**Our Unique Relationship with God**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Exodus 19:5-6**

**Sunday Morning**

**October 28, 2021**

**Exodus 19:5-6**

5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

**Know the Truth About God**

**God Desires close relationship with people of Faith**

**1. Faith is The Requirement For Close Relationship With God**

**Hebrews 11:4-7**

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 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.

7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Saints, this verse emphasizes the requirement of faith in order to please God. One must, at the very least, believe that God exists in order to please Him.

Saints, the same Scripture indicates God rewards those who put diligence into their efforts of seeking Him. Action is required to obtain the reward. Faith is active. Faith demonstrates.

Faith is action lived out in positive and trusting obedience from the heart, energized by both the spirit of man and the Spirit of God. Faith brings us into relationship with God and solidifies that relationship.

**Here is the Opposite of Faith**

**James 1:6-7**

6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

**2. The People of Israel were Weak in Faith**

Saints, the people of Israel demonstrated an immature and weak faith. No sooner had they finished rejoicing over the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea and the decimation of Pharaoh’s army that the congregation began murmuring against Moses and Aaron

**Exodus 16:1-3**

1 And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt.

2 Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. 3 And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Saints, the Lord chose to be merciful and sent quail to cover the camp in the evening and introduced them to manna each morning. Some gathered quantities beyond the authorized daily serving, and the unauthorized portions stunk.

Gathering more than a daily allotment for any other than Sabbath Day coverage demonstrated continued unbelief after a significant miraculous provision.

Saints, that type of unbelief stinks in the nostrils of God. The people of Israel continued to demonstrate their immature and weak faith by chiding with Moses (Exodus 17:2).

**Exodus 17:2-3**

2 Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?" 3 And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

Saints, the Lord demonstrated great patience in developing Israel’s capabilities to trust Him for protection, food, and water.

**3. To have Faith is to Trust God Regardless of Life’s Circumstances**

Saints, life is full of unanswered questions and uncertainty. We can choose to fill the unanswered questions and uncertainty with beliefs conducive to biblical faith, or we can choose to fill in the blanks with fear, anxiety, and expectations for the worst. It is all a matter of choice.

**Mark 4:35-41**

35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." 36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. 38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" 39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" 41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

**4. We Can Trust God at All Times**

Saints, we can trust God with our hearts and our most intimate needs. Jesus already satisfied God’s wrath at Calvary. We are safe to give our hearts to Him. We can lower our barriers and allow the Holy Ghost to infiltrate our hearts and minds with faith. It is okay. It is safe.

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**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."

**Psalm 23:6**

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever”

**Jeremiah 29:11-12**

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

**5. The New Covenant Provides Close Relationship with God**

Saints, the New Covenant founded in the blood of Jesus provides close relationship with God. God did not stay aloof in the heavenlies to play a game of hide-and-seek. Rather, He came directly and revealed Himself.

Humanity’s sin nature was intimidated by the glory revealed in Christ; that sin nature became the murderous force God used to redeem us. This act of murder by the human race shed the very blood that empowers our redemption.

Jesus’ unreserved love made the way for our close relationship with Him, making us a royal priesthood and giving residence to His very own Spirit, the ultimate relationship.

**6. We Can Enjoy the Benefits of the New Covenant**

Saints, the benefits of the New Covenant are exponential. We can begin understanding the innumerable benefits of the New Covenant over the Old by understanding some basic biblical concepts:

**1. We enjoy a more complete and fulfilling relationship with God as He lives inside of us and writes His commandments upon our hearts.**

**2. We are no longer confined to animal sacrifices for temporary forgiveness of sins, but the full and final sacrifice of Christ authorizes unlimited relationship with God.**

**3. We can enjoy a relationship with God based upon love and respect and not be confined to the outward conformity of the Law humanity failed to follow dismally and repeatedly.**

**7. The Church is a Royal Priesthood and a Holy Nation**

Saints, in the New Testament (Covenant), we are privileged to be priests unto God.

**1 Peter 2:9-10**

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

**8. You Must Be Born Again to Have a Personal Relationship with Jesus**

**John 3:1-7**

1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

**Romans 8:8-11**

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

**In Closing:**

**The Good News is You Can Have a Personal Relationship**

**Romans 10:9-13**

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

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**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**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.” In Jesus Name!**