

# God Has Smiled On Me

Sermon Title: **God Has Smiled On Me**

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Amen! Let's give our youth another hand. Truly, they've done a magnificent job today and the holy staffers and this is the time to have children reared in the fear of the Lord because what we do with them now is what they will do in the future and it is better for them to be stepping – My mother and C. Elijah and I went to the old Bronner estate, down in the country and there was a gentleman there. His name is James Maddox and he was taking us back through the country and he was showing us some of the area and he said, "I used to do some stomping in his area when I was young" and he said, "You all don't know what stomping is" and my mother said, "Yes they do".

So it is better for them for them to be stepping in church than stomping in the world and you think that some of the stomping that people do is modern but that was 75 years ago and men were stomping back in the country down to the dirt roads back then in the midnight hour. Nothing has changed throughout the dawn of time, nothing has changed and you will either be stepping for Christ or you'd be stomping for the devil, one of the two.

So I am just delighted to see the parents who have the insight and the wisdom enough because the children cannot get here unless you bring them. So everything that they do and everything that they are part of, it is a result of parents, whether they are present or absent. It's the result of parents. It's not really the children. At this stage, it's the parents because they can't get here unless you bring them. So it is better for you to bring them to church than – you have to go down to jail to get them out of jail.

So bring them here, get them involved in the programs. Stick with them and watch as your children develop and as you bring them, it will help you because they are nothing but a chip of what we are. There are no two ways about it. Every situation that I've known, when you really check it close, it roots right back to spirit and behavior of parents. So whatever we want our children to be, we have to be that, because they are going to be what we are, not we say.

So, I just thank all of the parents and praise them for bringing their children here upon this day. It's a beautiful day and God has smiled on me. I don't know about you, but it has always been perhaps my favorite song because it has really been what I believe. And there is not a person in this room who has not gone through some stuff and some mess. Even if you're young, you've been through it because I'll be honest with you; my children undergo much more turmoil than I do. There's something about it, my youngest child who just turned five last week. He gets upset ten times more than I do. And it's about little or nothing, somebody got one of his toys and he'll pit your feet.

And he has literally no real problems but he gets upset ten times more than I do because he doesn't realize that God has smiled on him. See, you have all the stuff in

the world but you don't realize you can stay upset most of your life and be in paradise. That's what happened in heaven. That's why a third of the angels had to be – now you would think if you are going to be happy anywhere it ought to be in heaven. That's why a third of the angels had to be booted out of heaven because they didn't appreciate where they were and what they had. And they didn't understand that even though there may have been some things in heaven that may not have been exactly that they wanted. They didn't understand that God had smiled on them.

And when you don't understand just that simple phrase and that simple understanding, you go through all of life with a frown on your face. Because if you don't realize that God has smiled on you, you won't have a smile on your face and some people have a permanent down-turn frown. You know, it gets frozen on your face and the older you get, the more the inside of you reflects on the outside of you – because your muscles of youth can't hold it up anymore.

The older you get, the more the inside reflects on the outside. You all know what I'm talking about. Some folks just looks sour, do you understand – because the inside begins to reflect on the outside. And when you understand and truly believe the words of this song, every time I think about it just – Now I know the man who actually wrote the song, James Cleveland. He's a fellow who used to – actually he graduated from Julliard University but he was an alcoholic on the street. And he told me his story back home in the music business. I got him to write some of the music – I actually paid someone to clean him up and house him and pull him off of the street. And one night he opened a bathroom window and slipped out and it taught me a very valuable lesson. You can never take people into paradise when they really want to go.

If they want to stay in the gutter, there's nothing you can do to take them out of mentality and spirit. Some folk want to be sad. Some folk want to be miserable. Some folks want to be complaining. Some folks don't want to be in the Promised Land. And if they don't want it, there's nothing you can do to take them. I spent money. I hired people and this is the man who wrote the song. And I couldn't take him out. It taught me a very valuable lesson. You cannot save folks when they don't want to be saved.

God understood that. Jesus understood that, that's why he couldn't save most of the folk. You cannot save someone if they do not want to be saved. And one of the first things that you must realize and understand is that God has smiled on you.

(Hymn)

God has smiled on me, he has set me free  
God has smiled on me, he has been good to me  
God has smiled on me, he has been good to me

God has smiled on me, he has been good to me

Those are the words to the song but none more important than just understanding that. I don't care what's going on in your world. You are well fed. There are stomachs growling, you're clothed, you're warm, you're in here. I don't hear any coughing, that there is no one in a stretcher. You don't have IVs hooked up to you. I don't care what's wrong in your life. And there is no one under the sound of my voice who does not have some stuff room, nobody. I don't care who you are. You can go to the worst bum on the street to the President of the United States. Do you all know that the President of United States has got a whole lot of hell in his life right now?

Everybody criticizing complaining, belly aching, and mini-mouthing and as you go check their lives they can't keep their own stuff straight. Do you understand that I don't care who and I don't care what part of you? I didn't have nothing to do with democrat or republican, you got problems! I don't care whether you're Democrat or Republican, Libertarian, no party, communist. I don't care what you are. You've got problems.

Problems are inherent in life on this planet. Man born of woman is a few days and full of trouble. But if you just understand that even through the tears, even through the pain through the sunshine and the rain, if you just understand that God has smiled on you. And if you count your blessings instead of cursing the things that are wrong, if you count your blessings, you start counting blessing after blessing after blessing, after blessing, after blessing, after blessing. But if you curse the rain and not understanding in truth that it takes rain to live but so many will curse the rainy days and then God will shut up the heavens and it won't rain and your crops won't grow and you'll starve to death, not understanding.

See, sometimes people God has to even – he has to give you some of the pain in life so you'll even appreciate the pleasure. All things in the universe, when you understand physics, all things in the universe are made of positive and negative charges. We all want positive but without the negative the positive has no point of reference. Light has no reference without darkness. Hard has no reference without soft. Sweet has no reference without bitter and we want all soft. We want all sweet. We want all light. We want all easy. We want all stuffed to just be so mellow and we don't understand, it takes some spice to bring the flavor out in life. It takes some pepper that will sometimes burn your tongue. It will make your eyes – it will sometimes cause your eyes to go to water but it takes some spice to bring out the flavor in life.

So I know, no matter what I ever have to got through. When my money is running short, when I got my money then I know what to do with it. And I've been on both extremes. I've been on the extremes where I just had so much money; I didn't even know what to do. I didn't know what to do. Some of you all have been like that. You

also – not much but some of you all have been like that. You’ve been in situations where you’ve had more money than you literally knew what to do with. And then I’ve been on the other situation where I’ve run so short of money. I didn’t know what to do.

But no matter what end I was on, loaded with money or loaded with debt – Sometimes when you look at your checking account and it’s just dry. Not only is it dry, it’s got this – and see sometimes you want to sign across in your checking account, when there is a plus sign, but sometimes it’s just a minus sign. Ain’t no vertical – it’s just minus. And see, when you really get – tough and stuck, sometimes your voice will crack, you can’t sing with a quarter, but just sing it. It doesn’t matter how you sound, when you understand that God has smiled on you, and he is smiling on me people I don’t know about you. See I know he has smiled on you but what I do know, some of you all don’t appreciate it, some of you don’t believe it and as a result you don’t know it.

See, I know he has smiled on you. If he hadn’t you would not be here. So I know he has smiled on you. You just don’t know it. You forget it too much and you forget to say it and as a result – a frown creeps in and starts to live on your face. God has smiled on me. He has been good to me. I don’t have any complaints out of life. God has smiled on me. He has been good to me and he has been good to you. And he has smiled on you. Go ahead brother...

(Hymn)

Be free, God has set me free... he has set me free.

He set me free (2x) he is wonderful

He will set you free, yes he will

Oh he is smiling on me yeah

God has smiled on me and he’s been good to me yeah

Don’t you forget it, he blesses you everyday

You just got to realize it

He is so wonderful yeah, he smiled on me

And he’ll set you free

God has smiled on me, yeah and he’ll set you free

Thank you Father. God has smiled on me and he’s been good to me

He’s been good to me. God I love you.

You’ve been good to me.

Halleluiah! Thank you Lord. Amen, amen!