

SUNDAY, January 19, 2025

9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
12:15 pm Special Business Meeting
12:30 pm Blessing Bags Meeting

TUESDAY, January 21, 2025

6:00 pm After the Sermon
7:00 pm Phone-In Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY, January 23, 2025

6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK:

Mon., Jan. 20 **Tues., Jan. 21** **Wed., Jan. 22** **Thurs., Jan. 23**
9:30 am – 1 pm 9:30 am – 1 pm 9:30 am – 1 pm 9:30 am – 1 pm

How Do I Join Upper Seneca Baptist Church

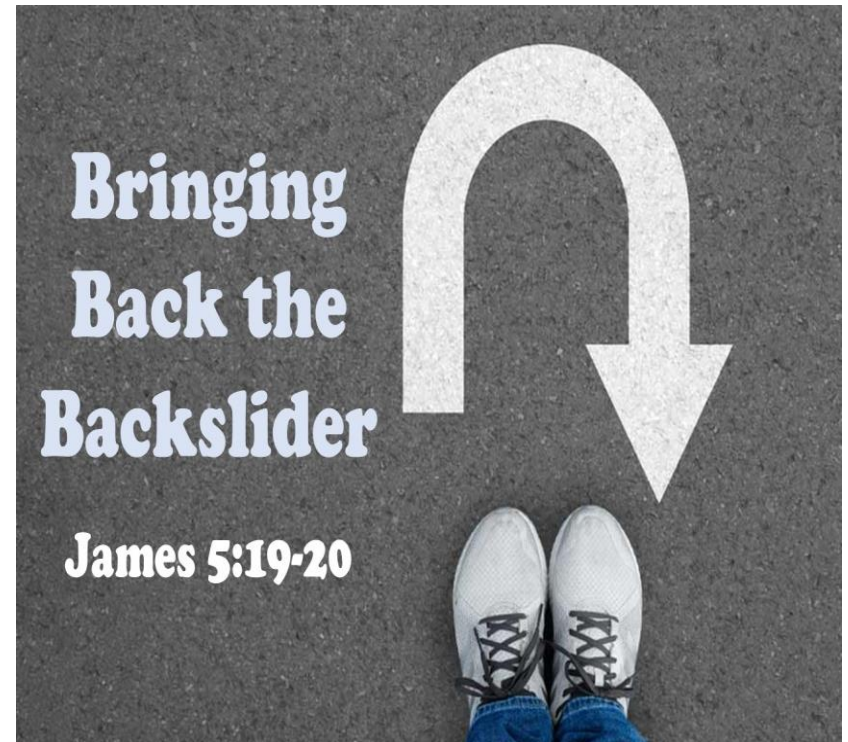
- **By Salvation** ~ By professing faith in Jesus Christ and following Him in believer's baptism.
- **By Transfer of Letter** ~ By transferring your membership from another Baptist Church.
- **By Statement of Faith** ~ By statement of **faith in Jesus Christ.**

If you have not been baptized by immersion since your conversion, you will need to follow the Lord in believer's baptism.

When Do I Join?

At the close of every worship service as we sing the "Invitation Hymn", the pastor stands facing the congregation. Walk to him and tell him you want to join the church or make some other decision.

Upper Seneca Baptist Church



Impacting The Kingdom Of God One Person At A Time

Pastor Dennis Felder
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Nursery & Children's Church available
Church Office 301-972-3686

E-Mail – Church@USBChurch.org
Web Site – www.USBChurch.org



Scan this QR code which points
to our Church's Main Web Page
(<http://www.USBChurch.org>)

Weather Policy

If the church cancels or postpones any service or activity due to inclement weather or wintery conditions, a cancellation notice will appear on the church's Facebook page, church's website, through church email, and on the church's voice recorder. To access the church's voice recorder, please dial (301) 972-3686. The church will only post a cancellation message if a service or activity is canceled or postponed.

“Bringing Back the Backslider”

By Pastor Dennis Felder

January 19, 2025

Scripture: James 5:19-20 (NIV)

Synopsis: Every Christian has the potential to turn away from God’s truths. As believers, we are to actively seek out and help those who have wandered from their faith, emphasizing the significance of restoring them to a right relationship with God.

The reality of a backslider:

I. Anyone can be a _____.

James 5:19 – *My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back,*

Every Christian has the potential to turn away from God’s truths.

Matthew 7:22-23 – *Many will say to me on that day, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?” Then I will tell them plainly, “I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!”*

Backslider (def.) – *A spiritual state of where a Christian knowingly and persistently lives to please and serve self rather than serve Christ.*

Matthew 26:34-35 (Last Supper) – *“Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.*

Matthew 26:74-75 – *Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.*

There is a real possibility that each of us has the potential of backsliding.

II. Backsliders need _____.

James 5:20a – *Remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way ...*

If you are a believer in Christ, it is your responsibility to turn another believer around.

James 5:16a – *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. ...*

A true test of a Christian is to take the time to help lift up the backslidden Christian out of the gutter.

God wants believers to play a part in helping the backslider.

III. Backsliders are in _____.

James 5:20b – *... will save them from death ...*

If you intervene in the life of a backslidden Christian, you may keep them from death.

Exodus 32:9-14 – *“I have seen these people,” the Lord said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.” But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. “Lord,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty*

hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'” Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

When a person is living a life apart from God, they are not very sensitive to the urging of the Holy Spirit.

IV. Backsliders can be _____.

James 5:20c – ... and cover over a multitude of sins.

It takes love to cover a multitude of sin.

Proverbs 10:12 – Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.

John 13:35 – By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Agape love (def.) – *It is doing what is best for the other person rather than doing what is best for yourself.*

Romans 5:8 – But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

You will always know whether you are loving based upon how you handle the sin of the one who has backslidden.

Psalms 32:1 – Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Psalms 85:2 – You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.

Romans 4:7 – Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Covering one's sin does not mean to ignore it or to excuse it, it means to forgive it.

When you show grace in the covering your brothers/sisters sin, God will show you grace in covering yours.

2 Corinthians 7:8-9 – Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us.

The standard for restoration and renewal is truth, not your personal opinion.

James 5:19a – My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth ...

Sermon Notes:

If you would like to listen to the sermon on-line, please visit our website at www.USBChurch.org.

BUSINESS MEETING

Each and every year, we mark an important milestone in the life of USBC. As each new year begins, we as a church have the important and awesome responsibility to adopt a church budget that will be our guide in how we give and why we give.

The **2025 Proposed Church Budget** is available for your review and careful consideration. Copies of the budget will be placed in the back of the sanctuary so that you will have time to pray over it before adopting it on **today**, following the service.

This budget is more than a financial document. It is a statement of faith. The affirmation of this budget is a wonderful testimony and witness of how we as God's family will support the financial needs of the church.

If you are planning on using **offering envelopes** for your tithes and offerings for 2025, the new offering envelopes will be available in the church's foyer. Upon picking up your box of envelopes, please place your name next to the envelope box number on the signup sheet. If you have leftover envelopes from 2024, you can continue to use them in 2025.



Lucas Felder's address at boot camp

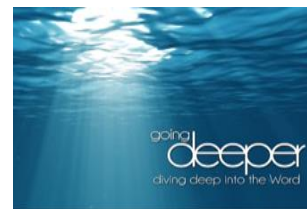
AB FELDER, LUCAS T.
324 TRS / FLT 129
1320 Truemper St
JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-6407

DO NOT SEND FOOD OF ANY KIND



Today, we will be having a meeting immediately following our worship service to talk about organizing the **Blessing Bags**. (“*Blessing Bags*” are bags that contain personal necessities, toiletries, food, and some extras that you can handout when you come across an individual dealing with poverty.)

Don't forget to mark your calendar for **January 26th** for our next **Church Chat**. As usual, immediately following our Sunday morning worship service, we will gather in the church foyer/coffee shop for a 10-minute informal meeting. During this 10-minute time period, I will be sharing with everyone about upcoming events, areas where the church needs help, and receiving vital input from our church family. **Church Chat** is a great way of keeping everyone informed about all the activities and church events that will be taking place.



On Sunday, **January 26**, our **Dive Deeper Bible Study** topic will be “*Are Birthday Celebrations a Pagan Ritual?*”. Within the Bible, there are only three references to birthdays and all three are mention in a negative connotation. So, should we celebrate birthdays? Initially, birthdays were celebrated along with witchcraft and is still used today with the practice of horoscopes. So why have we adopted this tradition which has never been in any way or form, a Jewish ritual?

So, join us Sunday, **January 26** immediately following our worship service for this informative Bible study and for lunch.