

HOW TO REGAIN GOD'S FAVOR

Exodus 15:26

“And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.”

When believers live with unconfessed sin in our lives, we lose favor with God. Having favor with people can be good, but having favor with God is more than good because this is life at its best. **Praise God that we can regain His favor if we listen carefully to His voice, do what is right in His sight, be attentive to His commands, and keep all His statutes.** In the case of the Israelites, God promised not to afflict them with the diseases that He brought upon the Egyptians. Moreover, when we have God's favor, we can experience His healing power because God said: “I am the Lord that heals you.”

My beloved, we need to regain God's favor, and we learn about one of the ways to do this in Exodus 15:26. Although many are experiencing illness due to Covid 19, **people can live without dying by regaining God's favor** who said: “I am the Lord that healeth thee.”

WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

Because of how rapidly Covid was spreading in recent weeks, for the safety of everyone, we did not have in-person worship for the last three Sundays. If God is willing, **we will resume our in-person Worship Celebrations** (9:00 a.m. at the North Campus and 11:00 a.m. at the South Campus) **on the impending 1st Sunday, February 6, 2022**. Nonetheless, on this coming 5th Sunday, January 30, 2022, we will worship, virtually and online; consequently, I encourage everyone to view our worship via YouTube on Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. or thereafter.

UNPLUGGED SUNDAY

Unplugged Sunday was eventful and successful. **We thank God for our guest preacher and everyone (especially our young people) whom God used to make it so awesome.** As envisioned, so far over 2,100 people have viewed this Worship Celebration via YouTube which is the result of creative advertisements (mainly targeting young people) and the result of many of us inspiring others to view it. As promised, I do not believe anyone was disappointed.

In addition to the Worship Celebration, enough cannot be said about CHRISTalk. We often hear people chat about various subjects, but how often do we view and hear Christian young men talk about the Lord and His church? I believe that CHRISTalk is the beginning of something great for the Body of Christ and St. John, in particular, so let us do all that we can to promote it. **I encourage everyone to motivate at least 10 people to view and hear CHRISTalk via YouTube** (which people can also connect with through our website at sjmbc.org).

TITHING ENABLES BELIEVERS TO EXPERIENCE A HARVEST

We learn in the Bible that tithing is an important part of faith for those who follow God and that tithing (10 % of our gross income/increase) should be money we set aside before paying anything else. **We have observed that Jesus endorsed tithing and that tithing began before the Mosaic law**. Actually, tithing began about 1000 years before the law and before Israel was an established nation.

God promised to open the windows of heaven and bless believers so abundantly that we will not have the resources to contain all of our blessings. To prevent our foe (the devourer) from intercepting our blessings, God also promised to destroy the devourer. Malachi 3:11 reads: “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.” The word “devourer” in Hebrew means “seed eater.” Note, a harvest cannot occur if the seed is eaten. **Tithing makes the ground fertile for the seed which God promises to protect from the devourer whom God will destroy**. In short, tithing enables believers to experience a harvest—abundant blessings!

Let us be faithful with our Tithes and Offerings unto the Lord, and I encourage those of you who are not doing so to experience abundant blessings in your lives by presenting faithfully your Tithes and Offerings unto the Lord. **We currently give in person during Sunday Morning Worship Celebrations, by mailing or dropping off our Tithes and Offerings at our Administration Building or South Campus, or by giving online through our website (sjmbc.org).**

OUR DAILY BREAD

Thursday, January 27, 2022: Exodus 13-15; Matthew 19:1-15

Friday, January 28, 2022: Exodus 16-18; Matthew 19:16-30

Saturday, January 29, 2022: Exodus 19-21; Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday, January 30, 2022: Exodus 22-24; Matthew 20:17-34
Monday, January 31, 2022: Exodus 25-26; Matthew 21:1-22
Tuesday, February 1, 2022: Exodus 27-28; Matthew 21:23-46
Wednesday, February 2, 2022: Exodus 29-30; Matthew 22:1-22
Thursday, February 3, 2022: Exodus 31-33; Matthew 22:23-46
Friday, February 4, 2022: Exodus 34-36; Matthew 23:1-22
Saturday, February 5, 2022: Exodus 37-38; Matthew 23:23-39

MEMORANDUM

Building Fund Pledges: We still desire to construct a multimillion-dollar **Family Life Center**, adjacent to our current sanctuary at the North Campus, which will consist of a gymnasium, game room (for the youth), and weight room. Many of us made a pledge that we fulfilled, but some have not. I personally thank those of us who have already fulfilled our pledge and others who have made “Building Fund” contributions. I encourage everyone (if you have not already done so) to participate financially as soon as possible in this building project by choosing one of the following tiers:

- 1) \$10,000.00 or more
- 2) \$5,000.00 to \$9,999.00
- 3) \$1,000.00 to \$4,999.00
- 4) \$500.00 to \$999.00
- 5) Below \$500.00

Weekly Activities: I strongly encourage everyone to participate in the **St. John activities that benefit you**. In regards to each of the following activities, visit our website at sjmbc.org if you need more information. What’s forthcoming?

Sundays:

- **Virtual Worship Celebration** at 11:00 a.m. or thereafter
- **Online Church School** at 2:00 p.m.
- **Online J.A.M. (Children Fellowships)** 2nd and 4th Sundays at 4:00 p.m.
- **Online Lord’s Supper** 1st Sundays at 7:00 p.m. To participate, each believer will need bread or a cracker and grape juice (or something similar).

Mondays:

- Preparation For Grocery Giveaway at 10:00 a.m. (South Campus)
- Online Women Missionary Ministry (General Mission) 4th Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesdays:

- Grocery Giveaway (North Campus and South Campus) at 12:00 p.m.
- Online Church Leadership Council Tuesdays before 3rd Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays:

- Online Prayer at 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- Online Church School at 7:00 p.m.

BIBLICAL RECAPITULATION

Praise God that one of the ways we can regain God's favor is by applying Exodus 15:26. Also, understand that tithing enables believers to experience a harvest—abundant blessings.

May God bless and sustain each of us.

Your Servant In Christ,

Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor