

## Sovereign Grace Missionary Baptist Church

*"Where the Truths Of God's Word Have Been Taught For Sixty-One Years" Since October 21, 1961*

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### ***Please Join Us As We Pray For:***

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Daughter Shannon, and Brother Philip Thornsberry, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Buckie Thompson, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Tyrell Loyd, Ted O'Bonion, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Tyler Castle, Danny Mollette, cousin Kayla, Lee & Mary Mollette, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ronnie Henderson Jr. & Children, Ricky Henderson and Family, Velma Hammond, Don Hammond and Families, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Nathan Fails, Jacob Ramsey, Jerry Hughes, Gina and Kirk, Brother Kelley and Sister Hinson, Patricia Hinson, Jim and Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Vickie Adkins, Shirly King - Son David - and family, Elder Robert and Sister Jennifer Keller, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Roselyn Pardillo and Family and those that work with her, Hailey Beaver, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Dakota Sutton, Sister Velma Hammond, Adrienne Lavina, Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan the work in Thailand, Elder Raul and the work in Romania.

### ***Thoughts from our Pastor:***

#### **God is our Creator.**

Psalms 69:5 *"O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee."*

As created creatures we are at the mercy of our Creator. The thing created can never make demands of the one creating it. God asked this question, *"Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?"* Romans 9:21 Does the vessel maker do as He pleases with the clay? Then, God went on to ask another question, *"And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?"* Romans 9:23 - 24 Then the Lord compared this vessel making to people, therefore, it must be concluded that the "Vessels" that the Lord was talking about were people because He said Jews and Gentiles meaning they were the people in this world. God was asking doesn't He as Creator have the right to make His created vessels as He chooses? He can make one unto honor and another unto dishonor if He chooses, as He chooses. God can create one vessel to be Abraham and another to be Satan if He chooses. People, and sometimes Christians believe that God somehow owes them something, some believe God should make them happy in life and let no bad come to them. So, let me ask a question, what exactly does God owe us? If God was to give people what they deserve they would all have been created vessels of dishonor, because we were all born in dishonor. The Psalmist wrote, *"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."* Psalms 51:5 This is true of every single soul ever born apart from Jesus the Son of God. When God said He created some vessels of honor He meant He would make them vessels of honor by His mercy and grace. Please understand, God created two souls, Adam and Eve, every other soul was born in sin. God created Adam and Eve as "upright" souls, they became sinful when they disobeyed God. There is no question that God hates sin, but God also hates the workers of sin or sinners. *"The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity."* Psalms 5:5 Therefore, let us understand that God is not obligated to love no one, He did not have to create any vessels of honor at all. Anything God does for mankind is strictly by mercy and grace. So, those vessels that God elected to make vessels of honor are made or created by God's gracious hands, so to speak. Listen to God when not only did He save us by grace and not of works, but He also said, *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works,*

*which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”* Ephesians 2:10 This is His creating us His vessels of honor. While we were born sinners, God by His “*workmanship, creation*” made us what He wanted us to be in life before the creation of the world. Therefore, the Apostle Paul wrote these words, “*by the grace of God I am what I am*” 1 Cor. 15:10 We must understand that everything God gives is a gift of grace, not a merit payment. We are sinners, even if God makes us vessels of honor, we are still sinners. We must be honest with God and ask His forgiveness of our sins because He knows them. He knows our foolishness, and our sins are open to Him, but through grace He forgives our sins and our foolishness. God doesn’t have to forgive us; He chooses too because He is a merciful and gracious Creator. The Psalmist pleaded with the Lord in, Psalms 51:9 - 12 “*Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*” He knows God did not owe him anything, he was asking God for grace. God knows our foolishness; He sees everything and knows even our thoughts. But He chooses to forgive us. So, no matter where the Lord leads us it is what the Potter has ordained for us, let us all walk in that ordained path thanking God, He chose it for us, no matter what road the path is. God knows what our needs are, and He will supply those needs, making demands of God will only get you a no answer for your requested demands. Let us remember in hard and needful times as the Psalmist did, “*Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me.*” Psalms 116:5 – 6

### ***THE FETTERS OF UNBELIEF***

by Susannah Spurgeon

"Why couldn't we cast it out? Jesus said unto them: Because of your unbelief!"  
Matthew 17:19, 20

Dear Lord, behold another poor failing disciple comes to You, this morning, with the same pitiful question! I have tried to live for You, and work for You — with honest purpose endeavoring to bless others in Your Name, yet, how signal, oftentimes, have been my failures!

Lord, why could I not *overcome the sin* which so easily beset me? Why could I not *check the sharp word* on my tongue, and *subdue the fierce risings of anger* in my heart? Why can I not always walk so near to You, that my whole life may be under Your sweet control, and every thought, and deed, and word — be sanctified by Your consent and approval? Why have I not the power to influence and draw others to Your dear feet, that they may find in You, as I have done, "a very present help in trouble?" Lord, I know Your answer to me will be the same as that to Your first disciples. Sadly and sorrowfully You say, "Because of your unbelief?"

What a humbling revelation these words convey! My soul, 'tis but a little while, since you rang the *joy-bells of faith* triumphantly! Has your right hand already lost its cunning? Has the wicked unbelief, still lingering within you, stopped the glorious music your faith was making? Satan has taunted you with your unworthiness. But do you think *your demerit* could stay the hand from blessing — which gave "His only-begotten Son" — or overturn the covenant of grace of which He was made "Surety" in the days of old? Lord, it is too true that my faith is often bound by the *fetters of unbelief*, and her wings are clipped, so that she can only painfully attempt to fly Heavenward. I know this is the secret cause of many an unanswered prayer, many a failure in service and in holy living.

Now I bring myself to You, with every whit as much need of spiritual healing as the poor lunatic boy had of deliverance from demoniac possession. Cast out every evil thing, Lord — and manifest in me "what is the exceeding greatness of Your power to us who believe." You are the Author and Giver of faith, endue me plenteously with this living grace, banish all doubt and mistrust from my heart — that faith may be always rejoicing, always conquering, always bringing glory to You! "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"