

# Big Rocks, Part 1

Why Do We Do What We Do?

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025

## I. Rock #1 - Bible

We want to be driven by God's Word, not the culture, and certainly not any human personalities or church fads that come and go.

We want you to understand what the Bible says about money, marriage, gender, sexuality, parenting, work, suffering, security, identity, and every other aspect of life.

We want you to think Bible, breathe Bible, and live Bible. We want it to soak down into your life and to become a part of your DNA, because when you build your life not just around God's Word, but on God's Word – as the very foundation for your life – you do not fall apart even when the toughest storms hit.

**Luke 6:46-49** “‘Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? <sup>47</sup> I will show you what he is like who comes to Me and hears My words and puts them into practice. <sup>48</sup> He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. <sup>49</sup> But the one who hears My words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

Make sure you understand the distinction Jesus is making between a life built on the rock and a life built on sand, is not that you hear God's Word, but that you put it into practice. That's the key phrase that everything hinges on in that passage.

God has spoken to us through His Word and your life will be so much better the day you decide to start submitting to it and living by it!

## II. Rock #2 – Grace

The Bible uses the word “grace” 155x in the New Testament.

This amazing theme of grace runs all through the New Testament because it's by grace that God saves us and by grace He changes us to be more like His Son – Jesus.

The Bible is absolutely clear that salvation is a free gift that we cannot earn. You could never be good enough and you could never keep the Ten Commandments.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

According to the Bible, salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, plus nothing!

Religion is spelled “**D – O**,” because it's all about what you're trying to do to be good enough or to earn God's favor. Being a Christian is not about religion. It's about a relationship with Jesus that's spelled “**D – O – N – E**,” because it's focused on the finished work of Jesus who lived the only perfect life and then died the only perfect death to pay the final, all-sufficient payment for our sins!

This is what sets Christianity apart from every other religion, because every other religion basically gives you a list of what you need to do to try to be good enough. It's all about a system, while Christianity points you to a Savior!

Until you have a Savior, you don't have salvation!

We're also committed to the grace of God that is able to change you, because the Bible teaches that saving grace is a transforming grace. It's two sides of the same coin, so you don't get one without the other.

This "Grace Coin" has ***pardon*** on one side and ***power*** on the other!

**1 Corinthians 15:10** "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace towards me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

It's pardon and power! Freedom from the guilt of your past sins and power to say "No" to future sins that cry out to you!

**Titus 2:11-12** "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age..."

### III. Rock #3 – Prayer

It doesn't matter the money we have, the technology we have, or the facilities we have. We still have to pray as desperate people who recognize that apart from God we can do nothing of eternal value!

**John 15:5** "I am the vine; you are the branches... apart from Me you can do nothing."

Prayer is what connects the branch to the vine, so we still believe in the power of prayer now more than ever! But it's got to be coupled with a ministry and war-time mentality, instead of a "name-it-and-claim-it" mentality you see splashed all over Christian television.

**James 4:3** "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

Prayer was designed to be a war-time walkie-talkie for you to get back-up and cover as you charge the front lines, and rush the very gates of hell! In fact, until you're doing hard things for God, don't expect to see a lot of answers to prayer.

Is there anything you're doing with your life right now, that if the reality of God and the safety net of His sovereignty were not real, then you'd go crashing to the ground?

If not, then you're probably playing it too safe and you're not driven to pray because you're not even close to being outside of your comfort zone.

When you start listening to God and stepping out of your comfort zone, you'll pray!

### IV. Rock #4 – Missions

We're the Church of Jesus Christ who said, "I will build My Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." We keep pushing out into our culture, trying to engage people, and connect with people rather than waiting for them to come to us.

**2 Corinthians 2:14** "But thanks be to God who always leads us in His triumph in Christ Jesus and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Christ in every place."

For 29 years now, we've been sending people to other countries, even hard places that are filled with risk, because of what the Bible promised God has done and wants to do, for His glory!

See **Psalm 2** and **Revelation 7:9-10**.

Missions is closing the gap between those two chapters!