

No Games with God

By Bill Irby, House to House Heart to Heart

Human beings play games with each other. I'm not talking about games like baseball or golf. I am thinking instead of those generally called "mind games."

You have either played them, have had them played on you, or (most likely) a little of both. We leave an impression designed to work to our advantage. Perhaps use an outright lie. Promises are made with no intention of keeping them. These are games by which we sometimes try to get through difficult situations without facing them forthrightly. Games like this, when they are the modus operandi of interpersonal relationships, will ultimately cause the dissolution of those relationships. Arenas within which these games are played include romance, politics, friendship, the workplace, and sports.

As important as it is to avoid such games, it is vastly more important that we never attempt to finesse God in this (or any other) fashion. One might say, "No one could be so foolish as to try that!" Read this excerpt from Ecclesiastes 5: "Do not be rash with your mouth and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore, let your words be few." When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it, for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed "better not to vow than to vow and not pay" (Ecclesiastes 5:2, Ecclesiastes 5:4). The idea here is that if you say to God that you will do something (the sense in which "vow" is used) you had better do it (the sense in which "pay") is used.

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. We all know that there are times when we have to work, deal with illness, or attend to very pressing matters, and these things preclude our worship and class attendance. The biblical warrant for attendance is easy to establish. The Lord's church met on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2) and so must we. To do so is to be in accord with the pattern revealed in Scripture. We ought not forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25). Periods of Bible study have been established under the leadership of the elders ordained to oversee our spiritual development (Hebrews 13:17), and we ought to attend and take part in these study opportunities also. We know these things. At some point in our spiritual development we decided to come to all the services we could. We said we would. If we don't, are we playing games with God?

(continued next week)

Prayers and Concerns

- ♦ Emily Dobson had successful surgery Wednesday to remove an ovary because of a cyst that was the size of a softball.
- ♦ Vernon James has been home bound for some time. Remember him and Barbara in your prayers.
- ♦ Remember those with health issues—D. E. Pleasant, Winston Abraham, Casey Hambelton, Dorlene and Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, 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.



God desires a
personal relationship
with each of us.

It's in this relationship
that we find strength,
peace and hope.

"IN *Happy*
MOMENTS,
PRAISE GOD.
IN DIFFICULT MOMENTS,
SEEK *God.*
IN QUIET
MOMENTS,
trust GOD.
IN EVERY MOMENT,
THANK *God.*"

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
5-5	Peggy Johnson	5-9	Paul and Beth Wade
5-11	Brenda Strong	5-20	Ryan and Amy Stevens
5-15	Bentley Goodman	5-21	D. E. and Tiffany Pleasant
5-16	Steve Clodfelter	5-25	Darren and Denise Crisp
5-18	Halbert Smith	5-31	R. J. and Sangchun Moyers
5-20	Gannon Schofield	Birthdays	
5-23	Barbara Luna		
5-28	Ryan Stevens		

Vicki will be serving something good for our last Wednesday night fellowship supper till September.



I Corinthians 15:3-4
The Gospel

Date	Event	Details
Thursday, May 29	VBS Craft Night	Come help get materials ready for VBS
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

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

Communion & Closing Prayer

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

Song Leader: Titus Smith

Greeters: Tinker and Karen Langston; Dana and Marsha Crisp

The Family News

May 25, 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: ***A Relationship with God***

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Sunday Worship Outline

Kids Singing up front

#121, *Come Let Us All Unite to Sing*; #147, *I Stand Amazed*

#332, *Lead Me to Calvary*; Communion Service

#517, *Heaven Came Down*

Sermon and Invitation

#940; *Only a Step*

#851, *I'll Fly Away*; 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