

January 12, 2022

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

As we started our series on the mission and values of Grace, we celebrated that “Truth Transforms” us from the inside out. While knowledge puffs up and leads to pride, God’s word transforms our inner-being and brings truth to our lives. When we are in spiritual darkness, God’s word sheds light on our circumstances. When we are experiencing self-deception, God’s word exposes our heart motivations. Unlike any other book, the Bible is living and active, speaking life into the heart of the believer.

In light of these truths, we encourage you to make 2022 special. Let this be the year where God’s word becomes a part of your daily life. As you eat food to nourish your body throughout the day, consume God’s word and let it give life to your soul. Reading God’s word is foundational. Any good counselor would say that relationships breakdown because of poor communication. Praying (talking) and reading God’s word (hearing) is a critical part of our relationship with Jesus. It’s what allows our faith to go the 18 inches from our head to our heart.

As you interact with God in your reading throughout 2022, invite God to reveal anything in you that is not right. Be like King David, who frequently asked God to reveal his sin. When God reveals your sin, read the word and replace the lies of an unbelieving heart with biblical truth. Like a gardener, we pray that you will faithfully work the soil of your heart so that your life can be deeply rooted in the Gospel. In that depth, we pray that there would be growth that would produce fruit. May this will not only nourish and encourage you, but also those that God has placed in your life!

Thanks for your commitment to pray for the Grace family and the greater church of Chico!

For the gospel,  
Pastor Bryan

## **GENERAL PRAYER REQUESTS**

### **Church**

- Pray for God to show you how to encourage your pastor(s).
- Pray that the church would treat each other with love, that our surrounding communities would know that we are disciples of Jesus.
- Pray for your pastor(s) and church leaders, that they would be moved and led by the Holy Spirit.

### **Health**

- Pray against COVID-19 and that it would stop mutating and creating new variants.
- Pray for healthcare workers, that they would be encouraged and filled with peace.

### **Government**

- Pray for your city staff: wisdom, understanding, and revelation from God on how to approach issues facing the city.
- Pray for county staff: wisdom, understanding, and revelation from God on how to approach issues facing Butte County.
- Pray that our elected officials would make decisions and laws based on Godly/Biblical principles.

## **Family**

- Pray for prodigals to come home.
- Pray for broken relationships to be restored (focus on relationships in your life and family).

## **Education**

- Pray for teachers as they navigate all the challenges during this time.
- Pray for students' ability to absorb information.
- Pray for parents as they navigate education these days, and guide their children.
- Pray for your school board and PTA that they would make decisions based on Godly/Biblical Principles.