

Sermon Outline: Rejoice with the Family

Series: The Formation Code (Part 2) **Scripture Focus:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16–28; Numbers 11:1–6; John 8:44–47

I. Introduction: From the Red Sea to the Wilderness

- **The Journey Recapped:** Last week focused on the deliverance from Egypt through the Red Sea and the subsequent 40-year wilderness period.
- **The Purpose of the Delay:** God sent Israel back into the wilderness for 40 years to produce **faith**—faith in His character, promise, mercy, grace, and provision.
- **The Goal:** To move from mere belief to the "**obedience of faith**," where hearing God's voice leads to immediate action.

II. The Danger of the Outskirts: Grumbling vs. Gratitude

- **The Rabble (Numbers 11):** The "rabble" were non-Israelites who left Egypt with the Jews but remained on the **outskirts of the camp**, away from the glory of God.
- **The Source of Grumbling:** Because they were on the outskirts, they sought the **blessings of God** without wanting to **know God**. This led to a "strong craving" for the fish, garlic, and onions of Egypt.
- **The Purifying Fire:** God uses the wilderness to **purify His bride** from the cravings of the old life (Egypt) so that the next generation can enter the Promised Land with faith.

III. The Spiritual War for the Family

- **The Author of Division:** Satan (Lucifer) was cast down because he tried to **divide the perfect unity** of the Trinity.
- **The Target:** Satan's primary attack is against the **family unit**—whether a husband and wife or the spiritual family of the church.
- **A Tale of Two Families:**
 - **The Family of Lies:** Led by the "father of lies," characterized by grumbling, hatred, and division.
 - **The Family of Light:** Led by the Heavenly Father, characterized by listening to God's voice and living in truth.

IV. The Command: Rejoice, Pray, Give Thanks

- **The Will of God:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 defines God's will: **rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances**.
- **Contentment in Suffering:** Paul wrote these commands from a place of suffering, having learned the "secret" of being **content in every situation**, whether in abundance or need (Philippians 4:11-13).
- **Obstacles to Joy:** Comparison, isolation from the spiritual family, burnout, and unrepentant sin make it difficult to rejoice.

V. Conclusion: The Power of Testimony

- **Building Faith:** Hearing testimonies of God's providence (healing, financial provision, or comfort in depression) builds faith within the entire body.
 - **A Wedding, Not a Funeral:** When the church gathers, it should feel like a **celebration of God's kingdom expanding**, marked by gratitude rather than grumbling.
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Congregational Worksheet: Rejoice with the Family

1. Personal Reflection: The "Outskirts" Check The "rabble" stayed on the outskirts of the camp because they wanted God's blessings but not His presence.

- *In what areas of your life are you seeking God's "hand" (what He can give you) more than His "face" (who He is)?*

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2. Word Study: The Obedience of Faith According to the sermon, the wilderness is a season to move from unbelief to the "**obedience of the faith**".

- *If God told you to "turn left" or "stop" right now, what is the one thing you think He might be asking you to change?*

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3. Identifying the Grumble The Israelites wept for the "garlic and onions" of their past slavery.

- *What "Egypt cravings" (past habits or worldly comforts) tend to make you grumble when the wilderness gets difficult?*

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4. The Secret of Contentment Read **Philippians 4:11–13**. Paul says he "learned" to be content in all circumstances.

- *How does "giving thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thess 5:18) act as a weapon against the spiritual attack of division?*

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5. Stirring Up Memory: Your Testimony The speaker mentions "stirring up memory of God's providence" to encourage the body.

- *Write down one "Common Grace" or "Miraculous Provision" you have experienced recently (e.g., a restored relationship, a job, or peace during a trial).*

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Key Memory Verse: *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* — **1 Thessalonians 5:16–18**