

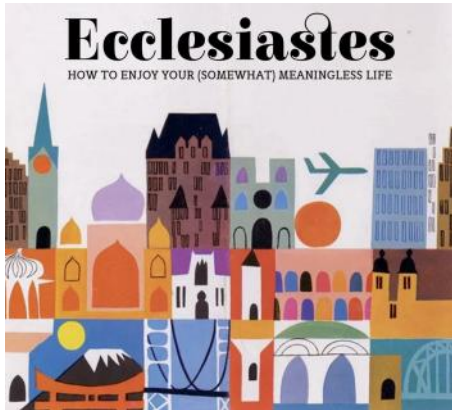


I AM THE VINE,  
YOU ARE THE BRANCHES.

JOHN 15:5

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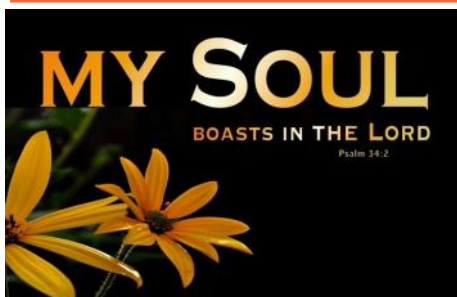
*We exist to ignite  
a passion in every  
person to glorify and  
enjoy God everywhere  
and in everything.*



**SUNDAY  
MORNING SERVICE**  
9:00am & 10:30am

"God is Like Mr. Miyagi"  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8  
Pastor Benji

<https://youtube.com/live/5qDOK68NkOU>



## A Gift

*So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

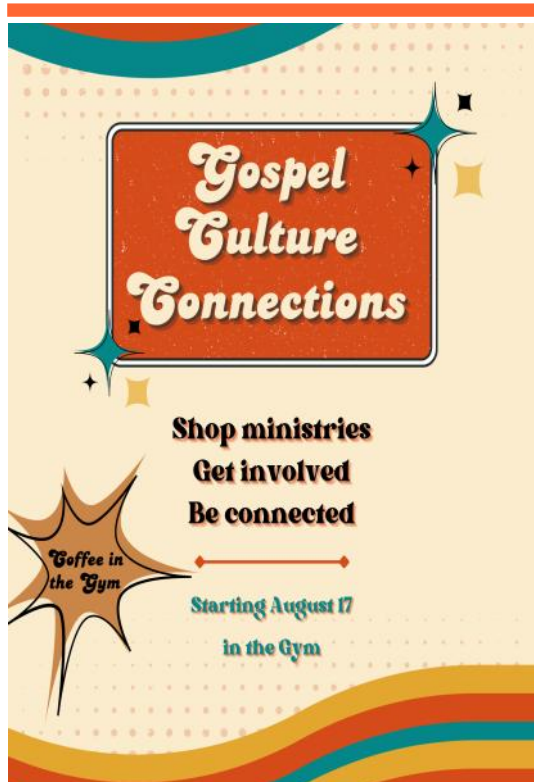
I was reminded by someone recently of something that I said in a sermon that I have since forgot. Believe it or not, pastors don't always remember everything that they say. So, bear with me if I don't remember something from the 696-ish individual sermons (give or take a few) that I have preached here at Grace (not counting how many times I preached each individual sermon). Here's what I forgot I said:

*"If dependence on Christ is your goal, then anything that drives you to Him is a gift."*

That's what Paul is getting at in 2 Corinthians 12. So, if we must bear with a God-given "thorn" in our flesh, then we can see it as a gift... if it drives us further into dependence on Jesus. That's why Paul can say that he "delights" in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities- because dependence on Christ is his goal.

Hoping I preach at least 696 more sermons here at Grace,

- Pastor Benji



**Gospel Culture Connections**

Shop ministries  
Get involved  
Be connected

Coffee in the Gym

Starting August 17  
in the Gym

AUGUST 31ST @ 10:30 A.M.

**single service sunday!**

COFFEE + TEA + DONUTS IN THE GYM @ 9:45.

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE FOR NURSERY AND TODDLERS DURING THE SERVICE.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES.

BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE!



**AWANA RECRUITING SUNDAY**

**AWANA** is starting in 26 days, we need volunteers to sign up to share the gospel with children and train them to serve Him.

For any questions call  
Randy Giorgi  
805-347-1979



# Announcements

## GUEST MISSIONARY

Join us on Sunday, August 17 @ 6pm in the Chapel to hear from our Global Outreach supported missionary, **Steve Wilkinson**. He and his wife Barbara live in the Philippines and are missionaries with Converge. Steve is helping the church's preachers and teachers handle accurately the Word of Truth.

**Kickback Postponed**  
But keep your gear packed (figuratively)  
Due to the Gifford Fire we are postponing camp  
We are planning on moving it to October 31 to November 2 or 3 and are hoping to still have it at Lopez Canyon Conference Center (we are also looking at alternate sites and weekends if needed)



See Bulletin insert for more info.

Grace Youth  
james@gracesantamaria.org

**WOMEN'S HIKE**

INVITING ALL WOMEN TO WALK  
BOB JONES TRAIL ON SATURDAY AUGUST 23RD  
AND MEET FOR BRUNCH AT WOODSTONE MARKETPLACE!

CARAVAN WILL LEAVE GRACE PARKING LOT BY 8:00

OR, MEET AT THE TRAILHEAD BY 8:30

MEET AT WOODSTONES MARKETPLACE BY 10:00  
LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING!  
TEXT/CALL OLIVIA  
(805) 260-4852

**WORSHIP**

## Family / Townhall Meeting Sunday, August 24th @ 6pm/ Chapel

The Elder Board is hosting a family meeting to offer some perspective and vision for our church. We know there are some who have questions about business items and decisions, so we want to host this meeting to clarify.

You can submit questions to the elder board via email or the offering boxes over the next two weeks. We hope to get questions early so the board can discuss, pray, and give clear responses to the entire church. Of course, questions can be asked the night of the meeting too, but we want the meeting to be as productive and focused as possible.

**Email Questions to:**  
**gracebaptist@gracesantamaria.org**

(Questions should to be submitted by  
Thu. 8/21/2025 to give us time to get them to the Elders and Staff)

