

Women of the Word

Welcome

Jeremiah 9:24 says, "but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord." To understand and know God—this is a lifelong quest for a Christian. I am convinced that I could devote every hour of every day to knowing God and barely even scratch the surface of His depths. The primary source for knowing God is the inspired Holy Bible. It was written over the span of 1,500 years by 40 authors. It contains 63,779 cross-references. This is a marvelous testament to its divine inspiration!! It is a cohesive narrative of the all-knowing, all-powerful God and His plan for the redemption of his people. We praise God for His Word to us!

In Christ,
Melanie Woltje,
Women's Ministry Team Leader

Mission Statement

FBC Women's Ministry exists to empower our ladies to use their God-given gifts in accordance with God's will.

A Thankful Heart - Carol Totten

Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy. Joyce"

"Dear God, please change the taste of asparagus. It is grass. Thanks. Sarah"

"Dear God, Thanks for loving the whole world. I have four people in my house and I can never do it. Neil"

Psalms 107: 1 "Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!"

I like waking up when it is still dark. I like the morning air when I open the door and step outside and take a deep breath. Some early mornings the moon still lights my way and other mornings are covered with gray clouds.

In these moments it is good to pause with God and be thankful. Thankful for what? That all my prayers are answered the way I want? Thankful that I have health? Thankful that my family loves each other? Thankful that I am not alone?

Yes, these are good things. But like the children above, if God doesn't answer my prayer, if I am surrounded by disease and turmoil, what am I to be thankful for? Let me give you three reasons.

1. Psalm 118:1 "Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good..." We live with a good God. He is not moody like we are. We never, ever have to fear He will make a mean or vindictive decision in regards to us or the world. He is good and whatever He does is good.

2. Psalm 7:17 "I will give to the LORD the thanks due to His righteousness..." "God is always consistently "Godly." God is not measured or defined by the standard of righteousness; God sets the standard of righteousness"... (Bob Deffinbaugh). He always does
(continued....)

(continued from page 1) what is right. He can be trusted to make perfectly holy, just, right decisions for us and the world. As wars and rumors of wars occur we can be assured that He is working out of His righteousness even in this.

3. Psalm 107:21 "Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love..." A love that can never be lost is the love we have from the LORD. God's love for you and me does not depend on how good we are at loving others. We fail everyday at being like Jesus and yet His steadfast love remains. Isn't this something to be thankful for? The Bible is a demonstration of how far God will go to redeem His people. We should thank Him everyday for this marvelous, unchanging love.

"The way out of despair and loneliness is to give God thanks." Jonathan Berni

Printable Verse Card

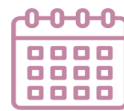


Bible Studies

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM - Joan Little's House (26675 P Road)

Fall Bible Study: Pray (from Daily Grace Co) starting Monday, Sept. 14th at 6pm

Watch for sign-up info starting Sunday, Aug. 9th



Upcoming Events

2nd Tuesday of each month - Jhett's lunch at 11:30

Thursday August 6 - Girl's Night Out 6:15 Jhett's Pizza

Saturday September 26th - Girl's Night Out Fall Cookout - Location and Time TBD

****These dates are subject to change****

First Baptist Church Women's Ministry Team

Team Leader: Melanie Woltje
Christi Boyden, Danica Haverkamp, Lisa Haverkamp,
Donna Jewell, Erin Lassey, Vanessa Wisdom

The Heart of Christ: Overflows With Mercy

The monitor beeps loudly with a rhythm that incites fear. It has gotten slower. The nurses know it won't be long now until he breathes his last.

He was young when he met and married his wife. Soon after marriage came children, and soon after the children came a sense of entrapment. The walls were closing in. He was working to provide, a responsibility he understood to be his, yet no fulfillment came to his life when he put food on the table or a roof over the heads of his family. He was empty, hurting, desperately searching for the escape hatch. It came one day at the bottom of a bottle of gin. He used that escape hatch every day, twisting the cap off the bottle as if it were the wheel of a safe that held promise and purpose for his life moving forward. He craved his escape every day, including the day he left his family behind—his wife and two daughters abandoned, with nothing left of him but his stray socks and hazy memories.

And yet, as that monitor's beeping began to slow all those thirty years later, his eldest daughter stepped into the room. She was the one who had memories of her father's blue Chevrolet pulling away from their gravel driveway, leaving dust and bitterness in its wake. She grew in stature and rage with each passing year that her father continued to be true to his character and never came home. Every birthday, graduation, her wedding day, and the day her son was born, all insignificant dates to him. And yet, here she stood with tears in her eyes after receiving the call that he didn't have long and there was no other next of kin. She placed her hand on his. His hand was cold, spotted with age, and hued blue. She held it tight, leaned into his chest, and felt the slowing pace of his heart. She whispered through streaked mascara and a shaking voice full of mercy, "I forgive you. It's okay. I love you. You can go."

From the heart of Jesus, true mercy is overflowing. He shows compassion toward those whose actions dictate that they deserve punishment. Still, He shows mercy—mercy to the sinners for whom He came to save; mercy to the deaf, the blind, the lame, the mute; mercy to the women who sought Him and the men who followed Him; abounding mercy from the heart of the One who created it. Jesus's loving-kindness to us has given us the base and pattern of our mercy to others—mercy to the father who left; mercy to the friend who betrayed; mercy to the mother who never nurtured; mercy to the ones who have shown themselves to be merciless. It is through our display of the mercy of Christ that we become more like Him. It is through showing mercy that we are able to see fully the mercy that was displayed on Calvary. The mercy of Jesus is mercy that is not shown accidentally or out of weakness but with intentionality and strength. When we set our eyes on His mercy, we see His very heart.

Additional reading... Matthew 11:4-6, Matthew 11:28-30, Matthew 14:13-21
(The Heart of Christ from The Daily Grace Co.)

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Demons

Demons are supernatural beings who are subservient to Satan. They, like Satan, were once angels. They joined Satan in his rebellion and were cast out of heaven with him. When they are mentioned in Scripture, the primary focus is on demon possession of human beings.

The apostle Paul points out that while the idolatrous gods pagans worship do not actually exist, there are demons who do exist, instigating and propagating such pagan worship. Those who participate in these pagan rituals are actually offering worship to demons and are thus operating under demonic direction.

The New Testament reveals several characteristics of demons. There is often a physical or mental ailment associated with them, such as blindness or self-torture. Demons often recognized Christ as the Holy One of God. They feared and were subject to the authority of Jesus. In addition, demons had superior or supernatural knowledge, superior strength, and the ability to foretell the future.

The Reformers reacted strongly against the excess practices and superstitions surrounding demons in the Middle Ages. By the end of the sixteenth century, the practice of expelling demons had been abolished in the Lutheran church.

While demons still continue to act, the level and severity of activity expressed in the New Testament is unique. It was the "fullness of time," the last great defense of this world against the Redeemer of mankind. Satan, as it were, pulled out all the stops. With the

Resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Satan's reign, and that of his fellow demons, was severely restricted.

However, both Paul and John warn believers that in the end times the activities of Satan and his demons will be on the increase.

If we take the Bible seriously, we must take the demonic world seriously. There can be no biblical theology without a corresponding demonology.

Though demons are real and powerful, there is no reason to believe that they can ever possess a Christian. We may be harassed, tempted, or accused by demons, but never controlled by them. Every Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. His presence guarantees liberty from demonic possession. He is stronger than any demon that might attack us.

(ESV Reformation Study Bible; Theological Notes)

**"The LORD will fight
for you. All you have
to do is be still."**

EXODUS 14:14

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