Christ-followers share their faith. Successful witnessing is taking the initiative to share the Good News of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God. I am more concerned about the salvation of souls than I am in promoting a particular political party." Application #3 − With God's help and power, I am going to share my faith with so-n-so by Praying for their salvation daily. Deving them well through word and deed and building a genuine relationship with them. Inviting them over to my house for dinner just to build relationship. Sharing my personal story and testimony with them. Sharing the Romans Road with them (Rom 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9) Inviting them to church or my small group.
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	periencing God at Pentecost was sustained through going, healthy (2:42-27)
	John Stott: "The Book of Acts shows us the effects of Pentecost by giving us a beautiful cameo of the Spirit-filled church – it is a learning, loving, worshipping, and faith-sharing church." Application #4a – A healthy spiritual habit that I want to become more devoted to in the power of God's Spirit is Reading and obeying God's Word Fellowshipping with other believers Breaking bread with other believers Praying
	☐ Meeting the needs of others ☐ Sharing my faith with others Application #4b – Grow in these practices by experiencing God together in a group with other people. Scan this QR Code to learn more or to sign up for Alpha, iBloom, Marriage Matters, Financial Peace University, Grief Share, Divorce Care, Parenting with Grace, Women's Bible Study, Men's Bible Study, Emotionally Healthy Relationships, True and Good Worldview Class, discipleship mentoring, or a "50 Days of Experiencing God Together" group. Application #4c – Next Sunday is "Say Yes" Sunday – an opportunity to explore groups and serving on the porch. Application #4d – I commit to come to church every Sunday during
-	our "40 Days of Experiencing God Together" series (or to attend

online if I have to be out of town).



Say YES to Experiencing God Together!

At Grace Fellowship, we believe experiencing God together happens in **Relationships**. Whether you simply want to **Explore** or are ready to **Jump in** to serving on a Sunday, joining a small group, registering for a class – **Please join us after both services** on the porch and in the lobby where all of our dynamic ministries will be ready to connect and share opportunities to grow in faith and friendships!

Let's walk, serve, and Experience God TOGETHER!



At Grace Fellowship, we believe in building meaningful connections and experiencing God together through faith, food, and friendship!

Whether you want to learn more about Grace Fellowship, or you're ready to take the next step toward membership - you belong at Connecting at Grace.

Over two consecutive Sundays, you'll have the opportunity to connect with others, share your story, learn about our history and beliefs, and begin building lasting friendships. Lunch and childcare provided both weeks - we can't wait to welcome you!



Register for our next sessions!

- Sept 7
- Sept 14





Parenting with Grace

Who is shaping what your kids believe? Are you looking to discover God's design for parenting?

Join us for our next session of Parenting with Grace to discover how you can lead and disciple your children more effectively and encourage them towards a vibrant faith in God.

Starting Wednesday, Aug 20 from 7:00–8:30PM

Contact Michelle Sliva at MSliva@WhatIsGrace.org for more details.

Grace Fellowship MEN'S RETREAT

Secure a spot by scanning the QR code today! An awesome weekend to rest, reconnect and recharge!

October 10-11, 2025 at Stoney Creek Ranch | New Ulm, TX

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called..."

Ephesians 4:1



Ways to **GIVE**

- 1. WEBSITE Visit WhatIsGrace.org/Giving.
- OUR NEW 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.

