

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 29, 2021

The news this week is dominated by all that is taking place in Afghanistan. Al-Qaeda soldiers swooped in and for their religion and love of their country, have gained control. What they are doing to their own country, men, and women, is hideous, disgusting and satanic. They have been out all night, forsaking their jobs, families, and committed to risking their lives to institute the beliefs of their religion. Let me be clear, NOTHING about serving God, and evangelizing the world requires us to function as they have, NOTHING. Their dedication, however, to their cause is unending, and if we had the same dedication, like the disciples had, we would change the world and protect it from being destroyed by satan.

If we were around in the days of Paul and heard him say "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain;" (Philippians 1:21) we'd probably call it cultic, and unnecessary. We would probably look at this as extreme. Coming to church, giving, and serving is what should drive us because our desire is to experience God's blessings.

The problem is satan is going to heaven day and night seeking to destroy us (Revelation 12:10). Like a roaring lion He seeks to devour us (1 Peter 5:6-8). So, whether we are surrendered to the Lord and dedicated to His agenda or not, the enemy is on the move. He is vicious; "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy...." (John 10:10; NASU) As long as he can create complacency in the church, he can have more time and space to ravage the earth, especially since he has the power to create tornadoes as the prince of the air (Ephesians 2:1-2) and give diseases as we can see with Job. He uses savage wolves (false teachers; 2 Corinthians 11:12-21; 1 Timothy 4:1-4), and he has many gates (Matthew 16:18) to establish death (gates of Hades - Hades represent death) throughout the earth if the church remains asleep (1 Peter 4:17). Like Al-Qaeda, he is on the move.

Progress was made in the time of the disciples, because of their mindset, even after watching Christ die for doing God's will. The key word that drove them was "Go....." (Acts 1:8). In the entire book of Acts, all you see them do is "GO". Paul was so focused on this "GO" that he counted everything that was attributed to his past accomplishments as "loss" since it interfered with his ability to go (Philippians 3:2-6). It is the mindset that has blessed us to be saved and have half of the New Testament written as Paul went to all the world. (Philippians 3:7-17; NASU) We can do the same because "we are more than conquerors through Christ" and "nothing separates us from His love" (Romans 8:31, 37-39).

This can only be accomplished through the church (Ephesians 1:22-23).



## UPCOMING Events



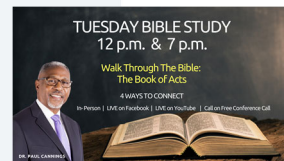
### RWANDA UNIVERSITY PROJECT

Living Word is partnering with TL Africa Inc. for the Rwanda University Project. The University will train pastors and leaders in 5 countries across Africa and focus on pastoral leadership, women's empowerment, sustainability and the completion of the Thousand Hills University building. Give to this dynamic project under the **GIVE** tab and choose **Rwanda University Project**.



### SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR THE REACH CENTER

The Christian Outreach Center is collecting school supplies for children who are in need, specifically backpacks, school supplies and/or gift cards. If you would like to donate, please contact Pastor Allen Boutte at (713) 683-0847



### BIBLE STUDY WITH DR. PAUL CANNINGS

4 Ways To Connect  
Tuesdays | 12 noon & 7 p.m.

1. In-Person
2. LIVE on Facebook
3. LIVE on YouTube
4. Free Conference Call 1-978-990-5374  
Access 1165799



### HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Prayers and support for Haiti! Please consider donating to the relief effort by visiting:  
[www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/missions](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/missions)  
Select: Haiti Earthquake Relief



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Children's Ministry is in need of workers who are committed to serving God's children. All interested persons, please contact Sylvia Edwards at 281.260.740 or [sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org).



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

*Fortified*

Ephesians 4:11-13

Full sermon notes available online at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org)

Click on the "Resources" tab and click "Sermon Notes"

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**





## Fortified

Ephesians 4:11-13

### A. Guarded (vs. 11):

1. Just as God began the earth in Genesis (on His own initiative with no input from anyone outside the godhead) and started the church through Jesus Christ, Christ decided who He would select to be pastors.
2. The Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4) put together a strong foundation by establishing His leadership structure so that it “being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit” (2:21-22).
  - a) Apostles – Christ uniquely commissioned ambassadors who saw Christ to carry out their sender’s mission with authority as eyewitnesses (2 Corinthians 15:6-9; Acts 9; 1 Corinthians 9:1; Acts 1:20-26).
  - b) Prophet - He also gave those who spoke openly the divine message that came directly from God as divine revelation proclaiming His will for the salvation of His people (1 Corinthians 14:37).
  - c) Evangelist - Christ also gave those who were well equipped to go from place to place preaching the gospel proclaiming glad tidings.
  - d) Pastor and Teachers – Lastly, He gave those who would tend His sheep by tenderly caring for them while shaping (teaching, discipleship) the lives of true saints to become like Christ.
3. The pastor teachers, by teaching the Word, prevents the saints from being carried away by false doctrine (Ephesians 4:15), thereby protecting them from salvage wolves or leaders who raise up to speak perverse things (Acts 20:29-30).

### B. Equipped (vs. 12):

1. Equipping is to fully provide believers with “everything they need for life and Godliness” (2 Peter 1:3-4; Colossians 1:28-29).
2. When a believer is fully equipped, they are not carried away with every wind of doctrine (4:14), they do not lean to their own understanding (4:17-20) or live in the flesh (5:3-14).
3. Paul told Timothy to focus on the believers who have willfully decided to consecrate themselves by developing the character of God (1 Timothy 4:12).
4. The works of the saints energized by their faith, seek with compassionate love, to minister to the needs of those in the Christian community, which includes and empowers the movement of the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:12-22) throughout the church.
5. The purpose of all the above is for Christ to accomplish what He stated which is “I will build My church” (Matthew 16:18). He establishes the foundation, select His leaders (Acts 20:28), determine the content of the message and who the messenger will be, provides spiritual gifts (4:1-10) and the work to be done by those who are saved and committed to spiritual growth (1 Corinthians 12:4-8).
6. The body of Christ is an “administration suitable to the fullness of times.” It is structured and empowered by Him (4:4-9).

### C. Empowered (vs. 13):

1. Attain is the goal that makes us fortified from the inside out.
2. When saints, (godly people) are equipped, and the body is built up through service establishing the body of Christ, the church is unified because of the work of the Word shared and the work of the Holy Spirit in each saint's life. We are fitted together fitly (4:16).
3. The knowledge that godly believers possess, because of their faith in Christ, is a full divine knowledge of God.
4. When we have benefited from all the above, in the sense that all of it has spiritually impacted our lives, we become drunk with the Spirit (5:15-18), and blameless in the way we live with moral excellence.
5. The measure is a gift from Christ; Chapter 4 verse 7 explains that the gift of grace is the measure.
6. When we come to age, meaning experiencing spiritual maturity, we will have the nature of Christ (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-4; 2 Peter 1:3-4).
7. The statue (fullness) is God filling the believer so that they are the sum total of all that God is (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:12; Colossians 3:1-4).



## PRAYER REQUEST

**Grieving:** Catherine Asuquo & family, Shanna Edwards & family, Daphne Banks & family, Wendy Oliver & family, Margaret Baptiste & family, Valencia Rucker & family, Caesar and Mary Ngwazini & family, Joseph and Cici Sharp & family, and Pastor Duane Lawrence & family, Jackie Ward & family, Thurston Love & family, and Larry Black & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Sara-Beth Mathis, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Eric White, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, Linda Rainey, and Nikisha Doyle.



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