

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

December 5, 2021

Before the opening day of “pheasant” season, two city-dwellers who aspired to be hunters bought a bird dog, having heard that such a dog would make for a much more enjoyable and profitable hunting. When the big day came, they were up bright and early. They hunted all day, but as dusk began to overtake them, they hadn't fired a single shot. The hunters were exhausted and frustrated over the poor performance of their bird dog. Finally, one said, "Okay, Joe, throw him up again and if he doesn't fly this time, I'm gonna shoot him."

Even though we are aggressively (like the men out hunting) trying to resolve the many issues we may experience, we sometimes become frustrated with the bird dog (the Holy Spirit and the powerful Word of God). Instead of us actively applying God's Word to the many issues we experience, and follow its' direction, we begin to wait for God to do what we want Him to do. We also begin to expect God to do things He has not promised or has said in His Word He will do. This may leave us frustrated. The frustration may then lead us to stop trusting and depending on God's Word (in essence we want to shoot the bird dog).

Before you put God's Word to the side and give up on growing spiritually, remember that the very thing we hope for is the reason Christ died (2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Hebrews 12:1-3; 4:15-16). It is because of His life we now have hope (1 John 3:1-3). Many times, the issue is not whether we can experience the power of Christ each day, but the issue maybe applying His Word to our daily lives consistently (also applying God's Word the way it is written), along with prayer, as we deal with the many issues we encounter (2 Peter 1:3-11). This is what provides us victory (Col. 1:9-12); this is why we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37); this why we become greater from the inside out (1 John 4:4) and it is for this kind of faith we are rewarded (Hebrews 11:6) “.....that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you..., may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depths, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.....” (Eph. 3:16-21).

Don't shoot the bird dog, let Him hunt. Allow God to be real to and for you each day by allowing the Holy Spirit in us to guide us through and by the Word of God. This is the victory (Psalm 34).



## UPCOMING Events



**Angel Tree Christmas - Prison Fellowship**  
*(Deadline to sponsor a child is December 13th)*  
Again this year, Angel Tree Christmas is virtual. Praise God Living Word Fellowship Church has the opportunity to serve children of incarcerated parents around the country who may not be served by other churches. Gift cards are given to children in the name of their incarcerated parent as a Christmas gift which helps keep a connection between the children and their incarcerated parent. For instructions on how to donate visit the events page of our website or contact Wanda Ryan at wryan622@hotmail.com



**Titus II Women's Ministry Fellowship**  
Join us on Saturday, Dec. 11th 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Legacy Sanctuary for fellowship, food, and a conversation about loss, recovery & moving forward especially during the holidays. See you all there for our last fellowship of the year! Register on our events page of the website!



**LWFC Kids & Community Christmas Party**  
Living Word will host a Christmas Party for LWFC Kids Ministry & the Community on Sat., December 18th 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. in LEGACY sanctuary- **MASKS REQUIRED**. Please donate toys \$20 and under for this events. Donate your unwrapped toys in the bins in the foyer or children's wing no later than December 15th. Thank you so much for your donations to the children of Living Word & our community! Register on our events page of the website!



**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
**DECEMBER 24TH AT 6:00 P.M.**  
Living Word family join us for a Christmas Program like no other. The LWFC Drama Ministry & Creative Jams Present “Returning to Your First Love” featuring music, dance, and a dynamic story about a family that has lost their way and Christmas brings them back together. Bring the entire family for a Living Word Christmas family tradition.



**Urban Missions Team Outreach**  
Come serve with the U.M.T on Christmas morning to serve the homeless in Downtown Houston near Minute Maid Park by handing out Packs of Love (toiletry items) and praying with them. The event will take place on **Saturday, December 25, 2021**, meet at Living Word at 8 am and we will arrive near Minute Maid Park by 9am. the event will last until 11 am, returning to the church right after. Children & Youth (10 years old and up) and Adults are welcome to join in serving Houston's homeless. Contact Natividad Smith at 832-701-4281 for more information.



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

*Thick and Thin*

Numbers 14:20-25

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**





S E R M O N   O U T L I N E

Thick and Thin

Numbers 14:20-25

A. Committed (vs. 20-21):

- 1. Because the Lord is committed to sustaining His relationship with Israel, and has the power and authority to all things, He verbally answered Moses’ request.
- 2. God's heart is not to punish anyone. It is when our rebellious nature revolts against His holiness, He responds justly even though He is slow to anger.
- 3. “Indeed as I live” - These words last forever.
- 4. The Lord's supernatural presence is so powerful that the whole earth will recognize Him.

B. He is Just (vs. 22-23):

- 1. Because the Lord's works are so powerful and supernatural there is no way everyone did not recognize His presence.
- 2. God's glory is a massive cloud over the earth.
- 3. The Lord's magnificent presence was a demonstration of His majestic power.
- 4. The Lord was totally committed to Israel while they continuously, in the midst of adversity, were committed to their way of thinking or feeling.
- 5. God does not forget anything because He knows all things. Forgiveness is not forgetting. Forgiveness is still deciding to serve those who were wrong as if they did no wrong.
- 6. In the midst of adversity, they chose, to not give the Lord their undivided attention with the mindset to come to a full knowledge and understanding of what He wanted them to do.
- 7. Forever the Lord will not allow them to be able to gain an intellectual and comprehensive experience of the Promise Land.
- 8. Those who will not experience the Promise Land are the ones who with contempt rejected the Lord’s instructions.

C. He is Full of Grace and Mercy (vs. 24-25; 18; Exodus 34:6-7):

- 1. How Caleb responded to all that he saw; how he with deep conviction was committed to do all that God called him to do, and his willingness to seek to lead the people in the ways of the Lord caused God to call Caleb someone who has sincerely surrendered his will to the Lord's will.
- 2. Caleb demonstrated a different attitude. His countenance and manner of thinking was different than anyone.
- 3. The Lord viewed Caleb as completely surrendered to go beyond what should be expected of someone when faced with overwhelming circumstances.
- 4. God, no matter how great the obstacles, is going to bring Caleb into the land and establish his family for generations.
- 5. The Amalekites and the Canaanites permanently reside in the Promise Land.
- 6. Because the Amalekites and Canaanites permanently reside in the land, the sons of Israel will not win a war against them.
- 7. God protects His people by guiding them a different way (by the Red Sea). His divine will is His protection.



PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Brenda Bonhame & family, Sherri Randle & family, Nicole Benjamin & family, Randy Hadnot & family, Eunice Johnson & family, Lula Walker & family, and Carlton Lopes & 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, and Rutha Patrick.

Thick  
& Thin

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