

## Come and See, He Is Not Here

By: Dan Jenkins

“He is not here” were the words spoken to the women by the heavenly messenger outside the tomb of Jesus. The truth behind these words is the focal point of the eternal plan of God to save the world. If there is no empty tomb, there is no redemption, no salvation and the gates of heaven are closed to us forever and ever.

I vividly remember these words when they were spoken at the Holy Land Experience Theme Park in Orlando just a few years ago. While that park closed its doors during Covid and has since been demolished, the force of these Biblical words still impacts my soul.

They were spoken at the reenactment of the events surrounding Jesus’ death. He walked toward Golgotha carrying His cross and was lifted up on the cross. At the park, his tomb was below the cross. As the story developed, the time frame shifted to early Sunday morning and the arrival of the empty sepulture. As the program ended, the narrator pointed toward the tomb and invited the audience to come and look inside. As I entered the tomb, it was as I knew it would be, but the force of the words I had heard really impacted me. “Come and see, He is not here.” Profound truth in four words—He is not here!

I do not know if Annas and Caiaphas ever passed by that tomb, but they knew the truth. They had lied about Him and given Him a mockery of a trial, but the truth remained—He

is not here. I do not know if those soldiers who were paid to accuse the apostles as being grave robbers ever went by that tomb and knew what they had discovered—He is not here. I do not know how many in that mob who cried out for Him to be crucified ever passed the tomb, but the truth remains—He is not here.

If He were still in the tomb, then death is more powerful than God! There is no salvation and there is no resurrection. There is no hope and life is just a miserable journey ending in annihilation. Life is meaningless, and the Epicureans were right when they said, “Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we shall die.” Satisfy every fleshly desire, have no compassion on others and live your own life to the fullest. There is no tomorrow. You are an animal, and there is no God.

“He is not here” changes all of this self-centered philosophy of many Americans today. God is. God is love. God is deeply concerned about us. He is always with us and will never forsake us. He loves us so much He gave His only Son to remove the consequences of sin. He loves us so much he opens the gates of heaven and eternal joy and happiness await is. How can we know this? The answer is, “He is not here.”

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# Spiritual Growth: Add to Your Faith

By: Selected

Spiritual growth is not optional for the Christian—it is commanded. Peter wrote, “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:18). In fact, he goes further and urges believers to give “all diligence” to their growth (2 Pet. 1:5, 10). Growth does not happen accidentally. It requires intentional effort to become more like Christ.

In 2 Peter 1:5-7, God provides a clear pattern for that growth. He lists eight Christ-like qualities that must be developed together, with each quality being “added” to the previous one. “Added” means to supply or furnish—like equipping a choir so every part works together in harmony. These qualities are not isolated traits—they build upon and strengthen one another. Therefore, we cannot pick and choose which ones to develop. All are essential.

At the foundation of this entire process is faith. Biblical faith is far more than mere belief. It involves three essential elements: conviction, trust and obedience. Hebrews 11:1 describes faith as “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Faith is not a blind leap in the dark—it is a confident assurance based on the evidence God has provided. It is being fully convinced that what God has promised, He is “able to perform” (Rom. 4:21).

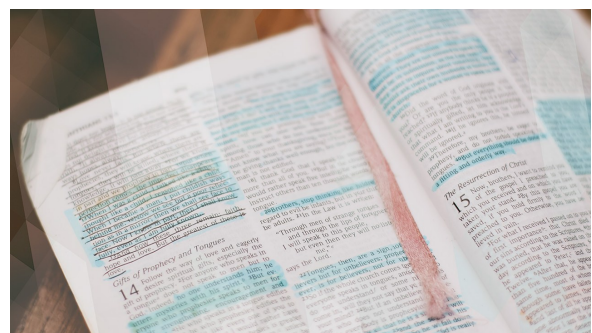
But faith does not stop with conviction. True faith surrenders to God and expresses itself through obedience. The examples in Hebrews 11 make this clear, where the “faith” of every Old Testament faithful was not idle but it acted. That is why Scripture teaches that “faith without works is dead” (Jas. 2:26). Genuine faith always produces a changed life.

Faith is also essential because it is the foundation of our relationship with God. “Without faith it is impossible to please Him” (Heb. 11:6). It is through faith that we come to God, trust His promises and commit our lives to His will. It is the motivating force behind everything we do as Christians.

So how do we grow in faith? Faith comes from God’s Word (Rom. 10:17). The more we read, study and meditate on Scripture, the stronger our faith becomes. At the same time, we must guard our faith—avoiding unbelief, resisting worldly distractions and actively living out what we believe. Faith is strengthened not only by learning the truth but by practicing it.

Finally, faith must be demonstrated. It is seen in obedience to the gospel and in a life that trusts Christ daily—trusting His commands, His promises and His purposes.

If we will diligently build upon this foundation of faith, we will become fruitful, steadfast and secure in our walk with God. Everything begins with faith and adding to faith.



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## Upcoming Events

Tonight: Monthly Youth devotional after evening services here at the building hosted by the Rosenbrocks. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Sunday, May 31: There will be a graduation fellowship after evening service for the graduating seniors. There will be a cake and graduation boxes for cards and well wishes for each senior: Luke FitzSimmons, Kanin Jacobs, Jack Jobes, 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 10, 2026

### Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Blake Jacobs  
Song Leader..... Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons  
Closing Prayer..... Jake Jacobs

### Lord's Supper & Offering

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

### Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Randy D'Herde

Opening Prayer..... Randy D'Herde  
Closing Prayer..... Bryce Dolan

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

### Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Cody McCoy  
Song Leader..... Jack Jobes  
Devotional..... Ron White

### Other

Prepare Communion..... Connie & Sandy

## Congregational News This Week

### Birthdays

Luke FitzSimmons..... May 10  
Kidron Lehtinen..... May 10  
Randy D'Herde..... May 11  
Tre Cannady..... May 11

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

Then Peter said to them, “Repent and let every  
one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus  
Christ for the remission of sins;  
Acts 2:38

## 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 3, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....77  
A.M. Worship.....106  
P.M. Worship.....73  
Wednesday Worship.....66

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

## Supported Works

*Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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