

## 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:***

#### **Faith!**

*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* Hebrews 11:1

Faith is so important to a Christian, more so than even most believe. Chapter 11 of Hebrews is called the "Faith Chapter" some call it the "heroes of faith", but in reality, it is an example of real faith and how it works. God said, *"faith is the substance of things hoped for"*, but what does that even mean? First, you must define the word *"substance"* and it means - a setting under - Vines defines it this way, -it has the meaning of "confidence, assurance" the giving substance to - Think of faith as our underlying foundation. The stronger the faith the stronger they believe God. These folks were not heroes at all, no believer is a hero, Christians are what God makes them by grace. Faith is to a Christian like a foundation is to a house: it gives confidence and assurance that he will stand. Weak faith is like having a foundation built on sand and when the storm of life comes their faith folds like a house on sand and gets washed away. Jesus did not build His church on a small pebble like Peter but built it on a massive bolder in Himself. Jesus is the only foundation that could make the church solid to withstand the storms. The folks mentioned in chapter 11 all had strong faith foundations. Our true faith is confident obedience to God's Word despite circumstances and consequences. No matter what, their faith in God and God's word was strong, their faith in God was their unlaying foundation to their accomplishments. The measure of our faith is strength in Him and His word, when the flood water in life come, do we stand strong. In the "dark ages" of history tens of millions of men, women, and children died because of their faith in God. When the storms of persecution came, they did not surrender, they did not lose faith, their house of faith stood strong as they were persecuted and died for their faith in God's word. Faith is just like everything else, it is only as strong as God give it in grace. Those that have strong faith in the Lord are much blessed of God. Because faith is only as strong as the One giving it. God said, *"For by it the elders obtained a good report."* V. 2 by their strong faith, and the stronger and more blessed they were the better report they had from God. God said *"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."* Hebrews 10:38 This is why some come and stay a while and retreated, because their faith is not their strong foundation. The words *"draw back"* means - to cower or to withdraw or apostasy - God has no pleasure in them, because their faith collapsed, or their house built on sand fell. Faith enables

Christians to be great Christians in the Lord and His word, pleasing God all the way through life. God also said, “*But without faith it is impossible to please him...*” every time a Christians faith folds, every time the floods come, and their house collapses God is not pleased. If a Christian is not standing in strong support of God’s word, no matter what, they fail. If we lose sight of Him and His True Being, or if we lose faith in His blessed Word of Truth, if we fail in faith, we fail God. “*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*” V. 7 Noah never stop building the Ark no matter what, even if he did not clearly understand what a flood was or why he was building the Ark people laughed, God spoke, and he obeyed! The best way to grow in faith is to walk with the faithful, read His word and understand the commandments and to do as God wants. If you do, God will always be pleased with your faith. “*And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:*” How is your report?

***So far as we attain to this — we are secure from disappointment!***

By John Newton

One of the greatest privileges and brightest ornaments of our profession, is a *sweet acquiescence in the Lord's will* — founded in a persuasion of His wisdom, holiness, sovereignty and goodness. **So far as we attain to this — we are secure from disappointment!**

Our own limited views and short-sighted purposes and desires — may be, and will be, often over-ruled. But then our main and leading desire, that the will of the Lord may be done — must be accomplished.

How highly does it befit us, both as creatures and as sinners — to submit to the appointments of our Maker! And how necessary it is to our peace!

This great attainment is too often unthought of, and overlooked. We are prone to fix our attention upon the *second causes* and immediate instruments of events — forgetting that whatever befalls us is according to His purpose, and therefore must be right and seasonable in itself, and shall be productive of good in the final outcome. From hence arise impatience, resentment, and secret repinings — which are not only sinful, but tormenting.

Whereas, if all things are in His hand; if the very hairs of our head are numbered; if every event, great and small, is under the direction of His providence and purpose; and if He has a wise, holy, and gracious end in view, to which everything that happens is subordinate and subservient — then we have nothing to do, but with patience and humility to follow as He leads, and cheerfully to expect a blessed outcome.

Philippians 4:12 “I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.”

***Quotes***

***by A.W. Tozer***

“*Some Christians have taken all the justice, judgment and hatred of sin out of the nature of God — and have nothing left but a soft god.*”

“*Let us start reading our Bibles with the thought that God means exactly what He says!*”

**Philippians 2:5 - 8** “*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*”