

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

February 28, 2021

Throughout scripture from the time Adam and Eve sinned, people have been going through one storm after another. For Adam and Eve to have one son kill another had to be extremely painful. For the first family to be the first to see Satan at work had to be devastating. For Noah to build a boat 100 years in preparation for a world-wide storm, while being laughed at, must have been excruciating; only to hear those same people beg to enter the Ark. Satan's constant desire to create one devastating experience after another continued (1 Peter 5:6-11). It did not end with Job or Christ; in fact, the description of his attacks continues to the Apostle John isolated on an island (Patmos) after all the disciples were murdered. We may think that is the end, well no. We are promised more intense attacks in the last days (Matthew 24-25) only for the scriptures to tell us not to run away because that would lead to our destruction (Hebrews 10:32-39; remember the armor is only on the front of us – Ephesians 6:10-17). This is why Ephesians 6:10-17 ends with "pray at all times" (Ephesians 6:18).



Satan wants to do all he can to keep us discouraged, anxious, perplexed, feeling defeated and exhausted. He aims to have us blame God for everything and fight on our own to survive. He wants God to seem silent and useless because there is so much to manage and so little to work with.

God constantly reminds us that all we are dealing with is the testing of our faith (1 Timothy 6:12). Will we believe in the Lord no matter what, who cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18), by trusting His Word (His Word provides us everything we need; 2 Peter 1:3-4) so that no matter what, our eyes remain fixed on Him, or do we rely on common sense (Proverbs 3:4-6), our instincts, past experiences or our money?

Paul, a person who experienced numerous trials put it this way. When the attacks are many, hold to the Word and stand (Ephesians 6:10-13). Standing is making sure all the full armor is in place and our families and church are by our side (Ephesians 4:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15). Walk in the Word, trust it (Ephesians 4:1-2) no matter who says differently. When you feel stronger "press to the mark" (Philippians 3:12-16). Pressing is to forget the past (Satan likes to remind us of it) and trust God for future blessings (Romans 8:18). Eventually, you find God's strength (1 John 4:4) and you are then able to run (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Remember Satan is defeated, he is a liar (John 8:44) and can only make a lot of noise to try to intimidate us so we become anxious, stop praying and run to our destruction. If you are tired, then do the first thing; put on the armor and stand.

Praying for everyone; love you much!

UPCOMING Events

	<p>Life Application Class Bit.ly/lwflifeapp This is the link in which to retrieve our Life App lessons. Please join us each Sunday at 10am.</p>
	<p>New Members Classes The New Member Orientation Class has resumed each Sunday, from 8am - 10am, Legacy Fellowship Hall (<i>in person</i>). Online classes will be at the same time. Please follow these steps: Step 1: Go to church's website www.lwfellowshipchurch.org Step 2: Click menu bar (top-right corner) Step 3: Click on Resource Center Step 4: Scroll to the bottom, click membership interest Step 5: Download "New Members Manual"</p>
	<p>Black History Exhibit LWFC KIDZ Ministry Gaze your eyes on the strengths displayed in many of the African American exhibits located in the Children's Wing; from the struggles in the "cotton field" all the way to "voting in elections." We invite you to deepen your knowledge of the past, present, and future accomplishments demonstrated by our heritage. You may also view the exhibit online through our virtual tour located on the church's website and social media or <u>after service.</u></p>
	<p>Silver Star Faith Fitness Conference Faith Fitness and Silver Stars have partnered together to define physical and spiritual wellness in God for seniors! Join the conversation on March 27th @ 10am for tips on eating, exercise, and purpose with coach Deanna, because excellence looks good on you!</p>
	<p>Men's Ministry Virtual Fellowship Join us for our Zoom Men's Conference that will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2021, from 9am-1pm with special guest speakers, Dr. Paul Cannings and Dr. Nicolas Ellen of Community of Faith Bible Church. Registration is \$45 per person Deadline March 19, 2021. Once you are registered, you will receive an email confirmation with your receipt and a Zoom link to enter the conference. To register, visit https://cofbc.org/mensconference2021</p>



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all

perimeters under crosses

Special Music

The Word of God

In the Midst

Isaiah 35:3-4

Dr. Paul Cannings, Senior Pastor

Sermon notes available online at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org

Click on the "Media" tab and click "Sermon Outline"

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction & Closing Song

Soft launch for the return of Children's Church is in progress. Children must be picked up **immediately** at the conclusion of each service.

LEGACY EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP
MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL
2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY 6:30 PM

In the Midst

Isaiah 35:3-4

A. Do Not Give Up (Vs. 3):

1. We are commanded to serve those who are faint-hearted with a deep conviction (Romans 12:9-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15).
2. The exhausted are those whose hands were once in control of what they were seeking to accomplish; now they feel weak to the point of hopelessness and physical weariness.
3. Like a powerful army, we are commanded to exhibit the inner strength of the Holy Spirit (1 John 4:4) and do whatever is necessary to help those that are shaking at the knees (1 John 3:13-22).
4. Feeble people are those that are so weak they shake at the knees; they easily stumble and fall. They also feel defeated to the point that their lives appear to be ruined because they lack the ability or opportunity to reach their desired goal.

B. Be Unafraid (Vs. 5)

1. We are commanded to speak up and not be silent when we see those in need.
2. An anxious person who is overwhelmed by their circumstances chooses to put a lot of energy into repairing what they are experiencing so they can alter what can happen to them in the future.
3. We are commanded to not restrain ourselves but with deep conviction, to not allow the circumstances to restrain or confine us so much that we give up.
4. Despite the situations we face, we must be stiff neck, and steadfast in applying the inner strength God provides (Phil. 2:13; 1 John 4:4) regardless of the obstacles.
5. We must not allow circumstances to cause us to feel we will be harmed if we choose not to reverence what the Lord instructed us to do (Joseph, Daniel; Paul's instruction to Timothy – 2 Tim. 1:7; this practical and active fear is the kind of fear for which God rewarded the Egyptian midwives).
6. Isaiah pivots to focus our attention to place emphasis on the action God takes when circumstances we experience are incredibly challenging.
7. Notice that Isaiah does not say Lord; he emphasizes that God, who is supreme and can create anything from nothing is sovereign over everything that is taking place.
8. By saying Elohim, the entire Godhead is engaged in this action.

9. God's sovereign decision to interrupt what is taking place is intentional; it fulfills His purposes and will continue His powerful efforts until all is accomplished.
10. When God comes, He will repay harm to those who have harmed His people and will do so in a hostile manner.
11. When God repays those who have harmed His people it will be based on what they deserve.
12. With a specific purpose in mind, God will continuously "remove or seek to remove someone from a burden, oppression, or danger of defeat."
13. God continuously provides physical deliverance from our enemies or catastrophes.

PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Betty Biggom & family, Curtis & Tomitra Wiley & family, Shontell Moore & family, Steven Sweet & family, the family of Lillian Edwards, Wilbert Emerson & family, Pat Crawford & family, Myrtle Nichols & family, Margaret Baptiste & family, Ogneta Polk & family, Howard Fields & family, Renessa Matthews & family, Debra Gaines & family, Diana Horn & family, and Robert James & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Hattie Williams, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Sara-Beth Mathis, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Debra Gaines, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, and Jon Heard.

IN THE MIDST

ISAIAH 35:3-4