

# Greater Grace Family Ministries Church

## Strengthening Families by the Word of God

### Gardens

*"Let your gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation garden of your life." James 1:22*

The children's nursery rhyme, "Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?" asks a good question. How does your garden grow? Do you have a lawn and shrubbery to tend to? Do you have a rock garden, a perennial garden, annual flower garden, shade garden or a tropical garden? Is it thick with foliage and flowers, or is it sparse and spindly?

If you enjoy puttering with soil, shrubbery and flowers, then you are a gardener. You realize color, size and appearance of your garden doesn't happen by chance. It takes plenty of work; planting, watering, fertilizing and weeding are necessary.

Each of us has a spiritual garden within. God wants to be our spiritual gardener, as the above scripture says. He wants to landscape our life to be beautiful- a reflection of His love for us. He plants with His Word, waters with "Living Water" (Jesus), fertilizes with positive answers to prayer and removes the weeds of sin which try to choke out His glorious landscape.

A garden - either physical or spiritual - needs nurture. Let's turn to God and allow Him to work in the garden of our hearts. Amen!

### WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- **WE BELIEVE** there is one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- **WE BELIEVE** the Bible to be the infallible Word of God.
- **WE BELIEVE** Jesus Christ is true God and man. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, death as a substitute for man, bodily resurrection, ascension to the Father, intercessory work for believers and person return in power.
- **WE BELIEVE** God created man and woman and loves us. We fell from relationship with God through disobedience and we are in desperate need of salvation through faith in Jesus. Those who believe receive forgiveness and external life. Those who do not believe are lost to eternity in Hell.
- **WE BELIEVE** in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit who indwells believers in Christ and empowers them to live a godly life and testify of the Gospel with courage and confidence.
- **WE BELIEVE** in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, a unity that is displayed through many congregations that are members of one Body of Christ.
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- **WE BELIEVE** the local church is God's chosen way to equip believers in reaching the world with His love and truth.

### Worshipping at:

Ambassador Baptist Church  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

1412 Minnesota Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20020

[www.greatergracefamilyministries.org](http://www.greatergracefamilyministries.org)

### The New Heaven and Earth - Revelation 21

**1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God (Jesus) is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, **4** and He will wipe away every tear from

their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

## Positive Change

### *Positive Change*

"... let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is." Romans 12:2

Change can be frightening at times because it entails a breaking away from what is familiar in order to step into something new. That new thing may be a relocation to another state, joining a new club, meeting new friends, or trying a new hair style. Changes can also run the gamut from change for the better to change for the worse.

Think of how giving in to ungodly acts can change someone. Consider the person who steals from an employer, thus loses a job due to what their boss justly regards as a crime. Or what about the individual who gives in to lust by getting too close to a member of the opposite sex, then having an extra-marital affair which ends up destroying their marriage?

God does call us to change; to open our wings like a butterfly who has transformed from a caterpillar and broken free of his cocoon. God desires this beautiful transformation so that we can live up to our potential He calls us to be new creations who thirst for God's good and pleasing ways. Our Creator wants our desire to be to please Him, not man, because what society may deem as okay, is not always okay in God's eyes. Man may say it's acceptable to have a little fling as long as no one finds out, but God defines adultery as sin. So too does man often support a spirit of vengeance by wanting to return jab for jab and blow for blow, but God calls us to love one another and treat each other as we wish to be treated. While change can be disconcerting at times, there is no need to fear it where our Heavenly Father is concerned. He is our loving Dad who only wants what is best for us so that we may not only be approved in His sight, but live more joyously and peacefully. Take His hand and make a positive change today.

#### *He is Merciful*

"The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to get angry, full of unfailing love. The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation."  
*Psalms 145:8-9*

Many people solely see our Creator as a fire-and-brimstone God who is quick to anger, judge and condemn. While God does hold His children to a certain standard, as the above verse extols, He is a heavenly Father who understands man and his weaknesses even better than we know ourselves. As such, God knows our hearts, and whether our desire is to please Him and do good. Likewise, He also understands when we are hurting and in need of His grace, mercy and comfort during those times we must come to Him in repentance because we struggled or fell. Just as your earthly father or mother would not just stand there and watch when you fell down and hurt yourself, our Heavenly father is more loving and compassionate. He reaches His hand out to those who cry out to Him, and He is quick to forgive. We all have made mistakes in life. Only God is perfect.

If you are a person reading this who thinks that something you may have said or done is too much for God to forgive, know that He is ready and willing to welcome those who call upon Him in repentance into His family

*I pray that God will continue to bless you while you read, study and pray in your Christian walk with Him. Stay encourage, for your trials that you go through will only strengthen you and bring you closer to God.*

*God Bless You All!!*

### *Repairing the Bumper*

**Ephesians 5:26** "Christ gave up His life for the Church- to make it Holy and clean".

We decided to sell my car, but needed to do a few minor repairs before doing so. A few scratches on the rear bumper were unsightly, so I took it to the paint and body shop. The estimate of repair was within reason, and we agreed to a time for service. There were also 2 leather scratches to be repaired, and a general interior and exterior cleaning. Finally - all fixed up and ready to sell - in top-notch order! All of these things were done so that we would make the car most appealing in the selling market. The "spit and polish" routine would reap the benefits, we believed.

As God extends His hand of love to us - we can come to Him just as we are. No need to "fix up"- not even just a little! Our dents, scratches, dirt (interior and exterior), bad habits and questionable friends do not matter to Him. For when we accept His invitation to live with Christ in our heart, God sees us through the shed blood of Jesus. Every bit of us is clean - through and through. We must remember we do not need to wait to clean up anything in our life for this most wonderful experience to transpire. God will take care of all that for us! What a loving God He is!