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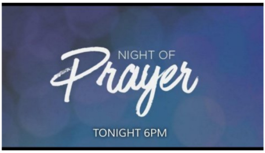
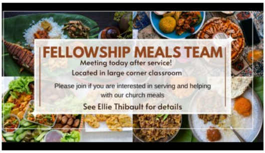
# Grace Community Church of Topsail

**September 27, 2026: Don't Let a Miracle Become Bigger Than the Messiah Matthew 8:5–13**

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF TOPSAIL





FELLOWSHIP MEALS TEAM

Meeting today after service!
Located in large corner classroom

Please join if you are interested in serving and helping with our church meals

See Ellie Thibault for details

**Psalm 135:1–3** NKJV

> Praise the LORD!
> Praise the name of the LORD;
> Praise Him, O you servants of the LORD!
> You who stand in the house of the LORD,
> In the courts of the house of our God,
> Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;
> Sing...

Continue reading »

**Psalm 135:13** NKJV

> Your name, O LORD, endures forever,
> Your fame, O LORD, throughout all generations.

Continue reading »

**Psalm 135:19–21** NKJV

> Bless the LORD, O house of Israel!
> Bless the LORD, O house of Aaron!
> Bless the LORD, O house of Levi!
> You who fear the LORD, bless the LORD!
> Blessed be the LORD out of Zion,
> Who dwells in Jerusalem!
>
> Praise the...

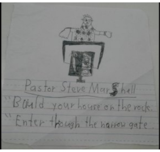
Continue reading »

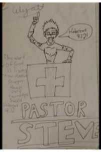
🎵 **House Of The Lord**

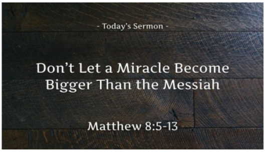
🎵 **O Praise The Name (Anástasis)**

🎵 **How Great Is Our God**

Kingdom
Culture
HOW HEAVEN TOUCHES EARTH


Pastor Steve Marshall
"Build your house on the rock.
"Enter through the narrow gate


Wyatt
Hebrews 4:12!
The word of God is living and active sharper than any two-edged sword Hebrews 4:12
PASTOR
STEVE



- Today's Sermon -

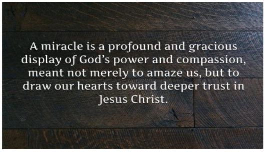
Don't Let a Miracle Become Bigger Than the Messiah

Matthew 8:5-13

**Matthew 8:5–13** NKJV

> Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."
> And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."
> The centurion answered and said,...

Continue reading »



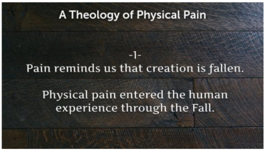
A miracle is a profound and gracious display of God's power and compassion, meant not merely to amaze us, but to draw our hearts toward deeper trust in Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 4:23** NKJV

> And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom,

and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Continue reading »



## A Theology of Physical Pain

-1-

Pain reminds us that creation is fallen.

Physical pain entered the human experience through the Fall.

**Genesis 3:17** NKJV

Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’:

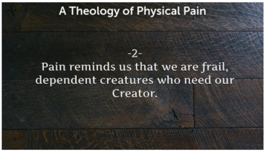
> “Cursed is the ground for your sake;
> In toil you shall eat of it
> All...

Continue reading »

**Romans 8:20–23** NKJV

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know...

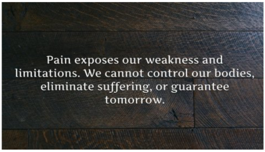
Continue reading »



## A Theology of Physical Pain

-2-

Pain reminds us that we are frail, dependent creatures who need our Creator.



Pain exposes our weakness and limitations. We cannot control our bodies, eliminate suffering, or guarantee tomorrow.

**James 4:14** NKJV

whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

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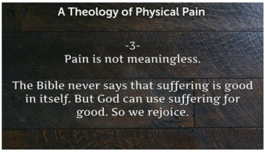

A Theology of Physical Pain

-3-
Pain is not meaningless.

The Bible never says that suffering is good in itself. But God can use suffering for good. So we rejoice.

**Romans 5:3–5** NKJV

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the...

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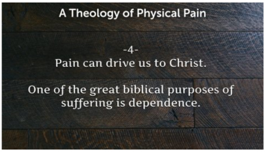


A Theology of Physical Pain

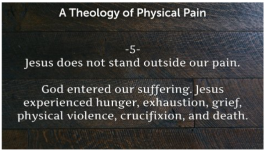
-4-
Pain can drive us to Christ.

One of the great biblical purposes of suffering is dependence.

**2 Corinthians 12:9** NKJV

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Continue reading »



A Theology of Physical Pain

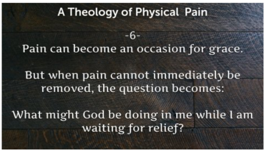
-5-
Jesus does not stand outside our pain.

God entered our suffering. Jesus experienced hunger, exhaustion, grief, physical violence, crucifixion, and death.

**Isaiah 53:3–5** NKJV

He is despised and rejected by men,
  A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
  And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;
  He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
  Surely He has borne our griefs
  And carried our...

Continue reading »

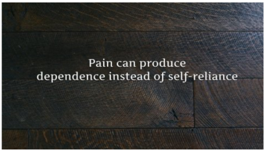


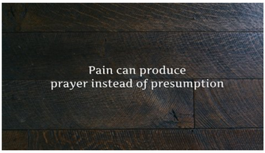
A Theology of Physical Pain

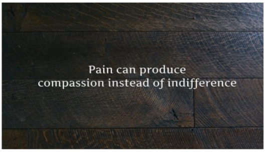
-6-
Pain can become an occasion for grace.

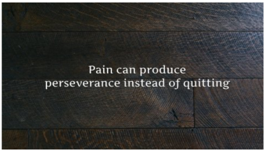
But when pain cannot immediately be removed, the question becomes:

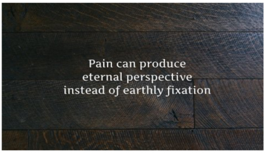
What might God be doing in me while I am waiting for relief?

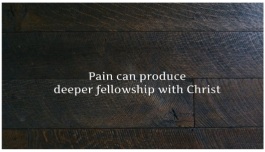

Pain can produce
dependence instead of self-reliance

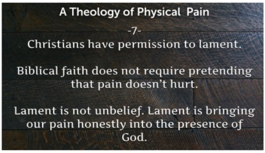

Pain can produce
prayer instead of presumption


Pain can produce
compassion instead of indifference


Pain can produce
perseverance instead of quitting


Pain can produce
eternal perspective
instead of earthly fixation


Pain can produce
deeper fellowship with Christ


**A Theology of Physical Pain**

-7-

Christians have permission to lament.

Biblical faith does not require pretending that pain doesn't hurt.

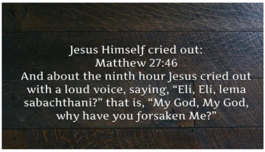
Lament is not unbelief. Lament is bringing our pain honestly into the presence of God.

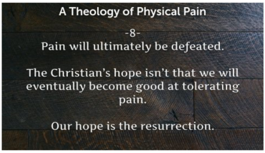
**Psalm 13:1–6** NKJV

How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me?
How long shall I take counsel in my soul,
Having sorrow in my heart daily?
How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider...

Continue reading »


Jesus Himself cried out:
Matthew 27:46
And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"


**A Theology of Physical Pain**

-8-
Pain will ultimately be defeated.

The Christian's hope isn't that we will eventually become good at tolerating pain.

Our hope is the resurrection.

**Revelation 21:4–5** ESV

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."
And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all...

Continue reading »

The place: Capernaum

Matthew 4:12–16

**Matthew 4:12–16** NKJV

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah...

Continue reading »

The man: Centurion

Matthew 8:5-8

**Matthew 8:5–8** NKJV

> Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”
> And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”
> The centurion answered and said,...

Continue reading »

**Luke 7:1–10** NKJV

> Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. And a certain centurion’s servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading...

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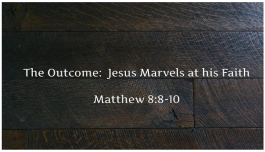


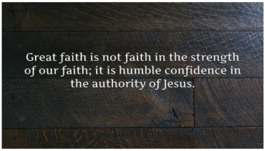
The Outcome: Jesus Marvels at his Faith

Matthew 8:8-10

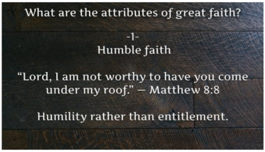
**Matthew 8:8–10** NKJV

> The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes;...

Continue reading »



Great faith is not faith in the strength of our faith; it is humble confidence in the authority of Jesus.



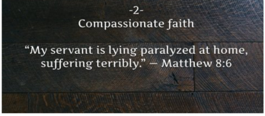
What are the attributes of great faith?

-1-
Humble faith

“Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof.” — Matthew 8:8

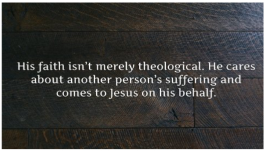
Humility rather than entitlement.

What are the attributes of this faith?

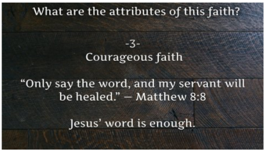


-2-
Compassionate faith

“My servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” — Matthew 8:6



His faith isn’t merely theological. He cares about another person’s suffering and comes to Jesus on his behalf.

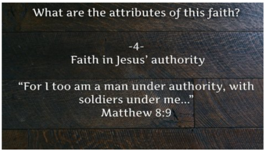


What are the attributes of this faith?

-3-
Courageous faith

“Only say the word, and my servant will be healed.” — Matthew 8:8

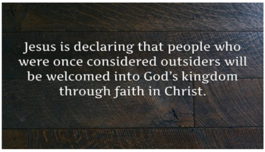
Jesus’ word is enough.



What are the attributes of this faith?

-4-
Faith in Jesus’ authority

“For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me...”
Matthew 8:9



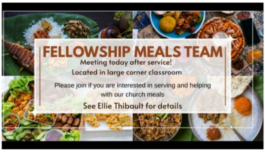
Jesus is declaring that people who were once considered outsiders will be welcomed into God’s kingdom through faith in Christ.

Kingdom
Culture
HOW HEAVEN TOUCHES EARTH

♫ **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

♫ **All I Have Is Christ**

NIGHT OF
Prayer



## FELLOWSHIP MEALS TEAM

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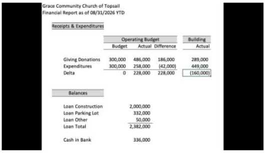
See Ellie Thibault for details



Grace Community Church of Topsail
Financial Report as of 08/31/2026 YTD

Receipts & Expenditures

| | Operating Budget | | | Building |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Budget | Actual | Difference | Actual |
| Giving Donations | 300,000 | 486,000 | 186,000 | 289,000 |
| Expenditures | 300,000 | 258,000 | (42,000) | 449,000 |
| Delta | 0 | 228,000 | 228,000 | (160,000) |

Balances

| | |
|---|---|
| Loan Construction | 2,000,000 |
| Loan Parking Lot | 332,000 |
| Loan Other | 50,000 |
| Loan Total | 2,382,000 |
| Cash in Bank | 336,000 |

CFR
CHRISTIAN FINANCIAL RESOURCES

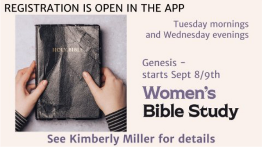
800.881.3863 • CFRministry.org

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

## GRACE CITY

DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION

See Wendy Farber for details



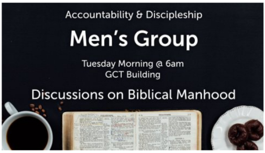
REGISTRATION IS OPEN IN THE APP

Tuesday mornings
and Wednesday evenings

Genesis -
starts Sept 8/9th

## Women's Bible Study

See Kimberly Miller for details

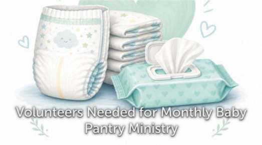


Accountability & Discipleship

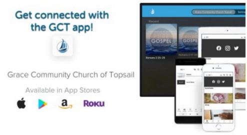
## Men's Group

Tuesday Morning @ 6am
GCT Building

Discussions on Biblical Manhood



Volunteers Needed for Monthly Baby Pantry Ministry



Get connected with the GCT app!

Grace Community Church of Topsail

Available in App Stores

Prayer Before Sunday Morning Worship, meets at 9AM in Media classroom. Open to all!

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Malachi 3:16 Prayer Group

Meets Fridays @ 10am

GCT Business Directory

Send your business info to Stacy Leicht to be added to a list of services provided by GCT members

Looking for a handyman?

Need your house power washed?

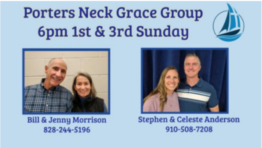
Need a babysitter?

Need an Uber?

Yellow Pages
New! Easier to use
Great days out
Local maps

GRACE GROUPS

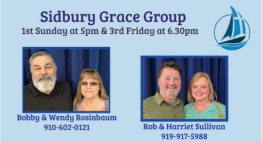
Ready to Grow in GRACE Together? Contact any of our Grace Group Leaders for More Information



Porters Neck Grace Group
6pm 1st & 3rd Sunday

Bill & Jenny Morrison
828-244-5196

Stephen & Celeste Anderson
910-508-7208



Sidbury Grace Group
1st Sunday at 5pm & 3rd Friday at 6.30pm

Bobby & Wendy Rosinbaum
910-602-0121

Rob & Harriet Sullivan
919-917-5988

## Washington Acres Grace Group
6pm 1st & 3rd Sunday

David & Shawna Hirt
630-301-2953

Warren & Miriam Rich
910-622-1711

## Country Club Drive Grace Group
6pm Every Friday

Tom & Kimberly Miller
920-737-6445

Max & Melissa Luke
910-619-0168

## North Hampstead Grace Group
6pm 1st & 3rd Friday

Jim & Deborah Farmer
910-470-0424

Evan & Micaela Head
910-547-1999

## North Belvedere Grace Group
5pm 1st & 3rd Sunday

Bob & Necey Highet
910-785-1247

Tom & Barbara Sheldon
410-610-7123

## Surf City/Holly Ridge Grace Group
6pm Friday, Every 2 weeks

Joey & Tianna Rutledge
309-202-2189

## Sneads Ferry Grace Group
6pm Friday, Every 2 weeks

Stephen & Teresa Smith
360-969-9288

Joshua & Kay Sanders
910-741-9004

Missionaries that GCT Supports

Pray for our Missionaires

Brett & Taylor Ray Japan

Steve & Rissa Curtis Asia

Lauren & Pablo Spain

Job & Eunice Mayanmar

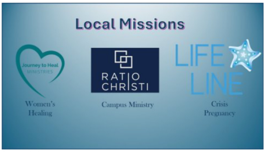
Pray for our Missionaires

Warren Rich Global

Meghanne Brunsink Japan

Martin McCrory Asia

Laurel Brunsink YWAM



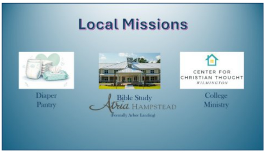
Local Missions

Journey to Heal MINISTRIES
RATIO CHRISTI
LIFE LINE

Women's Healing

Campus Ministry

Crisis Pregnancy



Local Missions

CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN THOUGHT WILMINGTON
Atria HAMPSTEAD

Diaper Pantry

Bible Study (Formally Arbor Landing)

College Ministry

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF TOPSAIL

**Grace Community Church of Topsail**

11 members