# God Heals by Humbling by John Piper Solid Joys, desiringGod.org

"I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and his mourners, creating the fruit of the lips. Peace, peace, to the far and to the near," says the Lord, "and I will heal him." (Isaiah 57:18–19)

In spite of the severity of man's disease of rebellion and willfulness, God will heal. How will he heal? Isaiah 57:15 says that God dwells with the crushed and humble. Yet the people of Isaiah 57:17 are not humble. They are brazenly pursuing their own proud way. So, what will a healing be?

It can only be one thing. God will heal them by humbling them. He will cure the patient by crushing his pride. If only the crushed and humble enjoy God's fellowship (Isaiah 57:15), and if Israel's sickness is a proud and willful rebellion (Isaiah 57:17), and if God promises to heal them (Isaiah 57:18), then his healing must be humbling and his cure must be a crushed spirit.

Isn't this Isaiah's way of prophesying what Jeremiah called the new covenant and the gift of a new heart? He said, "Behold, the

days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. . . . I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Jeremiah 31:31, 33).

Isaiah and Jeremiah both see a time coming when a sick, disobedient, hard-hearted people will be supernaturally changed. Isaiah speaks of healing. Jeremiah speaks of writing the law on their hearts. And Ezekiel puts it like this: "I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26)

So the healing of Isaiah 57:18 is a major heart transplant — the old hardened, proud, willful heart of stone is taken out, and a new soft, tender heart is put in, which is easily humbled and crushed by the memory of sin and the sin that remains.

This is a heart that the lofty One whose name is Holy will dwell with forever.



TODAY Members Only Meeting 16 & older 7 PM 11/10 Senior Breakfast 9 AM 11/12-19 Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Drop-offs. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Sign up on the bulletin board. 11/17 LMS 9 AM Give

Upcoming Events





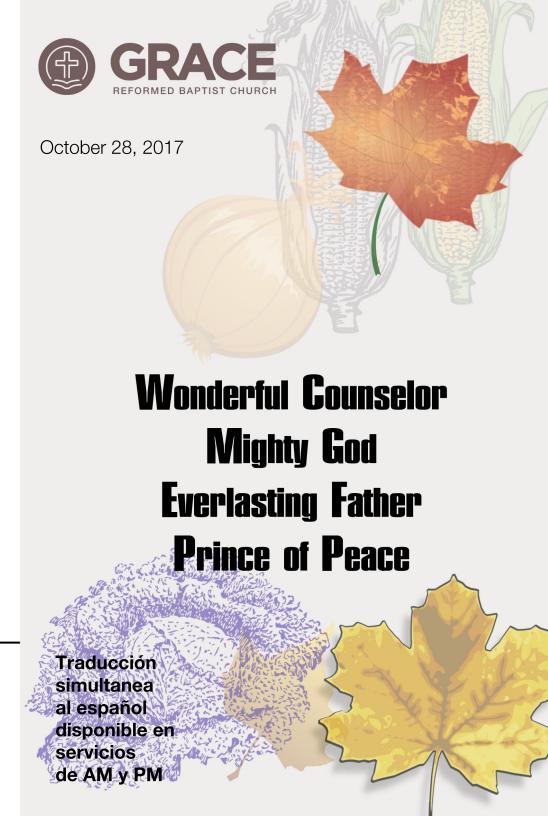
#### **Pastors**

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

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## Morning Worship

Call to Worship Opening Hymn

Nick Gaines #81 A Mighty Fortress

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone, my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song; this Cornerstone, this Solid Ground; firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace; when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.

My Comforter, my All in All; here in the love of Christ I stand!

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh; fullness of God in helpless Babe! This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save. 'Til on that cross as Jesus died; the wrath of God was satisfied. For ev'ry sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live!

There in the ground His body lay. Light of the world by darkness slain; then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again! And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; for I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ!

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me; from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny!

No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand; 'til He returns or calls me home; here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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Scripture Reading Pastoral Prayer

John 12:1-19, page 898

#426 Thou Hidden Source of Calm Repose

Preparatory

Offertory

Complete in Thee

Complete in Thee! no work of mine could take, dear Lord, the place of Thine Thy blood hath pardon bought for me and I shall stand complete in Thee

(Chorus) Yea, justified! O blessed thought! And sanctified! Salvation wrought!

Thy blood hath pardon bought for me and glorified, I too, shall be!

Complete in Thee each want supplied and no good thing to me denied Since Thou my portion, Lord wilt be, I ask no more, complete in Thee **(Chorus)** 

Complete in Thee! no more shall sin Thy grace hath conquered, reign within Thy blood shall bid the tempter flee and I shall stand complete in Thee **(Chorus)** 

Dear Savior, when before Thy bar all tribes and tongues assembled are Among Thy chosen I shall be at Thy right hand, complete in Thee **(Chorus 2x)** 

Thy blood hath pardon bought for me and glorified, I too, shall be!

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Sermon

Pastor Gary Hendrix

### **Evening Worship**

Call to Worship Opening Hymn

Pastor Charles Fortner All I Have is Christ

I once was lost in darkest night, yet thought I knew the way. The sin that promised joy and life had led me to the grave. I had no hope that You would own a rebel to Your will. And if You had not loved me first, I would refuse You still.

But as I ran my hell-bound race, indifferent to the cost. You looked upon my helpless state and led me to the cross, And I beheld God's love displayed, You suffered in my place. You bore the wrath reserved for me, now all I know is grace. Hallelujah! All I have is Christ. Hallelujah! Jesus is my life.

Now Lord I would be Yours alone, and live so all might see the strength to follow Your commands could never come from me. O Father, use my ransomed life in any way You choose, and let my song forever be my only boast is You.

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ. Hallelujah! Jesus is my life. (a cappella)

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ. Hallelujah! Jesus is my life.

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Scripture Reading Pastoral Prayer

Philemon, page 1000

Offertory We Stand in Grace

We are dead to sin and alive in Christ, and we long to be a living sacrifice. Purify our hearts and cleanse our hands to live holy lives in Your sovereign plan.

(Chorus) We stand in grace. We stand in grace. Justified through faith in Christ, who is the Perfect Sacrifice, we stand in grace.

We have peace with God through the Spotless Lamb whose blood was shed so we may be born again. Let us drink our fill from this Fount of Grace and be faithful to Him 'til we behold His face.

(Chorus) (key change) (Chorus)

We stand in grace.

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Preparatory #80 How Firm a Foundation

Sermon Pastor Michael Lopes