**Yes Jesus Loves Me**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Genesis 6:5-8**

**Sunday Morning**

**July 28, 2019**

**Genesis 6:5-8**

5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

**According to Genesis 6:5-8 which we just read, the ancient world was so filled with wickedness and evil that God was grieved and sorry He had made mankind.**

Saints, therefore, God decided to blot out every living creature on earth. But in the midst of all the corruption, Noah “found favor in the eyes of the Lord” and was rescued from the destruction of the flood. Our world today is also filled with sin and corruption, and as Christians, we are called to walk as Noah did—in the favor of God.

Saints, the favor of God is expressed by His approval, acceptance, support, provision, power, and joy. This is what He showed to Noah and to Mary, the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:28), and it’s also what He has manifested to everyone who has been saved by Jesus Christ.

**Luke 1:28**

And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

Saints, God’s favor was poured out on us at salvation when our sins were forgiven, and it is further displayed by the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit who seals us as His children. His favor is a fact, but it’s also something we can experience on a daily basis as we walk in it.

**Ephesians 1:11-14**

11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Saints, after salvation, we should see the evidence of God’s favor working in our conversation, character, and conduct as we walk in the fullness of His Spirit. Our lifestyles and habits should indicate to those around us that we have the favor of God.

Instead of fretting over the circumstances in our lives, we can have confidence in His presence with us and His faithfulness in answering our prayers!

**One of the evidences of God’s favor is His willingness to communicate with us**

And our willingness to learn to listen to Him is essential for our obedience to His will. One of the first lessons we learned as children was to listen to our parents, and that’s exactly what we need to do in our relationship with our heavenly Father. If all we do is talk to Him in prayer without listening to Him, we won’t know His will for us.

**In Psalm 32:8, God makes these promises:**

**1. “I will instruct you.”**

**Psalm 32:7-8**

7 You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.

Saints the Lord gives us insight and understanding of His Word so we will know how to live our daily lives.

**2. I will “teach you in the way which you should go.”**

**John 14:25-26**

25 "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

Saints, we don’t know what a day holds, but God does, and He will guide us throughout the day.

**3. “I will counsel you with My eye upon you.”**

**Psalm 16:5-7**

5 O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot. 6 The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance. 7 I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.

Saints, every day we make decisions and encounter situations that challenge us because we don’t know what to do. What we need is personal direction from the Lord, and He will be faithful to provide it if we will listen.

Because He loves us and wants us to obey His will, God continually gives us counsel through His Holy Spirit who is our internal guide and director.

**We must learn to listen to God**

**Proverbs 19:20**

“Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days.”

**Proverbs 8:32-34**

32 "Now therefore, listen to me, my children, For blessed are those who keep my ways. 33 Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it. 34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors.

Saints, this is a basic lesson for anyone who wants to live a godly life. The Lord doesn’t save us and leave us to do the best we can, but desires to communicate with us if we’ll listen.

**Listening to God demands our Time and Attention**

**Psalm 1:2-3**

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

Saints, the Holy Spirit who directed and led the apostles is the same one who indwells and guides us. We have been tremendously blessed, yet we often think we’re too busy to listen to Him.

Our minds are so crowded with other concerns that we can’t hear Him, but there is nothing more important than heeding His voice and operating under His control.

**Colossians 3:15-17**

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

**To listen to the Lord, we must learn to identify His Voice**

**John 10:27-30**

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

**1. God’s voice will be consistent with the Scriptures**

Saints, the Holy Spirit will never say anything in violation of God’s Word. The Bible is always our standard of measure.

**2. God’s voice may be in conflict with Human Reason**

Saints, because the Lord is infinitely wise and omniscient, His ways are higher than ours and may not seem logical to us.

**3. God’s voice will Clash with Fleshly Desires**

Saints, the desires of the Spirit are in opposition to those of the flesh (Gal. 5:17). Therefore, the inner conflict we feel when we’re tempted is the Spirit leading us in the opposite direction.

**Galatians 5:17**

“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”

**4. God’s voice will Challenge Us**

Saints, sometimes the Holy Spirit leads us to do something we feel incapable of doing like really stepping out in faith!

**Hebrews 11:6**

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

**5.** **God’s voice calls for courage**

Saints, obedience is not always easy, but God’s commands are always accompanied with His power and strength.

**Ephesians 6:10-11**

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

**6. God’s voice will Speak Quietly**

Saints, God doesn’t shout but speaks softly through our conscience and into our minds, whispering,

**Isaiah 30:21**

“Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.”

**7. God’s voice will Speak Clearly**

Saints, God wants us to know what He is saying, and has been speaking to us since the day of our salvation.

**First**: His voice clearly convicted us of sin and moved us to repentance and salvation

**Secondly:** He continues to communicate with us to bring us to obedience and surrender in our daily lives.

**8. God’s voice will Speak Personally**

Saints, God loves and cares for us individually and guides us in every situation or concern.

**Romans 8:14-15**

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

**God is always speaking, but we must Listen**

Saints, we won’t hear His voice if we fill our lives with other things. Although we may become hard of hearing, we can never silence the Lord. However, the Spirit of God may withdraw to some degree, and as His children, we’ll then find ourselves under His discipline.

**How does God get our attention?**

**A Strong Sense of Restlessness**

Saints, this is an inner sense of unease for which we cannot readily identify the cause. It is meant to drive us to the Lord so we can hear from Him.

**Sometimes a message from someone else**

God may use another person to speak to us. However, we must be careful to consider the person’s character and lifestyle in order to avoid being led astray.

**A Supernatural Blessing**

Saints, sometimes the Lord abundantly blesses us to remind us how good He is.

**Unanswered Prayer**

Saints, if the Lord isn’t responding to our prayers, He may be in the process of humbling us so that we’ll be willing to wait for His guidance or

**Psalm 66:18**

“regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.”

**Disappointments**

Saints, the Lord uses disappointments to get our attention so we’ll turn to Him.

**Failure**

Saints, any failure that drives us to our knees is good.

**Financial problems**

The Lord wants us to turn to Him with our need.

**Sickness or Injury**

God may use illness to stop us from going the wrong way and to teach us to follow Him.

**In Closing:**

**1. As you look at your life, are you walking in the favor of God?**

**2. If so, what is the evidence of His favor in your life?**

**3. What practices and habits help you listen to the Lord?**

**4. What hinders you from hearing His voice?**

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**