

No Games with God

By Bill Irby, House to House Heart to Heart

How does this apply to the New Testament Christian? Let's start with a simple thing.

Attending services is a duty for every child of God.

What about personal Bible study and prayer? We know we should be faithful in these things and have told God that we would be so. Now, if we don't do what we've said we would do, are we playing games with God? What about faithfulness in other matters, such as the way we speak, or the way we conduct our daily lives? We make promises to God and we must do our best to keep them.

An understandable objection is that we mean the promises when we make them, but things happen and we can't always hold up our end. And the response is just as understandable: God knows our frailties and will provide help in dealing with temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13) and forgiveness of sins when we repent. This He does continually for the faithful child of God (1 John 1:5-10). I cannot reach sinless perfection, but I can reach faithfulness. As an example of this principle, read Philippians 3:12-16 in which those who are mature (the meaning of "perfect") are encouraged to be like Paul and press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. It is an example of playing games with God to set out on a course of faithfulness and then sin with a mind either to enjoy the sin for a while and repent later or to plead that "I am just weak" when we knew all along exactly what we were doing.

God is too good to us to be the object of mind games. We should make our promise of faithfulness to Him and do our best to keep it. What we are really talking about is honesty in a relationship of the most private kind, that between the Christian and God. When we falter, don't try to make excuses—this is playing games. Just repent and go forward to faithfulness.

Some Unusual Things for Which to be Thankful

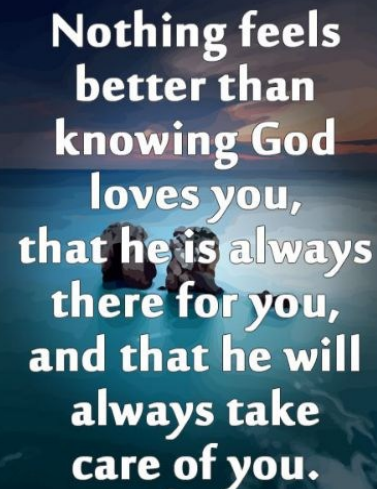
- ✦ Be thankful for the difficult times ... during those times you grow.
- ✦ Be thankful for limitations ... they give you opportunities for improvement.
- ✦ Be thankful for a new challenge ... it will build strength and character.
- ✦ Be thankful for your mistakes ... they will teach you valuable lessons.
- ✦ Be thankful when you're weary ... it means you've made a difference.
- ✦ Be thankful for the mess after a party ... it means you have friends.

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Remember those with health issues—D. E. Pleasant, Winston Abraham, Casey Hambelton, Dorlene and Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Vernon James, Ruth Strain, Steve and Diane Siebels, Bob Robbins.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Wayman King, Kay Schneider, Jack Moyers, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Jim Kirkland, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Nikki Smith, Jenny James, Bill McFarland, Debbie Eslinger, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth.
- ◆ Those in GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Jack Moyers, Sycamore Springs. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven.

Starting this Wednesday night through August:

- ◆ Men and women will have separate Bible classes.
 - ◆ The men will study II Timothy.
 - ◆ The women will study Women of the Bible.
- ◆ No Wednesday night suppers till September.



Nothing feels
better than
knowing God
loves you,
that he is always
there for you,
and that he will
always take
care of you.

When I feel
alone,
God says
He is always
with me!

...Do not be afraid or
discouraged.
For the Lord your God
is with you
wherever you go
Joshua 1:9

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
5-29	Beth Wade	5-31	R. J. and Sangchun Moyers
5-31	Julie Schofield	6-7	Brian and Casey Hambelton
6-1	Barbara White	6-8	John and Melinda Abraham
6-6	Amy Stevens	6-8	Don and Barbara Luna
6-8	Dorlene Butler	6-10	Steve and Diana Siebels (30)
6-15	Dylan Abraham	Birthdays	
6-15	Brian Hambelton (50)	6-27	Adeline Smith
6-15	Titus Smith	6-29	Stetson Pleasant
6-21	Chris Lemburg	6-29	Denise Crisp (60)

7 Promises of God

1. God will protect you (Psalm 121:7-8)
2. God always hears your voice (I John 5:14)
3. God will grant you peace (John 14:27)
4. God will wipe away every tear (Revelation 21:4)
5. God is always with you (Matthew 28:20)
6. God will never forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:6)
7. God will never leave you (Hebrews 13:5)

Date	Event	Details
Sunday, June 8	VBS Meeting	Meet following service
Saturday, June 21 9 a.m.—2 p.m.	VBS—Magnified! Pick up a butterfly magnet as a reminder to pray for VBS.	Discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things.

June Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

6-1 John Abraham
6-8 Mark Lane
6-15 David Stevens
6-22 Don Luna
6-29 John Abraham

Communion & Closing Prayer

David Stevens
D. E. Pleasant
R. J. Moyers
Dana Crisp
Halbert Smith

Song Leader: Andrew Eller; Titus Smith
Greeters: Dana and Marsha Crisp

The Family News

June 1, 2025

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***He Is Always There***

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Sunday Worship Outline

Kids Singing up front

#15, Step by Step; #778, Be with Me, Lord

*#382, Why Did My Savior Come to Earth ; Communion Service
#63, I Will Call Upon the Lord; #406, Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

Sermon and Invitation

#940; Only a Step

#490, It Is Well; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

*We are a community of redeemed sinners who are
following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace,
loving our Lord and one another.*

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us