

GOD'S COMFORT FOR US AND THROUGH US

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”

Paul informed the Corinthians that God is to be praised, for He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. **God comforts believers when we experience tribulation (affliction or trouble), and He expects us to comfort others who experience trouble with the same comfort we receive from Him.** In short, God's comfort is available for us and for others through us.

Because we live in a world full of tribulation, affliction, and trouble, **we need comfort in order to survive.** Praise God that He comforts us when we entreat Him in these unprecedented and tempestuous times, and the comfort we receive from God is the same comfort we must share with others who are in trouble.

WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

After not being able to worship together corporately for four consecutive Sundays, if God is willing, **we will resume on this coming 1st Sunday, February 6, 2022, our in-person Worship Celebrations (9:00 a.m. at the North Campus and 11:00 a.m. at the South Campus).** **Everyone (especially people who are elderly and physically disabled) is encouraged to arrive at least 10 minutes beforehand to be seated safely and comfortably.** Temperatures are checked, hand sanitizing is urged, social distancing is applied regarding where people shall sit and walk, wearing a mask is mandatory, utilization of restrooms is restricted to 2-4 people at a time (depending on the size of the restroom), and congregating before and after Services is prohibited. **If you have any Covid symptoms (such as cold or flu) or if you have not completed at least 5 days of quarantine after testing positive,** please view and participate in our online worship via YouTube rather than in-person worship along with many others who choose to worship with us through live streaming.

TITHING EMPOWERS GOD'S CHURCH TO MINISTER EFFECTIVELY

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. We also learned last week that tithing enables believers to experience a harvest (abundant blessings). Today, we emphasize that tithing empowers God's church to minister effectively.

At St. John, we are blessed financially because many of us faithfully give Tithes and Offerings. Consequently, we do not have to depend on auxiliary annual day assessments, selling meals and deserts (chicken, fish, cake, etc.), or “raising money” to finance our church. We have successfully completed two major multimillion-dollar building projects without having to receive a bank loan because many of us faithfully give Tithes and Offerings. We are able to feed the poor, assist others in need, compensate all of our employees adequately, maintain all of our facilities (South Campus, North Campus, Administration Building, and Rental Property) and vehicles, and pay all of our bills promptly because many of us faithfully give Tithes and Offerings. In a nutshell, tithing empowers us to minister effectively.

As your Pastor, I personally thank many of us who gave in 2021 (especially the last quarter when I made special appeals) because we did reach our minimum quota which prevented us from experiencing the lowest annual income amid my pastoral leadership. To God be the glory!

Let us continue to give faithfully 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 giving 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, February 3: Exodus 31-33; Matthew 22:23-46
Friday, February 4: Exodus 34-36; Matthew 23:1-22
Saturday, February 5: Exodus 37-38; Matthew 23:23-39
Sunday, February 6: Exodus 39-40; Matthew 24:1-22
Monday, February 7: Leviticus 1-3; Matthew 24:23-51
Tuesday, February 8: Leviticus 4-6; Matthew 25:1-30
Wednesday, February 9: Leviticus 7-9; Matthew 25:31-46
Thursday, February 10: Leviticus 10-12; Matthew 26:1-19
Friday, February 11: Leviticus 13; Matthew 26:20-54
Saturday, February 12: Leviticus 14; Matthew 26:55-75

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:

- **Worship Celebrations** at 9:00 a.m. (North Campus) and 11:00 a.m. (South Campus)
- **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

God comforts us when we experience tribulation (affliction or trouble), and He expects us to comfort others who experience trouble with the same comfort we receive from Him (2 Cor. 1:3-4). Also, understand that tithing empowers God's church to minister effectively.

May God bless and sustain each of us.

Your Servant In Christ,

Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor