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FAITH
Presbyterian Church

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FAITH FAMILY FORUM II

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



Pastor Karl Thompson

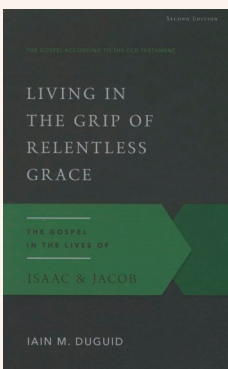
Ephesians 5:25 teaches us that Christ loves his church. (In this article we are talking about the universal church, but every observation applies to every local church as well). If you are new to the church, that might make good sense to you. Compared to how bad we were, we are quite lovable. But if you have been involved in the church for a decade or two you might wonder at His judgment, in loving such an institution. There is something wrong at every level. You fail and others fail you. We all fail Christ, the King of the Church. How could Christ love the church?

Ultimately, the answer is: I don't know. But here is what I do know:

1. God's love for the church is all about grace. Everything that God does in relationship to humans has grace as a major component to it. For the world, there is common grace and for His Church there is saving grace. But, it is all grace.
2. God's love for the church is all about His own glory. God is glorified in saving us from the eternal consequences of our sin and rebellion. He is glorified in His persistent love for His Church in our ongoing weakness.
3. God's love for His Church is part of His Covenantal Nature. He is rich in mercy and abounding in steadfast love. He is gracious and compassionate. He is slow to anger.



JOIN THE LADIES BIBLE STUDY

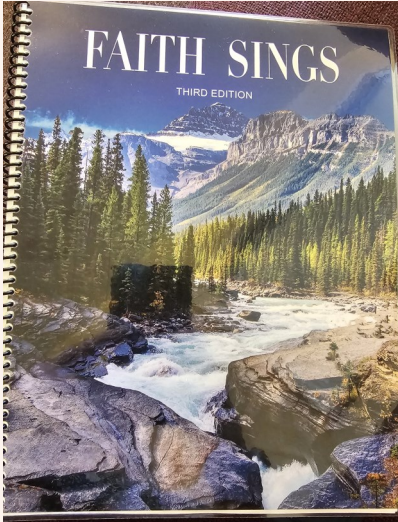


The Ladies Bible Study has been using the series of studies on the lives of Old Testament characters, *The Gospel According to the Old Testament*. The Winter study is using the book *Living in the Gap Between Promise and Reality*; *The Gospel According to Abraham* by Iain Duguid. In April we will continue the series with *Living in the Grip of Relentless Grace*; *The Gospel According to Isaac and Jacob*. It's fascinating to follow the lineage of God's people. We take encouragement in Isaac's and Jacob's shortcomings. The Gospel triumphs not through human might but through God's relentless grace.

Our faithful Marj is still the ringleader and we are blessed by the knowledge God has instilled in her to share with us. Come join us and learn as we discuss the Bible.



FAITH SINGS –THIRD EDITION



Thank you to Ron Strom and our pianists Martha, Allison, and Sandy for their work on approving, adding, and finalizing songs in the newest updated Faith Sings songbook.

There are even a couple of new songs by our sister-in-the-Lord Allison Thompson:

All Creation Waits—based on Romans 8:18-23

O God of Ancient Promises—based on Psalm 84

How lovely to honor God with songs of praise.



Every week is a new adventure. Observe first hand how those driving by respond to 'life of children' and reminders that God is the creator and sustainer of all. Occasionally some give encouraging waves and honks of their horns, but some responses not so honoring to the Lord. Hearts are challenged as the Holy Spirit works!

God creates life. Life is important to our Lord, so to it is to His beloved (us). How do we at Faith let the world know God's heart? Take time to join us next to the front of Planned Parenthood (corner of Washington Blvd. & Loughridge Ave.) to pray and hold a sign proclaiming truth about life and faith in our Lord!

Rain or shine, 10:00am-10:50am every Monday. We pause for prayer, so stop by and pray with us.

CRAFT NIGHT AT FAITH OPC



Sonja Anderson led this fun craft night by making gnomes out of rice, fuzzy socks and hot glue. The little ones who came even had their own coloring table.

Keep your eyes on our Faith OPC calendar for some fun future events.



TEACHABLE MOMENTS

By Karl Thompson

Having children is a great tool for sanctification. Parents nod in heartfelt agreement as we think of the times we have to die to ourselves to care for our children. But let me push this a step further.

It is a special treat when you recognize your own sinful patterns in your children's behavior. You don't remember teaching them how to behave badly in such a way, but somehow they have learned how to sin in the same way you do.

Some things are more caught than taught. They catch on to our sin, so we don't have to teach them. Even if we have taught them the exact opposite, they will follow our example and not our teaching. If we say to our children, "Do as I say, and not as I do". They will almost always do as we do.

So if we take this seriously, we need to look at the behavior we are teaching our children and seek to repent of it before we pass it on to our children.



JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP MEAL

It has been so wonderful to enjoy our newly expanded fellowship hall. Bring your friends and family to share a meal on the first Sunday of the month right after the worship service. It is a blessing from God that we have the opportunity to spend this time together.



When was the last time you and your spouse took a dedicated ‘time-out’ to examine the Word together allowing the Holy Spirit to shine God’s light on your marriage. Let’s start by reviewing several scripture passages to direct our minds to God’s Word. With humility and patience, together evaluate how we are doing. Perhaps one verse will bring to mind something specific to be thankful for or something to examine more closely.

PAUSE as you begin. **Pray** together; **Affirm** your love; **Understand** by truly listening; **Seek** a solution together; **Evaluate** soon and often, making adjustments as needed.

1. Marriage was instituted and designed by God. Genesis 2:18-25.
2. At the heart of marriage is companionship and intimacy, which both husband and wife must promote. Genesis 2:18. “And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” vs. 24. “Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”
3. The relationship between husband and wife is similar to that between Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:23. “For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.” vs. 31-32. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”
4. The husband is the head of the wife and the home. Ephesians 5:23.
5. Husbands must love their wives as Christ loved the church. Ephesians 5:25. “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”
6. Husbands must exercise headship in love. Colossians 3:19. “Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.”
7. Husbands must treat their wives with respect and as equal heirs of God’s gifts. 1Peter 3:7. “Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”
8. The husband must manage his own home well; he is the manager. 1Timothy 3:4. “one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence.”
9. The husband/father is primarily responsible for training the children. Ephesians 6:4. “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”
10. God’s design for the wife is that of a helper suitable for man. Genesis 2:18.
11. Both husband and wife must seek to reflect the relationship between Christ and his church. Ephesians 5:25, 32.
12. A wife is to submit to her husband, as the church submits to Christ. Colossians 3:18. “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”
13. A woman is not to exercise authority over a man. 1Timothy 2:11-14.
14. Both must quickly pursue peace in trouble. Romans 12:18. Galatians 5:15.
15. The Bible gives a description of a noble wife, who uses her gifts faithfully. Proverbs 31:10-31
16. Keep loving those who are wayward. 2Samuel 18:33. (David and Absalom).

Isn’t it a refreshing adventure to renew and build your relationship in the Lord!





Peter Marshall was born in Coatbridge, Scotland on May 27, 1902. It was an impoverished area, and young Peter worked in the coal mines and studied for the ministry at night school. A cousin bought him passage to America where Peter went to Columbia Theological Seminary from which he graduated in 1931. He was ordained as a pastor in the Presbyterian church and served two churches in Georgia before being called to New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC in 1937. In 1946 he was appointed chaplain of the US Senate and served there from January 1947 until his untimely death by heart attack on January 26, 1949.

His wife, Catharine Marshall, wrote a book in 1951 about him entitled *A Man Called Peter*. A movie by the same name was released in 1955. Those of us who are older might recall seeing that film; at least I do. But all I can remember at this point was that it was in Technicolor, which was a big deal in those days. It is because of the book and the movie that we remember Peter Marshall.

As Senate chaplain, he would open the assembly with prayer. The prayer below was delivered on November 24, 1947.

God of our fathers and our God, give us the faith to believe in the ultimate triumph of righteousness, no matter how dark and uncertain are the skies of today.

We pray for the bifocals of faith--that see the despair and the need of the hour but also see, further on, the patience of our God working out His plan in the world He has made.

So help Thy servants to interpret for our time the meaning of the motto inscribed on our coins. Make our faith hones by helping us this to do one thing because Thou hast said, "Do it," or to abstain because Thou hast said, "Thou shalt not."

How can we say we believe in Thee, or even want to believe in Thee, when we do not anything Thou dost tell us? May our faith be seen in our works. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Would our government at all levels would hear and heed such prayers today.



Praise to our Almighty God and His church.

[Klamath Falls Reformed Fellowship](#) is a startup/church-plant under the leadership of Trinity Church of Medford, an Orthodox Presbyterian Church denomination.

Installation of Rev. Andrew Farr will be **Friday, March 1, 2024 6pm**. If you are interested in going, contact Pastor Karl for figuring out a ride.

It is testament to the Lord that new churches are planted in His name.





I was born in Alameda, California and moved to the Willamette Valley of Oregon in my early youth. My mother, an Ohio transplant, was raised Seventh Day Adventist. My father was agnostic. My initial introduction to the gospel was through the SDA. I stopped regular attendance when I was around 10 years old. Praise God, He wasn't done dealing with me.

As a teen, I was invited to attend a small country church, Dever-Conner Community Church. I attended mostly to be around my friends, but God was working in my heart to convict me of my sins, which were many. In 1982, I professed my faith in Christ as my Savior and received baptism. Discipleship as a new believer was non-existent in my life at the time, and I developed a fire insurance mentality to my faith. I lived the next 6 years of my life in debauchery.

Upon completion of my bachelor's degree in nursing, God brought me to a crossroad. Do I live for myself, or would I live for Him? I was convicted of my sins; I was tired of living a life apart from Him. I began attending church again. When I began employment at Salem Hospital, I worked with a lovely young woman named Sonja. I admired her quiet strength and beauty; I asked her out on a date. On that date, she confessed she had been feeling under the weather. I, being the chivalrous man, took her to her apartment and promptly made her soup. In her kitchen, we talked about serious matters of the heart. She asked me about my faith in God; I replied honestly and told her of my intentions to "get right with God" Her reply changed my life forever. She said, "Well, if you want to get right with God, tell Him, right now!" So, there in her living room, I got down on my knees, and prayed to God like I'd never prayed before, confessing my sins, repenting, trusting in Christ alone. We married the next year and began family life in Salem; we attended mostly Baptist churches in Salem. I grew in discipleship with Dr. Carl Blanchard and a man named Chris Welborn. God used these two men to help me mature in the word.



Okay, fast forward through marriage, 3 great children, a quick stint in the USAF, some time in Iraq, and training as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). We moved to Grants Pass in 2008 and attended River Valley Community Church. After our Covid event, I saw things changing at RVC. I was asked to consider being an elder. During that process it was evident to me that I was considerably more reformed than the leadership at RVC.

After much prayer and studying of God's word and waiting on the Lord, Sonja and I left RVC and have since become members of the body of Christ at Faith OPC.

I love God's word, and I love His people; I love serving Him, my family, my church, and community. This is what I desire most in life. I do enjoy playing with bees occasionally, too.





Born and raised into a 3-generation ranch operation in Tulare County, California. Graduated Cal Poly, B.S. in Ag. Business Management. During college, God opened my eyes and heart to the Gospel through an Elder of Strathmore First Baptist Church. Married Barbara, and followed a heart's desire to know God's Word. Moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, graduated from Bethel Seminary, M.Div. Moved to Bremerton, Washington for position as associate pastor/interim pastor for three years.

Moved back to Tulare County to resume ranch management, assist in caring for my ailing mother. Became interim pastor of Grace Baptist Church while full-time ranching. Two churches merged, left the Baptist General Conference, and started Living Word Fellowship, reformed in doctrine and credo Baptist. Served there for 30 years as Elder, and then Administrative Pastor. During this time studied and taught Nouthetic Counseling, assisted Palabra Viva Church, attended various seminars to continue my education, served as group leader with Bible Study Fellowship, local school board 16 years, and coordinated local baseball and soccer leagues.



Married 27 years to Barbara (she died of brain cancer), four children.

Marylou and I married 23 years ago. I left ranching, stepped down as pastor, ministered as hospice chaplain, with two interim pastorates, then retired.

The Lord led us to Faith OPC when we moved to Grants Pass in 2018. We seek to represent Christ by being part of YMCA, Gospel Rescue Mission, Josephine Community Library, and community groups. Learning to understand, respect and come under the authority of Faith OPC has developed and grown my doctrine through our five years here. The priority of Biblical expository preaching clearly was how we were drawn here and stretched in understanding and application of our faith.

I understand Faith OPC's commitment to Calvinistic doctrine with the Westminster Confession of Faith, Presbyterian Polity, Covenantal theology, and Christian liberty as a high standard to respect, support and uphold. Another high standard, practiced faithfully by our Session, is shepherding, instructing, and praying for the flock.

How does a heathen rancher become a believer? Or a young Arminian Christian have his eyes and heart opened to reformed faith and then to Presbyterian reformed doctrine? Praise God that He never gives up. The sanctification process continues until I am home with the Lord.

When the opportunity to serve God as an elder was presented, I humbly confess I had a lot to learn. Our elders have diligently taught me and answered my questions and concerns as I grow in understanding. I am very aware that God will be faithful to use His Word, directed by the Holy Spirit, to bring more wisdom and discernment. I believe, God has placed me as a member of Faith OPC to serve Him as He directs for His glory.

I acknowledge the high calling of an Elder at Faith OPC. Please contact me with any questions, concerns or encouragements. Please contact me with questions, concerns or encouragement.

Keith Hansen



BUSINESS RECOMMENDATIONS



We had some difficult work done on our redwood, red birch and cedar trees. This outfit was very efficient, accurate and fair in pricing. Their work was as promised and they even spared the neighbor's yard art when they cut out a large, dead branch from high up in the redwood tree.

We are extremely satisfied and impressed with their professionalism. Keith and Marylou Hansen

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Join us for Good Friday worship service “It Is Finished” **March 29th at 6pm.**

On **Sunday, March 31st at 9am** we gather together in fellowship as we praise Him that He is Risen. We will have a Resurrection breakfast in the fellowship hall prior to the Worship service. Bring an item to share if you can, but come regardless. It is a glorious day.



Daylight saving time will begin for 2024 on Sunday, March 10 at 2 a.m. PDT. Move the clock one hour ahead.

This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detector.

COMING UP

Mar 3 — Faith Fellowship Meal

Mar 8 — Faith OPC Movie Night

Mar 9 — Men's Breakfast 7am

Mar 29 — Good Friday Worship Service

Mar 31 — Resurrection Breakfast and Worship

10am — Monday Stand for Life

10am— Tuesday Ladies Bible Study

6:30pm—Tuesday Night Book Study

6:30pm— Wednesday Bible Study

To view the church calendar— [CLICK HERE](#)





Trusting God Even When Life Hurts

By Jerry Bridges

TRUSTING GOD EVEN WHEN LIFE HURTS

Are you looking for an excellent book? Jerry Bridges wrote this helpful book. It is written for all of us who have questions about life's challenges. This book is beneficial for young adults and to those who are meeting challenges through the years. The book is an easy read of 14 chapters, 232 pages, available from most sources for about \$10 for a paperback

copy, NavPress.

DO YOU TRUST GOD?

John Piper wrote that as his people we *“must trust God in season & out of season, so that when difficult times come, we are prepared.”* Jerry Bridges writes to strengthen us in that trust. He began a lengthy Bible study on the topic of God's sovereignty. What he learned changed his life, and he shares the fruit of that study with us in *Trusting God*. In reading this book, we begin to explore the scope of God's power over nations, nature, and the detailed lives of individuals; you will begin to acknowledge His loving control. And as you come to know Him better, you'll find yourself trusting Him more completely--even when life hurts.

Bridges discusses questions and topics such as Can You Trust God Is God in Control, The Sovereignty of God and God's Sovereignty over the Nations. Chapters five through seven explore God's rule over the Nations, God's Power over Nature, God's Sovereignty and Our Responsibilities.

There is much for us to learn from, and much to reinforce us in what we already understand. Bridges writes of our Growing Through Adversity, Choosing to Trust God and of our Giving Thanks Always. Our duty is found in the revealed will of God in Scriptures. Our trust must be in the sovereign will of God as He works in the ordinary circumstance of our daily lives for our good and for His glory.

Since our lives are ever changing, we must be grounded in our understanding of our Lord God. It is good for us to be prepared for life by our understanding and accepting that our Lord is sovereign.

The teaching of this book offers encouragement for us, and we can use it to support others facing difficult times. As we find ourselves learning and growing in our walk with the Lord, we see that we are being refined by His power to be established in His Word and to Glorify Him.



POOCH CORNER

Can you guess the owner of this sweet dog? Read the hints and you can turn to the last page of the newsletter to find out who owns this pooch.



I am a seven year old single female looking for love and attention..... all the time! I love to play fetch with sticks, balls, or basically anything that can be thrown! I love to run around and explore every day on my 5 acres. Afterwards, I love to relax on the chaise lounge chairs or any chair I can sneak onto! I am very loyal and protective of my people and property! My mom is a Black Mouth Cur (think of old yeller), and my dad is a large black German Shepherd dog.



LOCAL DOG PARKS



All these locations have water (except in deep winter) but it is suggested to bring your own water bowl to prevent a respiratory doggie illness.

GILBERT CREEK DOG PARK—No fee, completely fenced with a section for big dogs separate from little dogs. Can be muddy in winter. Nice walking trails around the park. Located north Grants Pass.



GREENWOOD DOG PARK— No fee, completely fenced flat area for all dogs. Walking trail connects to All Sports Park. Located off G Street.



REDWOOD DOG PARK—No fee, completely fenced flat area with separate little dog area. Not large but nice in cool in summer time. Walking trail around the park area. Located on Dowell Road.



SCHROEDER DOG PARK—\$5/visit fee, or yearly fee for all JOCO parks. Large flat fully fenced area with separate area for little dogs. Trails around the park and you can walk to the boat ramp where there is a little swimming area.



FAITH 2024 BIBLE ACADEMY

The session has decided to do a chronological approach to the Bible reading starting last year. You will be given a chart each week. It will be on the church website, www.faithgp.org, sent via email, and in print on the table in the foyer each Sunday. The reading began in the Old Testament, but we paused and read in the New Testament for December and back to the Old Testament in January. The reading will consist of about a chapter per day except for Sundays. Sunday will be a review day; you will not have to read anything but a good review day. The session is asking you not only to read the Bible but also to react to it. The goal is to get you to think a little about what you are reading. You will find space to write on the chart; we are asking you to do two things; see below.

You will be asked to generate a short thought about the reading, probably 15 words or less will fit in the space given. It can be a summary, a reflection, whatever you decide. For instance, let's say you were asked to read Leviticus 25. It is relatively long being 55 verses, and it covers a lot of material: the Sabbath year, the year of the jubilee, and the redemption of property and of the poor and enslaved in that year. You could make a summary statement about content. *It covered the Sabbath year and the year of Jubilee.* You could reflect on the chapter's content. *God gave them specific rules for redeeming property and people. The 50 year redemption is a shadow of Christ's ultimate redemption. I don't think the jubilee system would work today.* You might even ask a question? *How would this affect investing in property in year 48?* The point is to get you to think a bit about what you have read.

The second thing you are asked to do is copy a verse you like. You are not asked why you liked it. Just pick a verse you happen to like for whatever reason and copy it down with the reference, V14 for instance. Sundays are review days. Again, you are asked to write two things. First, look at your chart and make some sort of statement about the reading for the week. Second, pick one of the six verses you had previously copied down. Write this verse in the review section and think about and maybe even jot a note as to why you picked it. At the fourth Sunday evening service of the month, we will talk about your review items, 1st week, 2nd week and so forth. It would be helpful for you to bring your sheets with you to that service. This is an experiment. We think it will take about 15 minutes or so per day to read and fill in the chart. After a time, maybe a couple of months, we will take a bit of time for evaluation of the process. Our desire is to get you involved with your Bible on a daily basis. If you have some other reading plan already in place with which you are comfortable and believe is profitable for you, that's fine; you can continue to follow that in lieu of what we are proposing. We will be continuing through 2024 in finishing the Bible reading, but will switch over to the New Testament.

Date	Chapters	Instruction	Notes
1-Jan	Review		Finish 2022 Reading
2-Jan	Gen 1	(1) Write down one thought (2) Copy 1 verse you like.	
3-Jan	Gen 2	(1) Write down one thought (2) Copy 1 verse you like.	

*Pooch Corner— On page 11, this dog is Nikki and belongs to Tami & Gary Quinones.

A lot of care, time, and effort went into the publishing of this newsletter and we would love to hear your comments, recommendations, and thoughts. Drop us a line at:

office.faithopc@gmail.com

Special thank you to the proof readers, Marylou Hansen and Frode Jensen. Also thank you to those that took photos and to Sarah Young our new church photographer.

