

We Can Do Nothing by John Piper
Solid Joys, desiringGod.org

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

Suppose you are totally paralyzed and can do nothing for yourself but talk. And suppose a strong and reliable friend promised to live with you and do whatever you needed done. How could you glorify this friend if a stranger came to see you?

Would you glorify his generosity and strength by trying to get out of bed and carry him? No! You would say, "Friend, please come lift me up, and would you put a pillow behind me so I can look at my guest? And would you please put my glasses on for me?"

And so your visitor would learn from your requests that you are helpless and that your friend is strong and kind. You glorify your friend by needing him, and by asking him for help, and counting on him.

In John 15:5, Jesus says, "Apart from me you can do nothing." So we really are paralyzed. Without Christ, we are capable of no Christ-exalting good. As Paul says in

Romans 7:18, "Nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh."

But John 15:5 also says that God does intend for us to do much Christ-exalting good, namely bear fruit: "Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit." So as our strong and reliable friend — "I have called you friends" (John 15:15) — he promises to do for us, and through us, what we can't do for ourselves.

How then do we glorify him? Jesus gives the answer in John 15:7: "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." We *pray*! We ask God to do for us through Christ what we can't do for ourselves — bear fruit.

John 15:8 gives the result: "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit."

So how is God glorified by prayer? Prayer is the open admission that without Christ we can do nothing. And prayer is the turning away from ourselves to God in the confidence that he will provide the help we need.

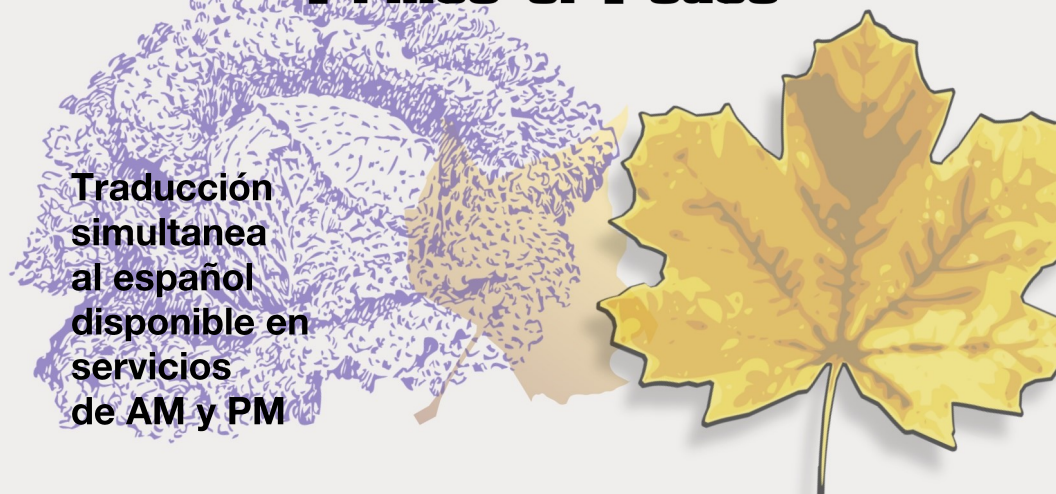


GRACE
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

October 21, 2017



Wonderful Counselor Mighty God Everlasting Father Prince of Peace

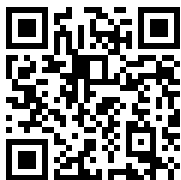


**Traducción
simultanea
al español
disponible en
servicios
de AM y PM**

Events

TODAY VisionYouth @ White's,
7th/8th Grade at Church,
Fellowship Picnic 7 PM
10/27 Bridal Shower for Mandy
Holt 2 PM @ the Dill's
11/2-3 Parenting Conference,
Paul David Tripp
11/10 Senior Breakfast 9 AM

Give



Upcoming Events



Pastors

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Gary Hendrix | Stephen Byrd |
| Charles Fortner | Robert Fisher |
| Stu Johnston | Bob Prentice |
| Andy Dunkerton | Michael Lopes |

Service Times

— Sunday School 9:30 am
— Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
— Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
— Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

919-563-9249
www.grbc.net

Morning Worship

Call to Worship
Opening Hymn
Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer
Offertory

Nick Gaines
#87 Holy, Holy, Holy
Ephesians 4:1-5:2, page 977

Have Thine Own Way

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me after Thy will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still, while I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,
as in Thy presence humbly I bow,
as in Thy presence humbly I bow.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray! Power – all power – surely is Thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway! Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me! Christ only always, living in me! Amen

Text: Adelaide A. Pollard, 1902 Music: Katie Malone Redfern, 2002 Used by Permission

Preparatory

Look to the Cross

1. Pressed down with cares and burdens bleak, look to the cross:
What do you see?
He bears your pain, my sister see: The Lamb of God who died for thee.

**(Chorus) Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God,
shouldst die for me?**

Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

2. On all sides fear, dark doubt, despair: look to the cross: Your Savior there!
He bleeds for you, my brother see: The Lamb of God who died for thee.

(Chorus)

3. When trials consume our dusty frames, look to the cross and bless His name!
His body torn to set us free: The Lamb of God who died for thee. **(Chorus)**

4. Our sins so great! Our hearts untrue! Look to the cross for Grace anew;
Jesus becomes our Mercy Seat: He died for you, He died for me! **(Chorus)**

Text: Verses, Courtney Dunkerton Chorus: Charles Wesley Music: Courtney Dunkerton Used by Permission

Sermon

Pastor Michael Lopes

Evening Worship

Call to Worship
Opening Hymn
Dwell
Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer
Offertory

Pastor Bob Prentice
#1 All People That on Earth Do

1 Samuel 7:3-17, page 230

Jesus, Thou Joy

Jesus, Thou Joy of loving hearts, Thou Fount of life, thou Light of men,
From the best bliss that earth imparts we turn unfilled to Thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood; Thou savest those that on Thee call;
To them that seek Thee Thou art good, to them that find Thee All in all.

We taste Thee, O Thou living bread, and long to feast upon Thee still;
We drink of Thee, the Fountainhead, and thirst our souls from Thee to fill.

Our restless spirits yearn for Thee, wherever our changeful lot is cast;
Glad when Thy gracious smile we see, blessed when our faith can hold Thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay, make all our moments calm and bright;
Chase the dark night of sin away, shed over the world Thy holy light.

Words: Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th Century
Music: B. Murphy, B. Benedict, L. James © 2006 Bruce Benedict, Clint Wells Music Used by Permission
CCLI # 1899094

Preparatory

Nearer, Still Nearer

Nearer, still nearer, close to Thy heart, draw me, my Savior – so precious Thou art!
Fold me, O fold me close to Thy breast.

Shelter me safe in that haven of rest; Shelter me safe in that haven of rest.

Nearer, still nearer, nothing I bring, naught as an offering to Jesus, my King –
Only my sinful, now contrite heart.

Grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart; Grant me the cleansing Thy blood
doth impart.

Nearer, still nearer, Lord, to be Thine! Sin, with its follies, I gladly resign,
All of its pleasures, pomp and its pride.
Give me but Jesus, my Lord, crucified; Give me but Jesus, my Lord, crucified.

Nearer, still nearer, while life shall last, till safe in glory my anchor is cast;
Thro' endless ages ever to be
Nearer, my Savior, still nearer to Thee; Nearer, my Savior, still nearer to Thee.
Amen

Text and Music: Lelia N. Morris

Sermon

Pastor Stephen Byrd