

- **TWO OF THE MANY BENEFITS OF BEING A BELIEVER**

*“For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee” (Isaiah 41:13).*

In Isaiah 41:13, God encouraged the Israelites to live without fear because God promised to hold their right hand and to help them. What God told and promised the Israelites applies to believers today. **God does not want us to live having fear of anyone or anything, for God will hold our hand and help us** (if we allow Him) which are two of the many benefits of being a believer.

### **WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS**

After not being able to worship together corporately for four consecutive Sundays in the month of January, **many of us were so elated to have the opportunity to worship together in person last Sunday.** Our Word Ministry and Music Ministry are two major highlights of our Worship Celebrations; nonetheless, we must commend our Ushers Ministry, Hospitality Ministry, and Security Ministry (along with other Ministries) for the great job they do every Sunday to ensure our safety and security.

**Our two in-person Worship Celebrations are on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (the North Campus) and 11:00 a.m. (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.

### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Black History is a significant part of American History which means that it is also a significant part of World History. We appreciate our country for designating February as Black History Month, but without sounding ungrateful, every month of

the year could be recognized as Black History Month because Black people contributed (and still do contribute) so much to our country's success. **All of us have a responsibility to teach our children, (and to teach others) the facts about Black History** which will help them to appreciate being Black (if they are African Americans) and appreciate Black people.

## **TITHING IS A STEP OF FAITH**

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 have also learned that tithing enables believers to experience a harvest (abundant blessings). Last week, we were informed that tithing empowers God's church to minister effectively.

Today, we need to recognize that tithing is a step of faith. **Malachi 3:10** reads: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." **When God said "prove me now," He was telling believers to test or try Him today!** Tithe word "prove" derives from the Hebrew word "**bāḥan**" which also means to test or try. **God is saying to believers today to try Him or put Him to test by tithing. Consequently, He promised to bless us abundantly by opening for us the windows of heaven and pouring out a blessing "that there shall not be room enough to receive it."**

Many profess to have faith in God in various ways, but they fail to have faith in God regarding their finances. For numerous reasons, they do not tithe! **My beloved, we must have faith in God in every way otherwise what we define as faith does not measure up to what God defines as faith.** If we have faith that God can bless, save, deliver, or heal us, we should have faith that God will bless us with far more than the tithe we give to Him. Personally, I am a witness to how God will bless believers abundantly who faithfully and correctly tithe. God has blessed me in unspeakable ways mainly because I have been a faithful tither for many years. **Tithing is a step of faith that has great dividends; therefore, I encourage all believers to step out on faith by tithing faithfully according to God's word.**

At St. John, **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](http://sjmbc.org)). Let's demonstrate our faith with our Tithes and Offerings.

## OUR DAILY BREAD

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  
Sunday, February 13: Leviticus 15-17; Matthew 27:1-31  
Monday, February 14: Leviticus 18-19; Matthew 27:32-66  
Tuesday, February 15: Leviticus 20-21; Matthew 28  
Wednesday, February 16: Leviticus 22-23; Mark 1:1-22  
Thursday, February 17: Leviticus 24-25; Mark 1:23-45  
Friday, February 18: Leviticus 26-27; Mark 2  
Saturday, February 19: Numbers 1-2; Mark 3:1-21

## 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](http://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)** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 4:00 p.m.
- **Online Lord's Supper** 1<sup>st</sup> 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)** 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

In Isaiah 41:13, we learn that **God does not want us to live in fear because He is holding our hand and helping us** (when we seek Him for help). Also, we learn in Malachi 3:10 that **tithing is a step of faith**.

May God bless and sustain each of us.

Your Servant In Christ,

Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor