



G5 CHALLENGE

Grace Community Baptist
Church

5 Goals In 5 Years

Today marks the 20th Anniversary of Grace Community Baptist Church. For 20 years God has proved His faithfulness to this church body. The Lord has used this church to see souls saved, grow families together, introduce future marriages, mend relationships, heal from past wounds, prepare future preachers and pastors, and equip ministry leaders of all kinds.

As we turn 20 today, I want to look toward the future of our church. I would like that each of our families consider the next five years of our lives. Recognize where God has you right now. Acknowledge the fact that in these next five years, there are some very serious decisions that will need to be made in your life and in the life of other families in our church. There are some very important, life-changing moments that are going to occur. And in these next five years, there will be many opportunities for you to choose to walk by faith or to walk by sight.

Think about this reality in the life of your family. Some of us will have children in school and we will be making decisions about their education. Some of us will be starting our parenting by having children. Some of us will be taking new jobs or starting new ventures. Some of us will be making decisions about moving or staying. Some of us will be wrestling with God about whether or not He is calling you into the ministry. Some of us will be making major decisions about your parents or grandparents. Some of us will be finishing our schooling and deciding what we are going to do next.

There is much that is going to happen in the next five years. That is the nature of where our families happen to be in their lives right now. There are many important decisions that are coming your way as an individual and as a family. That is the reality of where we are as families and as individuals. And that is the reality of where our church stands even

today. We have many big decisions coming our way over the course of the next few years.

Because of this, I want you to now consider how the significance of these five years will effect our church. Over the next five years, how will the decisions of our individual lives make an impact on the church as a whole.

Ask yourself these questions:

- What do you want our church to look like in 2027?
- Five years from today, where do you want our church to be?
- How do you want our church to look?
- What do you want our church to be doing?
- How do you want to look back and consider that we have progressed as a congregation?

And when you consider these questions, you must ask yourself these questions:

- What do we need to do to get to that place?
- Where should our attention be focused in order to get to the place that you see our church in five years?

No doubt that we should begin by stating that we only desire to be where God would have us to be. For us to have any sort of passion to be outside of what God desires, would be for us to write a death sentence for our church. We must desire what God desires. We must want what God wants. And this includes what the Lord our God desires for our church body.

As your pastor, I have spent the last couple of months in prayer about the future of this church.

The leadership and I have had multiple conversations and have spent much time in prayer together about how we want to move forward over the next few years.

I would like to spend this morning's sermon time proposing to the church five goals for the next five years. These five goals will be attainable, measurable and challenging for our church as we walk in accordance with the Word of God. These five goals will be easy to remember because they all start with the letter "G." It will be known as "The 5 G's of Grace Community" or "G5." And these five "G's" will lead us into turning 25-years-old as a church.

So, I want you to consider that in five years as a church, we will do the following:

1. We will GROW
2. We will GIVE
3. We will GUARD
4. We will GUIDE
5. We will GLORIFY

By striving to pursue each of these "G's" over the next five years, we will not only accomplish our goals, but we will grow in our sanctification individually and corporately. So, I am going to take a few minutes with each of these goals and explain why we chose to set these five "G's" before the church!



Grow with Salvations

The first goal that we will pursue is that: We will GROW. The key text for this goal is found in Acts 2:47. Please turn there with me as we read from verses 42-47.

“42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:42-47

It should be the goal of every local church to GROW. But there are a couple of different ways to look at this, and I want to propose to you the Biblical form of church growth. The wrong way to look at growth is that we could simply grow because we have more numbers — more people. This would be the cultural way of pursuing growth. This would be how the world around us would evaluate the success of a church. Even the

“cultural Christian” would base a church’s success rate on the number of people who attended on a given Sunday morning.

We see this all throughout the “American Christian” culture right now. The evaluation process of a church begins with this question: How many people are attending your church worship service. But this is not how we should evaluate our success. And quite frankly, this is not the goal of growth that we should set.

The Biblical way of growing a church is through salvations. The church is not measured by the number of individuals who attend on Sundays. The church is measured by the number of Christians who are members of that particular local body. Please understand that this is a drastic difference in evaluation of a church if you compare it to the average gathering of people on Sunday mornings. And I hope you understand what I am saying there.

Consider Acts 2 and Peter’s sermon at Pentecost. He preached the sufficiency of the Word of God. He preached repentance. He preached true conversion. And what was the result? Look in verse 41: “So those who received his word (that is the preaching of the Word of God) were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”

Please note that the writer of Acts does not use the word “people” or “individuals” or “human beings.” The writer uses the word “souls”... “Souls” were added. This is to say that they were converted to Christianity and added to the church. This is to say that they were dead and now they are alive. This is to say that they were old creations and now they are new creations.

This is the true and authentic and Biblical way of measuring the growth of a church. It is not the number of people or individuals within a congregation or a gathering. It is the number of salvations. It is the number of souls that are saved from eternal damnation and added to the church!

Church body, the first goal that I would like to set for our church that would should pursue over the next 5 years is that our church would

GROW because of salvations! We should desire that souls would be saved. We should have a passion for the lost and pursue those who need Christ! The very heartbeat of our ministry as a church should be to bring hope to those who are lost.

It is a great and honorable and worthy goal of our church to desire to GROW! But please understand that this goal is not simply a goal of increasing our attendance each time we meet. The goal is not simply to get more people in the building. The goal is not to create some sort of carnival act to bring people in the doors. That is not what we are talking about. We should desire to GROW because people are being saved!

Now, I want you to consider what that means for your life. Please understand that the strategy for this goal is not simply for each of you to buy a bus and get as many people inside and drive them here on Sunday mornings. That is not it.

The strategy that we must realize is the role that each of us plays in this. If you look back to Acts 2 and read through this passage, you will understand a few things:

1. The sufficiency of the Word of God was enough to GROW that church. All Peter did was preach the Word of God! He didn't entertain them... He didn't put a carnival together... He just preached.
2. The people are involved in leading others to Christ. And this is where you must take initiative and ownership of this goal. God has specifically and intentionally put you in a place in your life, surrounded by unbelievers, so that they can hear the Gospel from you! You are the Herald! Your life and your friends and your family... that is your mission field! But you must take responsibility of the opportunity that God has given you to preach the Gospel! How are the people in your life going to hear unless YOU preach the Word? How are their lives going to be transformed unless you take responsibility to preach the Gospel to them?

3. The third thing that happens in Acts 2 is that the lives of the people change. Everything about their daily pattern of living changes. Everything about their desires change. Everything about their time commitments change. And this is because the gospel changes everything! Please understand that when your life looks drastically different than your co-worker's life, you are going to have some explaining to do! This is when the Gospel presentation is so easy! Your life should be a demonstration of the Power of the Transformative Gospel! When people see how you live out your faith, they should want what you have! Do you understand this? The Gospel should be so transformative in your life, that people want what you have!

And so, as we look to our first goal as a church, we should desire to GROW in salvations. But in order for us to do this, each of us must be willing to share the Gospel with the people that God has placed in our lives. Understand the purpose of the local church.

The local church — and the pastors and teachers — has a purpose of equipping the saints for the work of the ministry. Well, the “work of the ministry” is to GROW the church! And the only way that the church can GROW is if souls are saved!

So, please understand your role in this church. Your job — your function — in this church is to be trained and equipped and prepared for “the work of the ministry.” Your role in this church is to take your training into the mission field and share the Gospel! You don't have to go 10,000 miles away... There are lost people that you talk to every day! And they need to hear the Gospel!

So, Goal #1 for our church over these next 5 years is this: GROW!



Give in Obedience

The second goal... the second "G" that I want to propose to our church is to GIVE. The key text for this will be found in 2 Corinthians 9:7. Please turn there with me as we read this text.

"7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7

Talking about "Giving" in a church is not well thought of. And quite frankly, I have done a very poor job of instructing our church how to give, so this Goal is mostly for ME. But congregations don't like to hear the preacher talk about giving. Tell me about sin... Tell me about how I have failed... Tell me about how I can make my life better... Tell me about Jesus... But please do not talk to me about my money! Right?

And I have fallen into the trap as your pastor of not talking about money. And by neglecting to teach on giving, I have failed you. And I am asking that you would forgive me. In all honesty, I have not talked about giving because I have been fearful that someone would think I was a health, wealth and prosperity preacher. I preach SO MUCH against this, that I have been timid to talk about the blessing that comes with

being a “cheerful giver.” As a matter of fact, “God loves a cheerful giver.” What could be better than for God to love you??

If we understand this passage in full context, it will help us to see that it is for our benefit that we are givers. Paul is encouraging this church in Corinth to take up an offering for the ministry in Jerusalem. And in doing this, he gives to us a strong understanding of New Testament giving. We don’t follow “Tithing” laws like in the Old Testament. They were under a Theocracy and the 25% to 33% that they gave was used for the church building, the Levites, the poor, the widows and for other communal needs within the Nation. We don’t live in a Theocracy. So therefore, we don’t follow these same laws. BUT, that does not mean that we cannot understand and learn from the principles of what they were doing in the Old Testament.

In Paul’s passage here in 2 Corinthians, he draws out over a dozen Old Testament references in just a few short verses in order to draw a parallel for WHY giving to the work of the ministry is vital in the life of a believer. Sure, they did not live in a Theocracy and they would not experience the judicial punishment required by the law if they did not give... BUT... I want us to understand that disobedience in the sight of God is much worse than to receive a just punishment from the law of Israel. God calls the believer to GIVE... and to do so CHEERFULLY!

“7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

What is the main thought in this complex sentence? Here are the options: “Each one must give,” “As he has decided in his heart,” or “God loves a cheerful giver.” What one of these is the main message? The answer is “Each one must give.” The other two clauses support this main idea. The other two clauses could stand alone, but they do not make sense without the independent clause “Each one must give.”

You could say, “He has decided in his heart...” And that would be an independent clause, yes. But NOW it becomes completely subjective

because you don't know what it is attached to... He has decided WHAT in his heart?? Does that make sense?

The same with "God loves a cheerful giver." This is a clause that can stand alone... but it doesn't make sense in context without "Each one must give." You might mistake this by saying, "God loves a cheerful giver... of the flu." When you cheerfully give out the flu to other people, God loves that... Right? NO!

Without the main idea that says, "Each one must give," we lose all context. So, look at this verse again...

"7 Each one must give..."

The main thought. The main idea. Used with an imperative verb form. Notice that it is not optional to give. "Giving" is not optional. And you say, "Well, we are not under the law now... I can choose to give and I can choose not to give." Then I will say this, "Then you need to check your heart." Because you are to GIVE according to what has been decided in your heart. If we are talking about "Giving" versus "not Giving," then the issue is not related to your bank account... The issue is related right back to your heart. Because where your HEART is, there your treasure is also.

"7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart..."

This word "decided" is only used in this form right here in the Bible. It means "premeditated." It is the idea that you have carefully thought about your giving. It is the idea that you have pre-determined your giving. It is the idea that your giving is NOT impulsive, but it is premeditated. This is important for both the routine givers and the non-frequent givers.

For those who give religiously and don't think about it, let me drop a bomb on you. You are not in obedience with this instruction. Don't just write a check just to write a check... Don't just go online to give just to go online and give. Consider the impact. Let this act of obedience be an act of worship and not an act of routine.

The same way that you can walk into the building and put on a facade and sing just because there are lyrics on the screen... You can do that exact same thing in your giving! You can go through the motions. You can treat it as a religion and not an act of worship.

For those who do not give regularly, you need to take this verse home with you. Please consider the imperative form of this verse and understand that you are to meditate on your giving to the ministry. You are to consider your giving.

"7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion..."

There is not compulsion happening from the pulpit today. Please understand that I am not up here twisting your arm or telling lies to you. I am teaching you what the Bible says, because this instruction has everything to do with your sanctification. You will not grow in your spiritual life until you get this one settled in your heart. You should desire to be a cheerful giver!

Notice I have not mentioned an amount or a percentage or anything like that... This is a heart issue! And only you and God can work through this together. You also need to realize that you are not to give "reluctantly." Giving to the ministry, while at the same time thinking, man.... I could have used that money to do this... That is sin. That is direct disobedience. God doesn't need your money. He is not sitting there begging you to give because He needs your resources. If you are going to give reluctantly, then just keep your money and go spend it on whatever you want to spend it on... But in order to be a "cheerful giver," we must give willingly!

"7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7

If you want to please God, then you will be a cheerful giver. This is pleasing to God.

Church body, our second goal as a church is that we are going to GIVE in Obedience. There is much grace to be had in being a cheerful giver. Go home and study this passage for yourself and what you will find is that God's grace abounds in the believer who is a giver!

Part of this goal for the next 5 years is that I am committing to you that I am going to teach on giving a lot more! We are going to learn about giving. We are going to know that giving is a part of our spiritual development. And we are going to be Obedient Givers!



Guard the Gospel

The third goal that we will pursue is that: We will GUARD the Gospel. The key text for this goal is found in Galatians 2:5. Please turn there with me as we understand what it means to GUARD the Gospel.

“4 Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery— 5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.”

Galatians 2:4-5

If you can remember back to studying Galatians, you will recall that after the Apostle Paul had just left this church, or more likely these churches, some men stepped in to undercut Paul’s teaching. That is why Paul begins this letter by saying, “I am shocked that you so quickly deserted the One True Gospel and turned to a different gospel...” And then goes on to say that if someone is preaching a different gospel than the One True Gospel, they should be accursed. That is the severity of the situation... That is the severity of getting the Gospel wrong.

Paul continues on in his letter by explaining that there were wolves in sheeps’ clothing that came in to “spy out the freedom” of the believers... And they tried to seduce the churches to follow them and not Paul’s

teaching. These men tried to sway the people away from the One True Gospel. And then Paul responds in verse 5 of crater 2 by saying this:

“4 Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery— 5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.”

Galatians 2:4-5

The Apostle Paul refused to “yield in submission... even for a moment...” to these men who were promoting a false gospel. He was going to stand strong with the Gospel. He was going to not waiver on the One True Gospel. He was going to remain steadfast in his pursuit of holding to the One True Gospel of Jesus Christ. And I think it is crucial that we understand “why”... The Apostle Paul didn’t stand strong against these guys because he was so competitive and didn’t want to lose... He didn’t remain steadfast because he didn’t want to be disproved. He didn’t say that he was not going to waiver on his stance on Truth because he was hardheaded...

The Apostle Paul understood the purpose of the local church and understood the value of families and understood that the Galatian churches were one generation away from losing the purity of the Gospel. Look in verse 5 and understand WHY the Apostle Paul “did not yield in submission even for a moment...”

“5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved FOR YOU.”

Galatians 2:4-5

The Apostle Paul didn’t yield to these false teachers because he knew that this church needed the One True Gospel. And he knew that their children and their grandchildren needed the Gospel. And if this generation would have followed the false teachers, then their children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren would have grown up at enmity with the Almighty God with no hope of salvation. This was of utmost importance to Paul that he did not waiver on the Truth. Not just

for him... But for the generations and the church plants to come! Do you understand this?

Paul had to GUARD the Gospel because there were people who were depending on him to Preserve the Truth! There are so many so-called "Christian" churches in America right now that are following a false teaching because someone did not preserve the Truth of the Word of God! Somewhere along the line, someone perverted the Truth and made it say whatever they wanted it to say... This is how we get the Catholic Church... This is how we get the Word of Faith movement... This is how we get the resurgence of gnosticism in our churches today... This is the exact reason that for the last 50 years the church has been ultra confused about "hearing God's voice" in their lives... The reason for ALL of these is because somewhere along the way, someone did not preserve the Truth of the Gospel... And instead, the message of Truth was perverted.

Church body, I want you to think about the demographic of our church and think about the demographic of people that you are going to be sharing the Gospel with... It is a high majority young people. We have a responsibility to GUARD the Gospel of Jesus Christ! We have a responsibility to Preserve the Truth of the Word of God! We have a responsibility to our children, that they might know the Truth and be set free by the Truth of the Gospel! There is much weight on our shoulders to Preserve the Truth! There is much weight on our shoulders as a church to Guard the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let me tell you this... We can no longer put that weight on a denomination. We can no longer trust that the general population of Southern Baptists (whatever "Southern Baptist" means nowadays) ... We can no longer trust that they are going to preserve the Truth of the Word and trust in the Sufficiency of Scripture alone. We must take responsibility... We must take ownership of this Truth. It is OUR responsibility to Preserve the Truth for our children! It is OUR responsibility to GUARD the Gospel for the future generations of this church body.



Guide Young Minds

So, to recap so far, our Goals are: GROW... GIVE... and GUARD.

Fourthly, we are setting a goal to GUIDE the young minds that our in our possession. Let's look together at Deuteronomy 6.

"4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Coming off of a three-month study where we focused on the pursuit of the Holiness of God within our families, I think it is most appropriate that we add "GUIDING" the young minds in our church to our list of goals. If you will remember the context of Deuteronomy 6, you will recall that before giving ANY instruction to the people, Moses is commanded by God to tell the people that their number one responsibility is to be Godly parents. We see this in verses 1 and 2 of this chapter. Moses tells the people:

“1 Now this is the commandment — the statutes and the rules — that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, 2 that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.”

Deuteronomy 6:1-2

From the very outset of instruction given to the people of God, they were told that they must think generationally about their faith. Their responsibility is to raise their children in the admonition of the Lord! Their responsibility is to teach, equip, prepare and GUIDE their children in the ways of God. And this is no different for us. As people of God, we are to raise our children in the admonition of the Lord. As Christian parents, we are to focus our parenting on GUIDING the minds of our children to understand the greatness of who God is.

“7 You shall teach them diligently to your children...”

The “them” that this verse is referring to the “commands” referenced in verse 6 that Moses is about to lay out to the people. Remember, God spoke directly to Moses, as the mediator, and Moses was to relay these commands of God to the people. And Moses is telling the parents, from the very outset, now your responsibility is to teach these commands to your children. I find this so fascinating. Before God instructed the people to do anything, he commanded the parents that their responsibility is to be teachers to their children.

“7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Deuteronomy 6:7-9

No doubt that you understand the job of the Christian parent is 24/7/365. There are no breaks. That is the point here. You have counted the cost as a Christian parent, and now you must sacrifice for your family for this

reason... To teach your children in the ways of the Lord. Please do not take this responsibility for granted. Please do not overlook this important instruction from God to the Christian parents. Please do not disregard this imperative.

As Christian parents, we are to GUIDE the minds of our children in the ways of the Lord. Now, you may ask, "Why don't we guide their hearts? Why do we guide their minds?" And the answer is that the Holy Spirit is the only one who can guide someone's heart. Parents, we cannot FORCE our children to follow God. We cannot FORCE our children to be saved. Only the Power of the Holy Spirit can do this.

But I want you to understand the whole idea of Saving Faith... Before you can put your Trust in something, you have to believe in something... And before you can believe in something, you have to know something. And our job as Christian parents is to help GUIDE the minds of the children in what they know about God!

Listen parents, the world has an opportunity to pervert and distort your child's understanding about who God is. I could stand up here and give you a laundry list of examples of this, but we don't have time for that right now... Besides... I think you understand what I am saying here. The culture around us has a perverted idea about who God is. The lost world does not understand the Majesty of God. And if you allow the culture to shape the minds of your children, then you will lose your children. If you allow the world to guide the minds and understanding of your children, then your children will most assuredly turn to the left and turn to the right. This is so clear in the teaching of Scripture... And it is so clear in your personal life... I am sure that you know families who did not take their responsibility to parent with the utmost seriousness... and the result was that their children went wayward. Christian parents... church family... we cannot allow the culture to teach our children. Christian families... this means that we cannot allow the cultural ideas into our homes. We must protect our homes. Our homes must be a safe haven for our children!

So, the fourth goal is that we are going to strive to GUIDE the minds of our children. Please understand the responsibility that God has given to our church as a whole. For the size of our congregation, we have a lot of kids running around. We have a lot of young minds in this church. We have a great responsibility before us... God has entrusted us with these children.

Now, I am not saying that it “takes a village to raise a child.” I believe that is one of the most Marxist statements that one can make. It DOES NOT “take a village to raise a child.” God has ordained for it to take ONE Godly husband and ONE Godly wife to raise a child. That is the Biblical model.

But part of being a Godly husband and a Godly wife in Holy Matrimony is being engaged with the local body of believers. And your family should be engaged in the activities of the church. And the natural byproduct of being a part of a Healthy, Biblical church is that your child will benefit from the teaching and the fellowship of the body. Therefore, I want us, as a church, to understand the responsibility that we have in GUIDING the young minds in our church. We must teach the things of God to our children and our children’s children.



Glorify God Alone

Our goals are: GROW... GIVE... GUARD... GUIDE... And lastly, we will add: GLORIFY. Please turn with me to Psalm 67.

I want us to understand that we can accomplish our goals as a church, and still be unsuccessful... If we GROW in numbers, but not in salvations because we are simply looking to boost our pride, then God is not Glorified. If we GIVE more offerings and support more missions and provide more resources, but we do this in order to be recognized by others, then God is not Glorified. If we GUARD the Truth of the Word of God, and do so without loving our neighbor as ourself and become extremely legalistic as a church, the God is not Glorified. If we GUIDE the minds of our children, but do so in such a way that does not teach them Evangelism and the power of the Gospel, then God is not Glorified. Do you understand what I am saying?

As our fifth and final goal, we cannot come up short on striving to Glorify God! In ALL that we strive to do as a church body, this must be interwoven between each goal! This must be the focus! Let us set our eyes on the Glory of God as we GROW in salvations... and as we GIVE unto the Lord according to our hearts... and as we GUARD the One True

Gospel of Jesus Christ... and as we GUDIE the young minds of our children. We must GLORIFY GOD in all things.

*1 May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah*

*2 that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.*

*3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!*

Psalm 67

This has been the theme of our year in 2022... We have broken apart the first verse: God is gracious to us in salvation. God blesses us with Himself... the Living Water, that we might grow! And when we obey His Word, God's face will shine upon our life. The purpose of each of those things is found in verse 2: SO THAT the way of God might be known on all the earth!

God saves us from sin, blesses us with Living Water, and puts within us a desire to walk in His ways, so that the message of the Gospel might be known to all the nations. And the result of making the Gospel known to all the nations is this: That all the people will praise the name of the One True Living God!

Now that is how you GLORIFY GOD! There is no other strategy that a church can take to GLORIFY GOD than what Psalm 67 clearly lays out for us to do. We do not learn about the things of God, so that we can be the most Theologically advanced church in this area. We do not pursue the Holiness of God, so that we can claim to be the Holiest church in the state of Oklahoma. We do not hold each other accountable to the Word of God on a daily basis, so that we can be legalistic and have control over each other's lives...

The reason that we study the Word of God... The reason that we instruct a pursuit of Holiness... The reason that we hold one another

accountable... is so that the people who are in our lives will praise the name of the Lord our God!

Do you understand this methodology? This is a true pattern of how our church should operate as a whole. This is the Biblical model of how we are to live as the local body of believers. And in doing this, God will be Glorified!

Conclusion

As we follow through with these 5G's that have been set forth for our church, we will be in obedience to the Word of God as we fulfill our mission as the church of the Living God, a Pillar and Buttress of Truth.

By **GROWING** in salvations, we are magnifying the Saving Grace of God. We are seeing that He will continue to be Gracious to His people!

By **GIVING** in obedience, we are trusting in the Sufficiency of the Word of God. We are trusting that God will provide to us all that we need. We are walking by faith and not by sight. And we are believing that the Word of God... the Living Water... is enough for us to live.

By **GUARDING** the Gospel, we are walking in a manner that is pleasing to God. And as we GUARD the Truth of the Word, God's face will shine upon our church.

By **GUIDING** the minds of our children to understand the things of God, we are making the plan of salvation known to them. We are heralding the saving power of God to our children.

And by setting our eyes on the **Glory of God Alone**, we will rejoice when the people who are in our lives will praise the name of the Lord our God!

LET THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU, O GOD!

LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU!