



# Grace Hill Church

*The Mission of Grace Hill Is to Gather People to the Table of Christ, Who Is the Bread of Life, to Be Transformed by His Grace, Renewed in His Truth, and Sent on His Mission.*

It is surely deliberate that the work of the Twelve and the work of the Seven are alike called diakonia (v.1, 4), 'ministry' or 'service'. The former is 'the ministry of the word' (v.4) or pastoral work, the latter 'the ministry of tables' (v. 2) or social work. Neither ministry is superior to the other. On the contrary, both are Christian ministries, that is, ways of serving God and his people. Both require spiritual people, 'full of the Spirit', to exercise them. And both can be full-time Christian ministries. The only difference between them lies in the form the ministry takes, requiring different gifts and different callings. ~John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Acts: The Spirit, the Church & the World*

5.5 [The Diaconate] shall be responsible for the congregation's ministry to those in material need or distress and all such things as can be covered by the term "mercy ministry." The needs of those who are within the congregation shall be given first priority, and then those needs outside the congregation.

5.6 It shall also encourage practice of total stewardship among the members of the congregation, encouraging tithing in particular, a general spirit of liberality and hospitality towards their fellow saints as well as the world, and helping them to see that their possessions are a trust to keep before the Lord.

5.7 It shall plan, in collaboration with the Session, the causes toward which the offerings of the congregation shall be directed; devise effective methods for securing and receiving these offerings .... and see that all offerings are properly recorded and distributed.

5.8 It shall have the care of the general property of the congregation, both real and personal. In matters requiring extraordinary expenditure for acquisition, construction, or alteration of Church property, consent of the congregation is required. ~ARP Form of Government, 5.5-8

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ~1 Corinthians 12.4-7

August 29, 2021

## **Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song**

### **Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #33**

**Question:** Should those who have faith in Christ seek their salvation through their own works, or anywhere else?

**Answer:** No, they should not, as everything necessary to salvation is found in Christ. To seek salvation through good works is a denial that Christ is the only Redeemer and Savior.

## **Welcoming Each Other**

### **Giving Worship to God: Offering**

#### **Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7**

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup> And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, brothers pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." <sup>5</sup> And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup> These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

<sup>8</sup> And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen ... rose up and disputed with Stephen.

<sup>10</sup> But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. <sup>11</sup> Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." <sup>12</sup> And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, <sup>13</sup> and they set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, <sup>14</sup> for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us."

<sup>15</sup> And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

## **Understanding God's Word and Our Lives**

**Sermon:** *Spirit-Led, Wise Mercy and Stewardship*

Outline:

1. A Problem in the Local Church, v.1
2. A Solution: Additional Ministry, Mercy and Stewardship + the Word and Prayer, v. 1, 4
3. The Spiritual Qualifications: Full of Holy Spirit and Wise, v.3

## **Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin**

### **Public Prayer**

Lord, we know that Your Church is not perfect, but You are Flawless and Glorious and Your Word is good and true. The early church in Acts 6 got some things wrong and we get things wrong. Forgive us. But we look to You that You would lead us as You have always led Your Church—the Household of God, the Church of the Living God.

Father, enable each one of us to be filled much more with Your Holy Spirit. First, fill us with Your Spirit because You have drawn us to yourself—experiencing Your truth and love. But then also give us the gifts and wisdom of Your Spirit to serve and minister in the places You are putting us. Enliven us to see the spiritual reality of every situation, whether mercy, vocation, friendship. By Your grace, enable even the least expected to come to be obedient to the faith.

### **Private Reflection**

#### **The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ**

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

### **Responding to the Lord with Worship**

#### **Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction (“the good word”)**

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Heb. 13:20–21)

### **Core Questions:**

1. **How is the Holy Spirit whispering or shouting to you from this passage? What stands out for you?**
2. **How does the text intersect or engage your life?**
3. **Where do you find gospel conviction and gospel comfort in this passage? (Gospel = the specific act of Jesus taking your sin and sharing with you his victory.)**

---

### **Announcements:**

- **CORE Zoom Pin: 989209**
- **New Church Directory:** Mary Erickson has kindly organized a new church directory for us. This is a great resource for our church to make use of. Copies can be found on the entry table (they are bright orange). Please let her know about any updates. Please feel free to take one!
- **Women’s Bible Study:** Join the Grace Hill women’s Bible study this fall as they embark on a 9-week study on the Old Testament and how it relates to the Christian faith. The first meeting begins on September 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30, and will continue on every Wednesday from there. Please come and invite friends! For more information, contact cathyoodurham@gmail.com or kaylynfernandez@hotmail.com.
- **Renewed Covid Policy: Starts 8/12/21. Goal: robust, Christ-centered, gathered worship**
  - To continue our in-person worship and provide for the health of our community, masks are required at all indoor public gatherings starting Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- **Worship in Offering:** Three ways to worship the Lord with your tithes and offerings
  - Use your bank’s BillPay system to give to Grace Hill
  - Send a physical check
  - Use our mobile giving option (either as a guest or by setting up an account):
    - <https://faithlife.com/grace-hill-church/give> or text the word “Give” to 919 296 1330.



Grace Hill seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (John 1:14–18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a Presbyterian denomination with a rich history of living in Christ’s grace and truth. Our pastor is Ross Durham. He can be reached at [ross@gracehillnc.org](mailto:ross@gracehillnc.org) or by cell phone at 919.593.2169. Our Youth Director is Daniel Havener, [daniel@gracehillnc.org](mailto:daniel@gracehillnc.org). Our Worship Music Director is Kayli Havener, [kayli@gracehillnc.org](mailto:kayli@gracehillnc.org). Our Communications Coordinator is Kayli Havener, [kayli@gracehillnc.org](mailto:kayli@gracehillnc.org). Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 [www.gracehillnc.org](http://www.gracehillnc.org); Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: gracehillnc