

2016 Theme Verse: "So let us Know; let us press on to Know the LORD..." Hosea 6:3

Welcome to the Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk

February 28, 2016

Services Today at Grace —

Sunday School: 9:30am

Class: 3 - 5 yrs. old (Kinder.)
Teacher: Caroll Ann Perkins

Class: 1st - 3rd grade (KIDMO)
Teacher: Lisa Patton

Class: 4th - 6th grade (5A)
Teacher: Robin Predmore

Class: DRIVEN (Jr. & Sr. High)
Teacher: Timothy Lansing

Class: Adults (6B)
Teacher: Dave Goodwyn

Class: Adults (Conf. Rm.)
Teacher: Ron Muir

Class: Young Adults
Teacher: Vet Gonzalez

Praise & Worship Service: 10:45am

Children's Church for 3-5 years old & K-3rd grade after opening

Fellowship Commission Mtg. (Morales home): 1:00pm

Those Serving Today at Grace —

Ushers for the month of February:

Eddie Morales - Lead, Richard Hurtado, Kyle Predmore, Art Moreno

Ushers for the month of March:

Rob Kimsey - Lead, Victor Pearce, Tom Bickenbach, Vet Gonzalez

Nursery — Today 2/28

9:15am Patty Morales
Josie Lankford
10:30am Laura Kimsey
Alyssa Echevarria

Nursery — Next Week 3/6

9:15am Leticia Posada
Clansy Cabrera
10:30am Ruth Hurtado
Lisa Patton

Happy Birthday —

Ron Morrow	February 28
Madison Kimsey	March 1
Matthew Hurtado	March 5

Events This Week —

Ladies' Discipleship (Patton home)	Mon., 7:00pm
CEF Bible Club: New River	Tues., 2:30pm
FAMILY NIGHT: ABS, DRIVEN & ROCK	Wed., 6:45pm
CEF Bible Club: DDJohnston	Thurs., 2:45pm
Ladies' Psalms Study	Fri., 10:00am
WOMEN OF GRACE MTG. IN LONG BEACH	Sat., 9:00am
Heights of Grace Outreach	Sat., 11:00am

Events Next Month —

(Please read and post at home the Church & DRIVEN Calendars for all the March events. Thank you.)

For The Record —

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday School: 44, Worship Service: 101

Please see Cecil O'Dell's Feb. 23rd prayer letter on the missionary table; he's currently in Japan helping with further evangelism and outreach.
Please pray for his safety and financial needs to be met.

Church Announcements

HEIGHTS OF GRACE: Our next outreach to Boyle Heights will be on Sat., March 5th or you may choose to go on March 19th. Please meet at the church at 11:00am for a brief meeting before we head out to Boyle Heights. If you have any questions, see Vet or Jen Gonzalez.

READING GROUP: Pastor Jeff is looking for others to join him in reading a book: Depression: Looking Up from the Stubborn Darkness by Edward T. Welch. Many struggle with depression or struggle to know how to help someone who struggles. Join us in reading this easy-to-understand, biblically-based book. Please order your own book on-line at Christianbook.com.

ELIJAH'S PANTRY: It's starting to fill up; thank you so much. We could use some peanut butter, cereals, powered milk and whatever else you would like to donate. Please drop off your donations in the church office. Thanks again for your great generosity. Praise God... we are so giving here at Grace!

DISTRICT WOMEN OF GRACE — A NEW DIRECTION: What does God want for the women of our district? In Scripture, what is the role of women in the church? Ladies, please plan to attend this important meeting this **Saturday, March 5th, at Long Beach Community GBC from 9:00-10:30am.** Please ask Josie R. or Lisa P. about transportation so we can attend together to pray and give input for this extremely important ministry to women of all ages.

Sermon Notes
February 28, 2016

Note from Pastor:

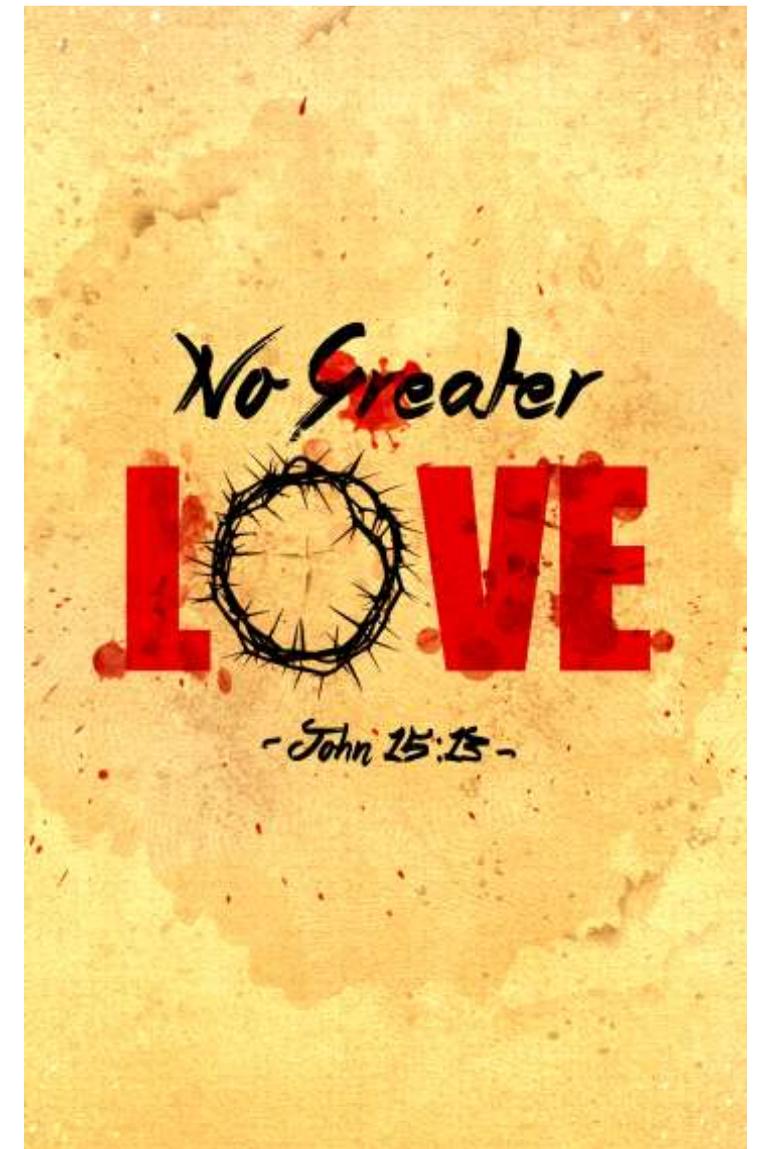
"Addicted to God"

New Ways of Seeing and Walking Free, Part 7

"The unfolding of Your words gives life; it gives understanding to the simple."

(Psalm 119:130) In this series we have highlighted some biblical metaphors for addiction (idolatry, adultery, foolishness, disease/illness, being attacked by wild beasts) to help us understand God's perspective on the issue. These metaphors have clearly highlighted something: principles for change for addiction are similar to those for any other sin problem. The word "sin" can be used as a club, but we must remember that we are talking about **THE Good News**. The Kingdom of God has come in the Person of Jesus Christ to liberate captives! This is cause for celebration. It is beautiful. It is the path of life. It is the path on which God never tires in extending grace and mercy. *"The LORD longs to be gracious to you; He rises to show you compassion."*

(Isaiah 30:18) Addicts must know that in salvation, they are being given a gift from God, and those of us who wish to help them must remember that beautiful gifts must be presented in the most attractive way possible. God's beautiful gift of salvation and victory through the death of Jesus Christ came at a great cost and therefore demands a very active response from us who accept it. It requires a new way of walking free. True freedom from addiction and true peace come from going to war with yourself. We are truly the "walking dead." **(Colossians 3:1-5)** What are some biblical principles of change for addicts (and for all sinners)? They include: not excusing addiction because that encourages the self-deceptive consequences of sin; confessing addiction as sin against God regardless of whether or not you believe it is caused by some chemical imbalance, biological condition, or mental disorder **(2 Corinthians 7:9-13)**; grow in faith and obedience to God by learning the Scriptures; learn to delight in obeying God; don't rely on self but learn to partner with and be accountable to wiser saints; pursue wisdom: the skill of godly living that comes from reverence for Jesus, and pursue it aggressively, don't just avoid sin, learn to hate it; realize that addiction, like all sin, doesn't impose itself on us unless we have been willing to entertain the seeds of it in our imaginations; realize that true, biblical, God-pleasing change is not merely behavioral, but motivated by our inner-heart, motivational belief system; and finally, learn to look to Jesus as the One who shows endless, inexhaustible grace and mercy to idolaters who seek to repent and change. **Hebrews 12:1-12**, sets Jesus forth as our example in enduring hardship, fighting against whatever wants to drag us down, knock us out, and enslave us. Jesus is not a religion. He is not a faith system. He is not a "genie in a bottle." Jesus is a Person. He is our Helper. He is our source of strength and guidance. He is our God, our Savior, and our Friend, especially in our time of need. All sinners must nurture and protect and guard that friendship with the King of Kings in order to stay on the straight and narrow and eventually hear, "Well done good and faithful servant. Enter into the Kingdom prepared for you." Take these principles of change seriously and seek out an accountability partner and before you know it, you will be growing in the Faith and growing stronger each day.



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