

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 5, 2021

Have you ever prayed and prayed for God to resolve an issue, only to have to wait and wait and wait? I wonder what it was like for Sarah who prayed for a child, not a nation; just one child and she had to wait twenty five years. Even though she was forced to wait, it was hard. Remember, she took the lead and told her husband to try and have a child by Hagar; when God came and renewed the promise she laughed because by this time it was impossible for her to conceive based on human terms (Genesis 17:12). Not only did Sarah laugh, but her husband laughed also when God renewed His promise (Genesis 17:17). God teaches us that answered prayer is a direct correlation to a plan for our lives.

Waiting on God when we pray is not what we want, but it seems like this is what He believes we need. For instance, when talking about our needs in Luke 12:22-32 He states, "But seek His kingdom and these things will be added to you as well." When God states "He would grant

us according to His riches" in John 15:7, it is after He first says "abide in Me." Even when God directs us to pray with boldness He says "...ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be open to you." (Luke 11:9) It does not say when He plans to do any of this. Even when it comes to anxiety He says He provides to us peace but He does not say it comes immediately. (Philippians 4:4-7)

Just as in the case of Sarah, God challenges us to come to Him since He loves us and has the power and desire to help us. Coming to Him with our request means that we acknowledge that He is the only one who has the power and love to resolve the issues we face. When this process is accepted it becomes a constant reminder of the very nature of what the word "prayer" means. It means that we recognized His supremacy and our dependence on Him for everything. This is clearly seen with everyone in the Bible. No matter how powerful, rich, or how strong they were "man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord." (Deuteronomy 8:3). Praying is an act of faith.

The purpose of praying and waiting is learning to trust God so that an unanswered prayer is growing to know God and His plans for our lives. "...without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6). "The mind of a man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." (Proverbs 16:9) Waiting and trusting is the answer to unanswered prayer. (Proverbs 30:5-6)



## UPCOMING Events



### RWANDA UNIVERSITY PROJECT

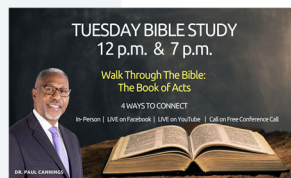
Living Word is partnering with TL Africa Inc. for the Rwanda University Project. The University will train pastors and leaders in 5 countries across Africa and focus on pastoral leadership, women's empowerment, sustainability and the completion of the Thousand Hills University building. Give to this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



### MEN'S BIBLE STUDYING METHODS

Men...do you have a desire to understand the Bible at a deeper level? Do you desire to have the tools necessary to study the Word of God in a way where the words jump off the page and your life is transformed?

Join us as we learn fundamental ways to study the word of God on **September 25th** and **October 16th**. For more information contact Tony Hall at 832-277-8543.



### 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



### LEGIT WALK FOR THE CURE

Young Adults join us on **October 2, 2021** as we will look to participate in this year's Komen Houston Race for the Cure Annual Walk.

We will meet at the church at 6:30am and leave in time for the 7:45am start. **To register please contact the Young Adult Director Keron Brown. The last day to register will be September 25th.**



### 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).



### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

LWFC is seeking a *part-time receptionist*.

Submit resume to:  
[goneal@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:goneal@lwfellowshipchurch.org)



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

*Ground Up*

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**



# SERMON OUTLINE

## Ground Up Ephesians 4:11-13

### A. Body Builders (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).

### B. Established (vs. 13):

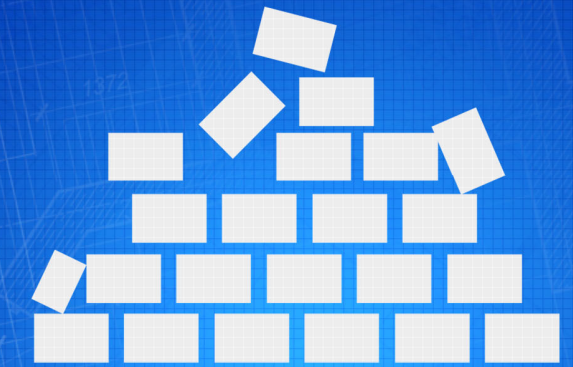
1. Attain is the goal that makes us fortified from the inside out.
2. When saints, (godly people) are equipped, and the body is built up through service establishing the body of Christ, the church is unified because of the work of the Word shared and the work of the Holy Spirit in each saint's life. 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:** Pastor Duane Lawrence & family, Calvin Wilson & family, Jackie Ward & family, Ethel Lewis & family, Thurston Love & family, Larry Black & family, Marie Perkins & family, Mignette Dorsey & family and Collins Barcus & family.

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



# GROUND UP

EPHESIANS 4:11-13