Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2026.11.22

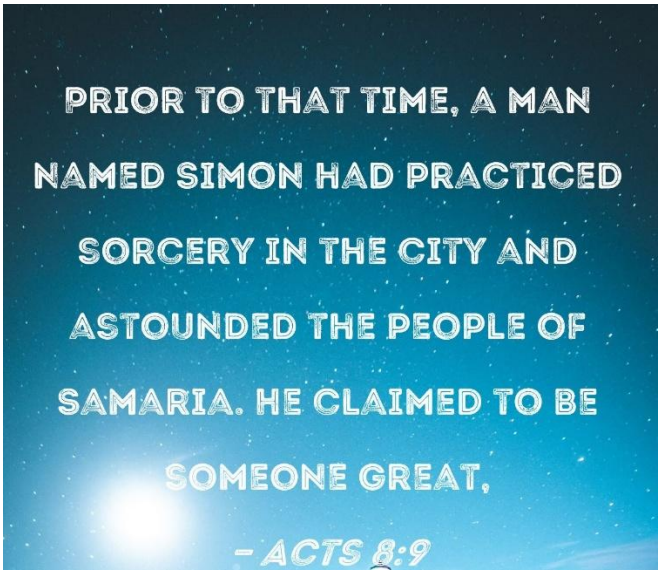
Website: oakgrovecofc.org
Facebook: facebook.com/oakgrovecofc

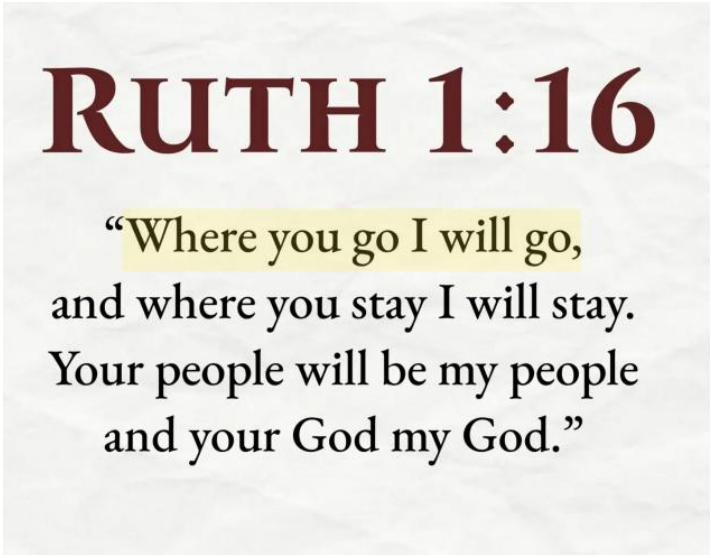
Sermon recordings

Scan the QR code below with your phone's cam, or visit oakgrovecofc.org/sermons.

Speaker-AM: Josh Vinyard
Title: Sorcery
Recording:

Speaker-PM: Donovan Bale
Title: Ruth
Recording:





Article

John's Testimony, 11/23/2026 by Hugh DeLong

By the time of this writing, John has been telling this story for around 50 years. I am sure that each retelling stirred his heart and mind again, bringing back such grand memories of being there live with Jesus. Hence, he records what he heard, saw, observed, and touched.

Heard
Can you picture what it was like to sit at the very feet of Jesus as he taught? He was 'the teacher' (seven times in John's gospel). He taught in all the synagogues (John 6:59; 8:20; 18:20) and even daily in the temple (Luke 19:47). His teaching stirred the people, for "he taught with authority and not like the scribes and Pharisees." He forced people to look into their own hearts, putting forth parables that required them to answer life's questions. He even challenged John and the other apostles.

Saw
Sights that no one had ever seen before! Stopping a funeral procession to raise the dead? Watching as Lazarus comes walking out of his tomb? Watching demons leave at Jesus' command? Watching the great storm on the Sea of Galilee suddenly stop at Jesus' command? Watch as he arose and ascended back into heaven as they stood there.

Looked At
Louw Nida said concerning this Greek word: "θεωρέωa; θεάομαια: to observe something with continuity and attention, often with the implication that what is observed is something unusual—'to observe, to be a spectator of, to look at.'" They didn't just 'see it'; they observed it; they gave it attention; they looked intently and contemplatively. These things were not just 'glimpses' of shadows and figures.

Touched
We don't read much about this, but it implies the fact that Jesus 'became flesh'. He got tired, he walked, he touched others. They ate with him. Jesus was not a 'phantom' or just and 'appearance'. Of course, there was then the episode of Thomas and the very offer to put his hands into the very wound of Jesus. Such was not just their imagination nor just a shared 'vision'. It was real. Jesus was real! It was the very Word of life, the life which was 'manifested'. Jesus is life. Not only physical life (as he proved by raising others from the dead and himself rising from the dead to ascend into heaven), but spiritual life. This is eternal life that you might know God, and Jesus explained and showed and manifested God to them. In HIS words they found the true meaning of life.

Thus
"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:1-4). This is what John proclaimed. In this we have the words of life. We are introduced into the grace of God. We are offered forgiveness, redemption, and eternal life. We can have fellowship with not only the apostles, but with 'the Father and with His son Jesus Christ'. Only here can one's joy be complete!

Come what may, we live with God! Are you in fellowship with God?