

# Crossroads Baptist Church Newsletter

2001 S. Starr Road, Apache Junction, AZ 85119 480-982-9120

AUGUST 2025



## ***Walking in God's Grace: A Reminder of Our Identity in Christ***

We live in a world that constantly tells us we are only as valuable as our performance. Whether it's our success at work, our image on social media, or how well we meet others' expectations, we are constantly pressured to prove ourselves.

Sadly, this mindset often seeps into our spiritual lives too. We begin to believe the lie that God's love must be earned—that if we just try harder, pray longer, or live better, *then* we'll finally be acceptable to Him.

### **But the gospel tells a different story.**

Grace tells us that our worth is not based on our performance, but on our position—our identity in Jesus Christ.

### **What Is Grace?**

Grace is God's unmerited favor toward us. It is the foundation of our salvation and the sustaining power of our daily walk. Ephesians 2:8–9 reminds us, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." (NIV).

Grace is not a reward for good behavior. It is a gift for the undeserving. And here's the beautiful truth: grace doesn't just save us—it keeps us. It is God's way of saying, "*You are mine—not because you are perfect, but because I have called you and redeemed you through My Son.*"

### **Our True Identity**

When we place our faith in Christ, we are no longer defined by our failures, our past, or our performance. We are now defined by who we are *in Him*. The Apostle Paul declares in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

This means we are:

- **Forgiven** – not because we never sin, but because Christ's blood covers every sin.
- **Adopted** – not strangers, but sons and daughters of the Most High.
- **Chosen and cherished** – not afterthoughts, but deeply loved and purposely called.

The pressure to "measure up" melts away when we understand that God isn't measuring our worth by our perfection—but by Christ's perfection on our behalf.

### **Freedom to Walk in Grace**

Grace doesn't give us permission to live carelessly; it gives us freedom to live *confidently*. Instead of striving to earn God's favor, we serve Him out of love, security, and gratitude. Instead of hiding our flaws, we bring them to Him, knowing that His power is made perfect in our weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Grace empowers us to walk in *joy*, not in fear. In *freedom*, not in guilt. And in *faith*, not in self-effort.

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### Encouragement for the Journey

Brothers and sisters, If you've been feeling like you're not "enough," maybe you've been measuring your spiritual life by your feelings, your failures, or your fruitfulness. Let me remind you today: *you are not defined by your worst day. You are defined by Jesus' best day—when He gave His life to make you His own.*

You don't have to prove yourself to God. You are already fully known, fully loved, and fully accepted in Christ. That is the miracle of grace.

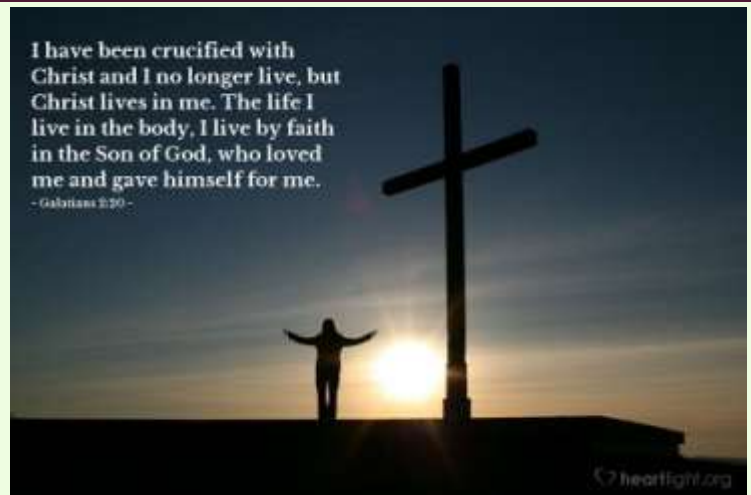
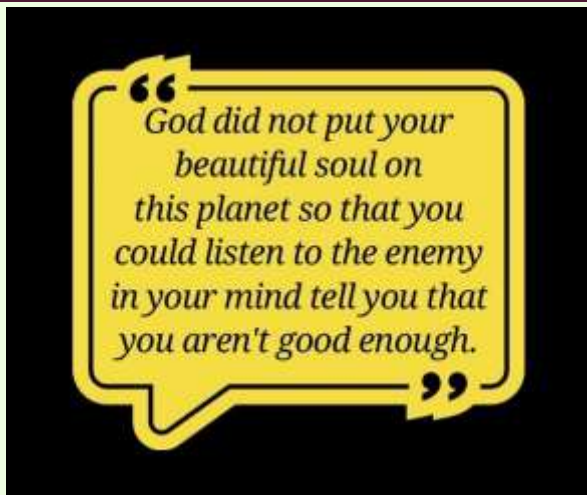
So, walk in it. Rest in it. Live like you are loved—because you are.

### Reflection Questions for August:

1. Where in my life am I trying to earn God's love rather than resting in it?
2. What truths about my identity in Christ do I need to embrace more deeply?
3. How can I extend the same grace I've received to others around me?

Let this week be one where you stop striving and start *walking in grace*.

**God loves you and so do I! Pastor Rick**



# Notices/Events/Free/For Sale/Help Wanted

If you have something you no longer need or want, an upcoming event, or have a notice to share with the church, feel free to advertise it here to the members of Crossroads. Give your info to Beth (office) for posting. If the info goes in the newsletter, remember that it will be posted online, so do not put in private information.

## **YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!**

The **DECORATIONS COMMITTEE** needs help and someone to be the chairperson. The committee changes up the sanctuary decorations for seasons and/or special holidays. There isn't a lot of time required and even if you don't have the "gift" you can help take down and put up/out decorations. We especially need our "summer stayers" to join. Men, you are helpful as well!

The **HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE** needs volunteers to join the committee and someone to be the committee chair. With enough volunteers, Sunday mornings can have a rotation again and will have enough people to assist at other events like our business meeting potlucks.

The **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** needs a volunteer to join the committee.

**TO SIGN UP/ASK QUESTIONS, SEE BETH OR JOANNA ANY TIME.**

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST!**

**First SATURDAY of each month at 8:00 AM at the church.**

**Aug 2, Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6**

**Sign up in the info area. If you can help in the kitchen, please come at 7am to help "Chef" Lafe.**



**Food, Fellowship, and God's Word**



**First SATURDAY of each month at 8:30 AM at a local eatery.**

**Aug 2, Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6**

**Sign up in the info area. Bring a friend or family member!**







## July Average Monthly Attendance

Sunday Worship..... 50  
 Sunday School..... 19  
 Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study..... 12

## Ministries/Other Actual

**Ladies' Bible Study**..... 5  
**Ladies' Breakfast Attendance**..... 6  
**Men's Breakfast Attendance**..... 12  
 Visitors..... 5



**\*\*If you or someone you know needs prayer immediately, contact the office or a prayer chain member.**

**\*\*To add to our weekly prayer list, please get the info to the office by noon on Wednesday for the 3pm prayer meeting.**

If you or someone else would like a visit by a member, please contact the office, a visitation team member, or a deacon for assistance. Visits can include taking a meal, hospital visits, communion with a house-bound member, or even just a social or prayer visit to **lift someone's spirits.**

### Get Involved!

- **Sunday Fellowship** - coffee & donuts @ 9 am.
- **Sunday School** @ 9:30 am.
- **Worship Service** @ 10:45 am.
- **Ladies' Bible Study and Life Group** Tuesdays @ 10am.
- **Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting & Bible Study** @ 3:00 pm.
- **Choir** - (On Break) Thursdays-Practice @ 6pm
- **Ladies' Breakfast - Monthly:** third Friday @ 8:30 am at a local restaurant.
- **Men's Breakfast—Monthly:** First Saturday @ 8:00 am at the church.
- **Connections Saturday** - One Saturday each month. Check church calendar.
- **Volunteering:** The church needs your gifts and talents. See a need? Want to help somehow? Contact the office or the committee chairperson.

Matthew 25:40

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

## GENESIS PROJECT

The Missions committee would like to introduce the Genesis Project in Apache Junction. This organization is another mission we support at Crossroads.

- It is the only soup kitchen in Pinal County which is a 501 (C) 3 faith-based non-profit organization.
- Its mission is to feed, clothes, and hydrate the hungry and homeless. No questions asked.
- All services are free of charge.
- Whether you want to share your talents in the kitchen, share your finances, or are a prayer warrior, Genesis is grateful to have you as part of their team.
- Is always looking for volunteers for sorting, meal prep, coordinating, and administrative work.

### Meals

- Hot meals are served Monday through Friday from 12 noon to -2:00 pm.
- A sack lunch is also provided to help until until Genesis opens again the following day.
- When available, grocery items are provided each day.

### Clothing Closet

- Open Monday through Friday 10:30 am to 2:00 pm.
- If needed, bedding and bath towels are provided.
- Personal hygiene essentials are available.
- Children's clothing is not available.

### Secure Lockers

- Guests without the ability to secure their belongings are offered an indoor locker space. A padlock must be provided by the guest.

### Mailing Address

- Guests without a physical mailing address are allowed to receive mail at this facility.

### Service Navigator

- Individual guidance is provided to assist in locating and accessing services and support.

### Community Resource Center

- In partnership with other local agencies and the AJ Homeless Coalition, private offices allow guests to access many other social services such as job placement, mental health services, rental and utility assistance, substance abuse, veteran services, DES applications and renewals, free phones, homeless outreach, and much more.

**Needs List: peanut butter, jelly, single wrapped snacks, hygiene essential items**

If you have any questions, ask any committee member. God bless you greatly for all you do for missions!

Mission Committee: Tom B, Lora K, Lafe M, Mary M, Hector P, Tom W, Ann W

## Donations Requested by Project Help/ Apache Junction School District

(Place any donations in the upgraded donations center behind the media center. See a committee member for help or questions.)

Elementary teachers are asking for some craft items. These craft items can be someone's left overs from their crafting projects.

- ♦ Paper Plates
- ♦ Baggies in gallon, sandwich & snack sizes
- ♦ Googly eyes
- ♦ Beads
- ♦ Cotton Balls
- ♦ Feathers
- ♦ Buttons
- ♦ Pom Poms
- ♦ Plastic Spoons
- ♦ Shaving Cream

Also, we can use

- ♦ Coffee
- ♦ Hot Chocolate
- ♦ Popcorn
- ♦ Snacks for kids
- ♦ Canned Chef Boyardee in all kinds
- ♦ Ladies & Men's Antiperspirant



Thank you,

Rosie Portugal-Brastad  
Project Help Coordinator

**GIVING IS NOT JUST ABOUT MAKING A DONATION.  
GIVING IS ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE.**



God did some  
awesome creating!!!



## Blue-footed booby in the Galápagos Islands



Its **name** and appearance may come off a bit silly, but when it comes to angling, this stocky seabird means serious business. When a soaring blue-footed booby spots a school of tasty fish from as high as 300 feet, it swoops into a plummeting nosedive before slamming the water's surface at 60 miles an hour. Even deep swimmers aren't safe: Boobies are able to dive around 80 feet to scoop their squirming prey, whose nutrients help pigment the birds' bright blue **dancing shoes**. See less

## MAKE CONNECTIONS!!!!



**Connections** is held on Saturdays once a month and is a time for all (men & women) to come together to learn, create, and socialize. We try for once a month and we need volunteer leaders who could direct one or more classes for about 2-3 hours. Please consider volunteering for Connections to teach a small group how to create a craft, paint a painting, build something (a birdhouse?), or to teach easy "handyman" things to do around the house (how to unplug a toilet) or on the car (how to add windshield fluid or check fluid levels), budgeting tips, etc.

We would love to have YOU participate and also even to share your gift or talent! Reserve a Saturday date by contacting Beth in the office. 480-982-9120

GOD DOES NOT GIVE US  
EVERYTHING WE WANT.  
BUT HE DOES FULFILL HIS  
*Promises*  
LEADING US ALONG  
THE BEST AND  
STRAIGHTEST PATHS  
TO HIMSELF.

*Dieterich Bonhoeffer  
ChristianQuotes.info*

Moses had the first  
tablet that could  
connect to the cloud.

Don't be afraid to  
stand for what you  
believe in, even if  
that means  
standing alone.

The best  
mathematical  
equation I  
have ever  
seen:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \text{ cross} \\ + 3 \text{ nails} \\ \hline = 4 \text{ given.} \end{array}$$


**Plan ahead...**  
**It wasn't raining**  
**when Noah built**  
**the ark.**



As Walter Martin once said, "The  
Gospel is free but somebody still  
has to pay the light bill".



# August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Start or continue your daily Bible reading plan today!</i> <i>The read-through-the-Bible -In-a-year plan is at the back info tables.</i>					1	2 8:00 am-Men's Breakfast (Church) 8:30 am Ladies' Breakfast (Hackers)
3 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship The Lord's Supper	4 10:30 am Child-care Training	5 10:00am-Ladies Bible Study	6 3:00pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	7	8 Office Closed	9
10 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship	11	12 10:30am-Ladies Bible Study  Noon: Childcare Training	13 3:00pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	14	15	16 No Connections this month.
17 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship	18	19 10:00am-Ladies Bible Study	20 3:00pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	21	22 Office Closed	23
24 9 am-Fell5wship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship	25	26 10:00am-Ladies Bible Study	27 3:00pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	28	29 Office Closed	30
31 9 am-Fell5wship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship	<i>Catch up or get ahead in your Bible reading plan.</i>	<div> <p><b>“God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”</b></p> <p>2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)</p> </div>				

# **Crossroads** **Baptist Church** **Great Commission Church**

2001 S. Starr Road, Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Church Office: 480-982-9120

Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Email: [info@CrossroadsBaptistAZ.com](mailto:info@CrossroadsBaptistAZ.com)

Website: <https://www.crossroadsbaptistaz.com/>

Pastor: Rick Basch

## Deacons

Bob Allen, Earl McDonald, Hector Palma, Mike Tacker, Robert Wisner



**MATTHEW 28:18-20**  
**WIN SOULS. MAKE DISCIPLES.**

Valley Rim Southern Baptist Association

<https://www.valleyrimbsba.org/>

AZ Southern Baptist Convention

<https://azsbc.org/>

Southern Baptist Convention

<http://www.sbc.net/>

