

## God and His Boundaries

By: Dan Jenkins

The sovereign nature of God makes the entire heavens and earth subject to Him. Paul alludes to this in his message to the Athenians. “He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings” ([Acts 17:26](#)). He is sovereign and He determines the boundary for all of His creation.

David speaks of this in relation to the seas. “You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they may not return to the earth” ([Psa. 104:9](#)). Before God separated the land from the sea in the creation, there was no boundary. In this psalm, David evidently speaks of the flood when again there was no boundary. God is sovereign, for He has promised that never again would there be a universal flood. Our sovereign God determines boundaries.

Before the Jews entered the Promised Land, Moses talked of the boundaries of that land. Four chapters of the book of Joshua are devoted to describing the boundary God had determined for each of the tribes. They were marked clearly and God said, “Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set” ([Prov. 22:28](#)). Our sovereign God determines the boundaries, and they are immovable.

God has set a boundary around Satan in the

book of Job. Satan complained about the hedge God had placed around Job. He could not go beyond that boundary. There is a New Testament hedge around Christians. “God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape” ([1 Cor. 10:13](#)). Our sovereign God determines the boundary.

There is a boundary around the teachings of the Bible set by God Himself. The entire basis of denominationalism has ignored this boundary. In the first century, every church was the same as every other church, for God commanded them to all “...speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgment” ([1 Cor. 1:10](#)). There are over 20,000 different denominations in our land because men have failed to let God be sovereign in their religious lives. Our God has set the boundary of our religious lives, and we cannot add or remove anything He has said.

It is God who determines who is a citizen in His kingdom. The boundary is not a prayer written by some man called the sinner’s prayer. Jesus said that one cannot see or enter the kingdom without a new birth. He describes this birth as involving both water and Spirit ([John 3:3-5](#)). Our sovereign God has set the boundary. Are you listening to Him?

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# Spiritual Growth: Add Moral Courage

By: Selected

Faith is the foundation of the Christian life—but faith alone is not enough. Peter instructs believers to “add to your faith virtue” ([2 Pet. 1:5](#)). This word “virtue” carries the idea of moral excellence, strength of character and the courage to do what is right. If faith is our conviction in God, then moral courage is the determination to act on that conviction.

The word for “virtue” refers to excellence—something that stands out as worthy and admirable. Essentially, it is a settled resolve to do what is right in the sight of God, regardless of the cost or consequence. It is not merely knowing what is right, but choosing to pursue it with strength and consistency.

This quality must be added to faith because faith without action quickly becomes weak and ineffective. James affirms that “faith without works is dead” ([Jas. 2:26](#)). When faith is joined with moral courage, it becomes active and visible. A person who is determined to do what is right will naturally begin to live out their faith in daily life.

Moral courage is essential for spiritual growth. Peter emphasizes diligence—earnest effort—in developing Christ-like character ([2 Pet. 1:5, 10](#)). We cannot grow spiritually while remaining comfortable with mediocrity. We must pursue holiness ([Heb. 12:14](#)) and completeness in Christ ([Matt. 5:48](#)).

Following Christ demands this kind of courage. Jesus calls His disciples to live differently from the world—to love enemies ([Matt. 5:44](#)), resist temptation ([Jas. 4:7](#)) and remain faithful under pressure ([Rev. 2:10](#)). That kind of life cannot be lived without a strong determination to do what is right.

So how do we develop moral courage? It begins with the Word of God. Scripture is designed to equip us for every good work ([2](#)

[Tim. 3:16-17](#)). As we read, study and meditate on God’s Word, our understanding of what is right becomes clearer, and our resolve to pursue it becomes stronger. Like the blessed man in Psalm 1, we grow into spiritually strong and fruitful people when we delight in God’s law and meditate on it regularly.

Moral courage also develops through our mindset. The apostle Paul provides a powerful example in [Philippians 3:12-14](#), where he explains how he refused to be satisfied with where he was spiritually. He forgot past failures and successes, pressed forward with purpose and kept his focus on the eternal prize. That same mindset—i.e., never settling but always striving—builds moral strength.

Finally, moral courage is demonstrated in both private and public life. It will show in our personal devotional time with God and in our visible service among others. When we are committed to doing what is right (consistently and without compromise), our progress will be evident ([1 Tim. 4:15](#)).



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## Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 31: There will be a graduation fellowship after evening service for the graduating seniors. Please bring finger foods. There will be a cake and graduation boxes for cards and well wishes for each senior: Luke FitzSimmons, Kanin Jacobs, Jack Jobs, and Summer Siegel.

Sunday, June 7: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning services. There will be a 12:45pm afternoon service as well. Please bring a dish/dessert to share.

Area events:

\*Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.\*

## Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Rieke Bass who will be scheduling surgery to remove cancer soon.

## Service Roster

Week of May 17, 2026

### Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Caleb Lehtinen  
Song Leader..... Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer.....James Cammock  
Closing Prayer..... Lupe Escojido

### Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread.....Kirk FitzSimmons  
Cup.....Jack Jobs  
Offering..... Jake Jacobs  
Assist.....Kanin Jacobs  
Assist..... Willie Fossati  
Assist..... Ferman Rosales

### Sunday Evening

Song Leader.....Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Jake Jacobs  
Closing Prayer..... Desmon Flonnory

Lord's Supper & Offering.....Steve Randle/  
Clifton Rutherford

### Wednesday Evening

Adult Class.....Cody McCoy  
Song Leader.....Kirk FitzSimmons  
Devotional..... Cody McCoy

### Other

Prepare Communion .....Connie & Sandy

## Congregational News This Week

### Birthdays

Summer Siegel.....May 21  
Doug Jobs.....May 23

### Anniversaries

Cody & Katy McCoy.....May 19

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email [office.midtownchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.midtownchurch@gmail.com)

## Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons  
Ron White

## Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism  
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence  
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men’s Encouragement &  
Winter Youth Retreat  
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and  
Communication  
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

## Our Minister

Cody McCoy

## Weekly Reading

He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the  
companion of fools will be destroyed.  
Proverbs 13:20

## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

## Attendance Records

Week of May 10, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....67  
A.M. Worship.....145  
P.M. Worship.....55  
Wednesday Worship.....64

*Financial information is located on the bulletin  
board in the hallway.*

## Supported Works

*Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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