

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 25, 2021

Encouragement

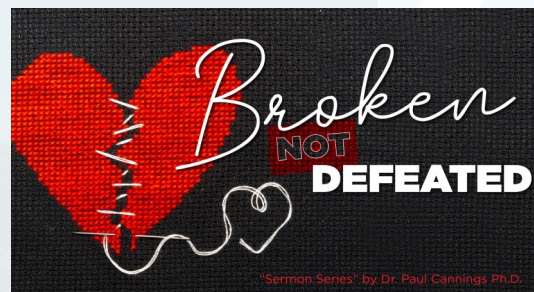
A certain woman liked going to a certain post office to purchase stamps because the postal workers were always so friendly to her. At Christmas time, when the post office was full of people waiting to mail packages, someone explained to her that she did not have to wait in line for stamps because there was a machine that sold stamps. “But” she said sweetly as she remained in line, “the machine doesn’t ask me about my arthritis.” The fellowship and encouragement were strengthening.

Brooks Hays told about a boy who was the largest in his class. Unfortunately, he also had the lowest I.Q. One day, when there were visitors in the class, the teacher said to him, “Otto, will you please raise the window?” As he went to do her bidding, she exclaimed, “I don’t know what I’d do without Otto. He’s the only boy in the class strong enough to raise that window.” Later, she confided to the visitors, “The window didn’t need to be raised, but Otto needed to be recognized.”[1] Feeling valued was encouraging.

When God directed, through the Holy Spirit (our Comforter), the writing of the Word is for our encouragement. “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” (Romans 15:4) The gift of encouragement was provided to many believers because God knew that the last days would be very difficult (Romans 12:6; Matthew 24; John 16:33). Believers need this even for their spiritual growth; “But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” (Hebrews 3:13) This is why the scriptures say that we must not forsake the assembling together? “Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25; NASU)

We need to learn how to control our tongue so that we use it for the edification of God’s people. “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.” (Ephesians 4:29; NASU) The tongue encouraged the lady at the post office and the young boy. It is important to note that Christ says that each believer must give an account for every useless word (Matthew 12:36). So, it is obvious that God takes this very seriously.

Take a few moments to reach out to someone and encourage them. They may not say the right word in return or even accept what you say, but all it takes is one person to exercise their gift of the Holy Spirit to change one life one step at a time. (1 Thessalonians 5:14-19).



UPCOMING Events



“From Tragedy to Triumph”

Join us as we begin our weekly **Center for Christian Living** series on Tuesdays entitled “*From Tragedy to Triumph*” starting **April 20th—June 1st** online through Free Conference Call.

Let’s come out and learn how to get to the other side of tragedy. Restoration and Triumph is on the way.

For more information, contact nordbullock@yahoo.com



Acts 2 Houston

On Pentecost weekend every year, Acts 2 Houston will seek to unify the churches of Houston as one church with one worship service to give and go serve **one cause**.

We are excited to bring Acts 2 Houston to the most diverse city in America on **May 22nd— 23rd** with *special guest speaker Dr. Tony Evans*.

This *free* event offers an opportunity for churches to serve the Houston community and worship together collectively.

Register TODAY: www.acts2houston.org/register



Leadership Training

The first leadership training for 2021 is planned for Saturday, **June 12th at 8:30 a.m.**, in LEGACY. Every leader is expected to be present. Dr. Mark Bailey, former President of Dallas Theological Seminary is our guest speaker/trainer. Please carve the date into your calendar and plan to attend.



Family Bible Encounter

We are excited to announce our upcoming Family Bible Encounter starting **June 8th— 10th**. Our theme is “*I Got This*”: “*I Can Do All things Through Christ ...*” *Philippians 4-13*. We have awesome classes for Adults, Youth, and Children! Hope to see you there at 6:30pm nightly.



LIVING WORD
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all

perimeters under crosses

Special Music

*The Antidote to Fear,
Anxiety and Uncertainty*

Psalm 145:17-21

Dr. Paul Cannings

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



Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.

Ages 2—6th grade



S E R M O N O U T L I N E

The Antidote to Fear, Anxiety and Uncertainty

Psalm 145:17-21

A. The Lord (vs. 17):

1. David used the Lord to represent the fact that the Lord faithfully maintains His covenant relationship with His people.
2. The Lord has all power and does everything based on His divine will, and His judgments are just.
3. Every action or behavioral characteristic that God manifest is going to be based on His divine will.
4. The Lord is faithfully devoted to mercifully service His people based on His divine will.

B. Our Surrender (vs. 18-20):

1. The Lord who is all mighty and has all authority chooses to be very close to us like soldiers entering into battle (Matthew 10:30).
2. Believers persistently and loudly cry out to the Lord expecting Him to provide them specific responses to their specific request, ultimately experiencing God's presence.
3. Believers who demonstrate complete dependence on God experience His presence.
4. God's presence is experienced when those who pray do so endlessly with specific requests, always based on what His Word promises.
5. Prayer that grants us the desires of our heart comes from abiding in His Word (John 15:7).
6. Because of the endless persistent prayer of His people, the Lord continuously makes every effort, based on His supreme knowledge, to faithfully fulfill their request.
7. The Lord is determined, because of His relationship with us and our willingness to live totally dependent on Him, to skillfully grant us His favor so that we can enjoy His presence.

8. God responds faithfully to those who reverence His power, authority and His supreme position. These are believers who stand in awe of Him.
9. Those believers who intensely lament before God because they reverence His supreme position will be heard by Him.
10. The Lord may allow us to go into a Lion's Den because He has the power to deliver us from all danger or harm.
11. The Lord who has all power and authority builds a hedge around us by providing careful watchful attention to those who love Him.
12. The Lord protects, with careful attention, those who are deeply committed, with strong emotions to faithfully obey Him (John 14:15).
13. Those who willfully violate the Lord's divine law, live unethical and do not seek the Lord's divine standards, will be annihilated by the Lord. The Lord's destruction is endless. He does not stop until the person is utterly destroyed.

C. Sincere Worship (vs. 21):

1. David commits himself to endless worship to the Lord.
2. David visibly expresses that he would publicly express his joy and adoration for all that the Lord is and has done.
3. Because of who God is and all that He does for those who pray to Him based on His Word, we should love and fear Him.
4. Everyone who seeks to make sure His reputation and nature is consecrated, and sacred forever, should also seek to bring God favor. This must never end.

PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Patricia Moore & family, Judy Times & family, Terrance Ford & family, Clara Williams & family, Lynette Mims and family, April Caldwell & family, Elaine Marshall & family, Jennie Dangerfield & family, Dale and Jackie Ward & family, Larry Black & family, Eric White & family, and La Toi Gillyard & family.

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

THE ANTIDOTE TO FEAR, ANXIETY AND UNCERTAINTY

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