

# *Falling In Love with God!*

*By Pastor Larry Rupp*

While our God desires us to love everyone, being in love with that one special person is different, it's special. When you are in love there is a single-minded devotion. You want to know everything about them. You want to talk to them all the time. You want to do everything for that person. Your heart skips a beat and there is passion!

God desires us to not only be in love with our spouse or that special someone, but he also desires us to be in love with Him. Many people will say they "love" God or "I love Jesus," but he wants more. He wants us to be passionately in love with Him. He wants our single-minded devotion. He wants us to know everything about Him like He knows everything about us. He wants to talk to us all the time. He wants to be a part of everything we do. He wants to be our number one priority! God's word tells us of His desire that we would be in love with Him: **"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength"** (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:30; Matt. 22:37-38; Luke 10:27). These verses mean that this love is more than a feeling, more than just doing, more than just intellect. It is an all encompassing "in love" passion and devotion.

It is my conviction that we all need to fall more "in love" with God. This may be a rekindling, a renewal, or falling in love for the first time. It is also my conviction that if all of us, at Grace Bible Church, would truly be in love with God, it would transform our church and community. Starting on March 28 (Palm Sunday) and going through May 8, we together as a church, will endeavor to fall more in love with our God. Every week we will encourage each other on this journey. Sunday morning messages will focus us on how to fall in love with Him. Our Wednesday night E.K.G. will be geared towards this focus and encouraging each other on this journey. There will also be daily devotions that will draw us to a deeper love relationship with God.

Please commit to joining us for this journey. Together we will walk together and I believe God will make this a very special Easter season for each of us and for Grace Bible Church.



**GRACE BIBLE CHURCH CONNECTION**

MARCH 2010

**Coming March 14**  
**In Concert *Higher Power!***

6:30pm

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this fun evening of music and fellowship followed by a time of refreshments with one another. See you there!

***Perfect Games Youth Trip Coming Up...***

All junior high and high school aged youth are invited to join us on Friday, March 12th here at the church for pizza at 6pm and then we'll carpool down to Perfect Games in Ames for a time of bowling, laser tag, arcade games, etc. If you are interested in going, please let Kevin know so that we can have an accurate headcount for food. Bring \$5 for dinner and then however much you'd like to spend at Perfect Games itself (recommend at least \$15 minimum, price list is available on Perfect Games' website). Feel free to invite you friends - we'd love to have them along with us!

***MOSAIC UPDATE***

IT'S BEEN A GREAT PAST FEW MONTHS WITH THE MOSAIC PROGRAM. JUST A FEW HIGHLIGHTS: WE HAVE HELPED GET THE GOSPEL OUT TO KIDS THROUGH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD; ALSO, WE HAVE COLLECTED BLANKETS FOR THE HOMELESS SHELTER HERE IN AMES, AND AS OF THIS WRITING, WE ARE CURRENTLY PREPARING TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF HAITI THROUGH TOUCHGLOBAL BY GETTING MUCH NEEDED BLANKETS INTO THEIR HANDS TO HELP WITH THE ONGOING RELIEF EFFORTS THAT ARE TAKING PLACE THERE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED, PLEASE LET ME KNOW - WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU AND WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO SEE YOU HAVE GREAT JOY BY SERVING THOSE PEOPLE WHOM GOD HAS ALLOWED US TO HAVE AN IMPACT WITH. -PASTOR KEVIN



### **Two books and a thought...**

*I recently had the chance to read the first chapter of a book called "Just Do Something" and the author, a young pastor named Kevin DeYoung, had this to say after describing typical 21-45 year-olds as "tinkerers..."*

*"Those who tinker know how to improvise, specialize, pull things apart, and pull people together from a thousand different places. But tinkering also means indecision, contradiction, and instability. We are seeing a generation of young people grow up (sort of) who tinker with doctrines, tinker with churches... and tinker with spiritual practices no matter how irreconcilable or divergent... We're not consistent. We're not stable. We don't stick with anything. We aren't sure we are making the right decisions. Most of the time, we can't even make decisions. And we don't follow through. All of this means that as Christian young people we are less fruitful and less faithful than we ought to be."*

*Harsh words to be sure, and yet as I read them I couldn't help but feel the ring of truth within them. It has become all too fashionable in the last decade or so to live in an extended period of adult-adolescence, as if somehow not having commitments or a direction in life or faith is the more spiritual way to live. My friends, this ought not be true of us, and yet as I reconnect with friends old and new, I see warning signs that we would do well to heed. In another book called "Christless Christianity," Michael Horton points out a saddening thought regarding the state of the American church today...*

*"What would things look like if Satan really took control of a city? Over a half century ago, Presbyterian minister Donald Grey Barnhouse offered his own scenario...he speculated that if Satan took over Philadelphia, all of the bars would be closed, pornography banished, and pristine streets would be filled with tidy pedestrians who smiled at each other. There would be no swearing. The children would say 'yes, sir' and 'no, ma'am,' and the churches would be full every Sunday...where Christ would not be preached. It is easy to become distracted from Christ as the only hope for sinners. Where everything is measured by our happiness rather than God's holiness, the sense of our being sinners becomes secondary, if not offensive. If we are good people who have lost our way but with proper instructions and motivation can become a better person, we need only a life coach, nor a redeemer."*

*The truth in those words scares me. Has the church become a place where we slap one another on the back and say "good job"? Do we engage in outreach because it makes us feel good rather than because it serves God by showing others who we follow? Do we thank God daily that He has saved us from the ravages of sin which - without the death of His Son - would separate us from God forever? We as brothers and sisters in Christ need to buckle up and get down to the hard and dirty work of being a people who seek after God first and foremost. This is a hard task in a culture that has fed us with a steady diet of "what's in it for me?" but it is a goal well worth pursuing because of the picture given to us of a God who is well-pleased with His faithful servants. My friends, let us be found to be a faithful people!*

*-Pastor Kevin*

**CHANGING LIVES  
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**

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*Service Times:*

*Sunday morning prayer: 8:30am*

*Sunday School : 9:00 a.m.*

*Church Service: 10:30 a.m.*

*E.K.G. - Wednesday 6:00pm*

*CONNECTING TO THE GILBERT AREA  
WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST*



## **Easter Season Worship at Grace Bible Church...**

Palm Sunday Seder Meal - March 28th at 9am

Good Friday Service - April 2nd at 7pm

Easter Day Breakfast - April 4th at 8am

### **Ministering to the Lord, His Church, and One Another**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>	<b>Treats</b>	<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>EKG</b>
03-07-10	Edith & Michelle	Tom W. & Cal	Edith	Lorntson's	Anita (3/3)
03-14-10	Heather & Holly B.	Marvin & Dick	Holck's	Dunshee's	Trent (3/10)
03-21-10	Karen & Rachael	Galen & Jill Moore	Baker's	K & M Miller	Annette (3/17)
03-28-10	Lindsey & Susan	Wade & Annette		Eubank's	Edith (3/24)

If you are unable to serve your date, please find a replacement to switch with or a substitute.

Thanks for serving - we appreciate you!