

Sovereign Grace Missionary Baptist Church

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

1217 Dillon Texarkana, Texas 75501

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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:

Saints of God and Sin.

"We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." 1 John 5:18

When God saves a sinner, they are "translated" from Satan's power to the Power of Jesus Christ. This is called being birthed or being born of God. A soul is changed from being enslaved and controlled by sin to being controlled by the Holy Spirit of God. As children of God, we now belong to the King of kings and the Lord of lords. We are no longer wonders in a lost and dying world, but children of God. We belong to God, He wanted us before the world was ever created, long before anything was created, way back in eternity past when only God existed, He wanted us. Not to be just created beings, but to be His children, to be like unto His True Son Jesus Who is the Christ. When God says we are "born of God" the word "born" means - to procreate - it also means we are "begotten" of God. While a sinner might have been born of a woman, and have an earthly father, those of us who have been saved have been re-born or experienced a second birth. We have been rebirthed by God to be His children. This is what Jesus was explaining to Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews in John 3 when Jesus told him, "...*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*" The words "born again" means being born a second time but this time from above. Most people hate this terminology because it is "exclusive" but if it were not for the re-birthing of God, all would be excluded from salvation. The re-birthing is by God's power, we have nothing to do with it except being blessed by it. We, as children of God are made holy by the earthly works and blood of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;" Hebrews 1:3 Jesus has "purged our sins" meaning He, thru His blood has purified all our sins. This is the reason for the re-birthing, for God to make us as though we have never been sinners. To make us holy as Jesus is Holy, as the Father is Holy, we as children can also be holy. We could never be holy in our natural state because we were born sinners. What a blessing to everyone that God has re-birthed by the power of the Holy Spirit and through His Son Jesus Christ. As children God expects things of us, like recognizing Him as our Father, us wanting to be like Him, and us following His authority and power. If we are "*begotten of God*" then as children, we are to keep ourselves from sin. This is impossible without the power of God because Satan tempts us, and we

simply cannot overpower Satan's temptations. However, with that said it is our responsibility to our Father because we Reverence Him not to fall into temptation. While our power is limited, we are to resist the devil and his sly temptations. This is not an option; it is a command from our Father. Sometimes some of God's children treat the commandments of God like options, but commandments are certainly not options. Your Heavenly Father is nothing like your earthly father, your Heavenly Father does not "overlook" your disobedience. He forgives them through the blood of Jesus, but He is never "ok" with disobedience. Sin is the breaking of God's law, any of God's commandments broken is sin. God is gracious in that He has forgiven our sins thru the blood sacrifice of Jesus, but please do not mistake that as justification for sinning. God said, "*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*" Revelation 3:19 It is never good to have God our Father chastening us! While we may argue that without the power of God, we cannot resist the temptations and power of Satan, us folding and surrendering is our fault. God said, "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*" James 4:7 Again this is not by our power, but we must resist Satan with all the power we do have, and God will give us power to succeed. How do we do this, by drawing closer to God. "*Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*" James 4:8 Beloved, sin is not "ok" with the saints of God, if you do not resist Satan you will fall into temptation and God will chasten you.

Some thoughts of Wisdom:

By John Bunyan, who lived 1628–1688

"There is a warning here for true pilgrims. Beware of the talker—but also be careful not to judge too quickly those whom God has blessed with both genuine grace and a fluency to speak of divine mercy in ways more eloquent than others. The proof is in the life—not a perfect life—but a life that both delights in divine truth and magnifies God—the only giver of the sovereign grace that always produces the truly fruitful, fragrant life."

"Such is the effect of the grace of God in the heart of a pilgrim; while on one hand he sees the propensity of his evil nature to every sin which has been committed by others, and is humbled. He also confesses, that, by no power of his own, is he preserved—but ever gives the glory to the God of all grace, by whose power alone he is kept from falling."

"It is not the mouth that is the main thing to be looked at in prayer—but whether the heart is so full of affection and earnestness in prayer with God, that it is impossible to express their sense and desire; for then a man desires indeed, when his desires are so strong, many, and mighty, that all the words, tears, and groans that can come from the heart, cannot utter them."

"Faith is a fruit, work, or gift of the Spirit of God, whereby a poor soul is enabled through the mighty operation of God, in a sense of its sins and wretched estate, to lay hold on the righteousness, blood, death, resurrection, ascension, intercession, and coming again of the Son of God—who was crucified for our sins."

*"If my life is fruitless—it doesn't matter who praises me.
If my life is fruitful—it doesn't matter who criticizes me."*

"Whatever contradicts the Word of God—should be instantly resisted as diabolical."

"I have often thought that the best Christians are found in the worst of times."

*"He who is down needs fear no fall. He who is low, no pride.
He who is humble, ever shall have God to be his Guide."*