

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 24, 2022

Inside Out

It seems like many believers believe that walking with the Lord takes a lot and experiencing His blessings is even more work. This can make a relationship with the Lord tiresome or illusive. I actually understand because many times I have prayed and prayed and prayed and it seemed like the Lord was not listening or was too busy to respond. I have gone to Him needing Him to act and fight my case, but He seems to move really slow when I know He is a just God. Sometimes this has led to frustration, but I thank Him that over the years it has created a greater dependence on Him and He has taught me what trusting Him means. One of the things He has taught me is that by His very nature, He cares as He relentlessly stands for me against a person that is described as a ravenous wolf, a roaring lion the devil of devils; who by His very nature is a slanderer, a liar because there is absolutely no truth in him (John 8:44). This person goes to heaven day and night seeking to destroy me (Revelation 12:10; Job was not an exception to his rule). The question is how is He caring for me when it seems like He is not.

I relentlessly keep these things in mind. Jesus lives in us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit who is His Helper with no plans to ever leave us (Ephesians 3:14-19); ".....He will be with you forever." (John 14:16-17; Ephesians 1:13; John 10:28-30) The Holy Spirit intercedes for us especially in our moments of deepest pain (Romans 8:26). Jesus remains sitting at the right hand of God (a place of honor and power; serving as our lawyer when satan comes to God, something Job did not have) so that we do not experience more than we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:12). He only allows these trials because He uses them to mature us (James 1:2-4), to refine our faith (1 Peter 1:3-11), and then He blesses us eternally for not giving up on Him (James 1:12; Revelation 2:9-10). Christ knows that if we trust Him, we will make it because of He who is within us (1 John 4:4) and if we choose to walk by faith and not by sight He will place angels around us who form a seal, a hedge around us (Psalm 34:7; Hebrews 1:14) which forces satan to heaven where again Christ is at God's right hand. So there is no pain, or hardship the Lord does not know about. The issue again is will we trust His plan for our maturity and keep the faith (2 Corinthians 5:7).

God has taught me throughout these years to live inside out. Whatever I am going through I learn what it means from the outside, but how I respond is from my strength which is all that the Spirit means on the inside. By Christ's nature it is impossible for Him not to love us.



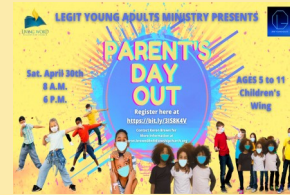
UPCOMING Events



Center For Christian Living—Apr. 19th - May 24th
 "The Encounter With Jesus" begins April 19th -May 24th. Bible Studies and classes will be every Tuesday at noon and 7 p.m. Come join us as we obtain a deeper understanding of Jesus and how He uses the problems in our lives and turns them into testimonies for His glory. For more information visit www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/center-christian-living or contact Nord Bullock at nordbullock@yahoo.com



Marriage Retreat—April 29th & 30th
 The Covenant Keeper's Marriage Ministry will host a Marriage Retreat **April 29th from 7-9 p.m. and April 30th from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.** in the Legacy Sanctuary. The theme is No Grudges, Fight Fair and Forgive Quickly. Cost is \$100 per couple (\$50 per person). Parent's Day included on Sat. April 30th from 8 am—6 pm. **Register at <https://bit.ly/3D98vRE>** Contact Sherri or Terri Randle for more information at lwfcmarriagemin@gmail.com



**Parent's Day Out
 April 30th 8 am– 6 pm**
 Parents: Relax and enjoy a day off from the kiddos, sponsored by the LEGIT Young Adult Ministry. The children will enjoy a day of fun activities from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. Register on the **events page of our website** or for more information contact **Keron Brown** at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



Women of Grace Ministry—Prayer Breakfast
 Calling on all ladies, The Women of Grace Ministry will host a Mother's Day Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, May 14th at 9:00 a.m. Please come out to fellowship, worship and to be served by the Men's ministry. Invite your mother, daughter, grandmother, aunt etc., for an enjoyable morning. Please register on the events page of our website or contact Eleanor Wilson for more information.



600 Club 3-Month Giving Campaign
 Living Word Family, please give to the **600 Club Giving Campaign** over the next three months so we can replace everything lost in the recent fire, including the lawnmower tractor trailer which keeps our grounds in compliance with city codes. Also we will improve the parking lot at the Christian Outreach Center, which has been feeding over one hundred families 3-5 times a week throughout the pandemic. To give, use the envelopes and boxes around the church or give online by clicking on the give tab and choosing the **600 Club** dropdown in the menu. Thank you so much for your continued support!



ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Communion
- Visitor's Welcome
- Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music
 "Nothing Can Stop Us"
 Romans 8:31-34

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.

Infants—6th grade

Nothing Can Stop Us

Romans 8:31-34

A. If God Is For Us (v. 31):

1. This question, "What then shall we say" is stated because we stand justified before the Lord, God. We are, by His grace, viewed as in excellent standing before God; glorified (Romans 8:30).
2. God is the subject of this passage with Christ being the person God does everything through. Salvation, justification, reconciliation are empowering us through the sanctification process so we share in His life (5:10-11) all because "God so loved..." (John 3:16).
3. Because of all that has taken place, there is no question that the Lord is always working in our favor. Since He is holy and perfect, He is always going to do all things for our good.
4. If an accusation is correct His grace is sufficient, and because we are at peace with Him, once we continue to surrender to His will, there is nothing anyone can do to cause the Lord God to turn against us.

B. He Gives Us All Things (v. 32):

1. God did not refrain from placing His one and only son to take on His wrath and pay the full price for all of our sins. There was no hesitation (Genesis 3:15), because of His love for us.
2. God handed over Christ, who is all powerful (Colossians 1:15-20), to function under the authority of human beings (People Christ sustains daily), even to the point of being susceptible to betrayal, so that those in authority could do whatever they wanted to do to Him. He allowed Christ to be guilty for us in a human court.
3. Since God willingly, on His own initiative (no man seeking Him; Romans 3:9-11), allowed His one and only Son to die for us, how much more will God unconditionally, graciously put His blessings in place each day toward us.
4. Since God on His own initiative graciously provided to us His Son, that should be evidence that no matter what we may be going through He would in the same manner willingly, unconditionally grant to us His glorious favor.

C. No Matter What (vs. 33-34):

1. Understand there is no one, who can bring a charge against us, because we stand justified before the Lord God. This is why Paul ask a rhetorical question concerning who in the Lord's court could bring an accusation before the Lord. Satan brings accusations daily (Revelation 12:10), but to no avail, because all our sins have been forgiven, we are no longer enemies with God and His righteous nature has been imputed into us; we are at peace with God.
2. Whoever it maybe that accuses us must remember that from eternity past the Lord has chosen people that He foreknew, predestined, called, justified, and glorified (8:29-20). We have always been on His mind.
3. Our salvation allows God to see us continuously as righteous in His eyes because the Holy Spirit is poured into us (Titus 3:4-8), sealing us in preparation for our entrance into the presence of God (Ephesians 1:13-14). This allows us to be at peace with God (Ephesians 2:17), especially when we remain in the sanctifying process (Romans 6:23).
4. Being justified and imputed with righteousness, we can experience a great a friendship (John 15:13) with God. Instead of living each day worrying about being punished by God, we can now live seeking spiritual maturity to become like Christ (Romans 8:9-14).
5. Christ overcame the penalty of sin once and for all by overcoming death when He got up from the grave. So, in the midst of all the suffering these saints were experiencing, death had no victory. When we face death, we immediately enter into the presence of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6). Thanks to Christ, we cannot be condemned to death.
6. If death has no victory, why do the scriptures say the "wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23)? When we live in the flesh and set our minds on fleshly things, we can become spiritually dead (Romans 5:5-8; 6:5-7, 12-23) which can lead to an early death (1 Corinthians 11:27-32; 1 John 5:16). This death, however, does not remove the opportunity to spend eternity in heaven (John 14:16-17). When we live in the Spirit, we share in all the blessings Christ has for us (Romans 8:9-14; Luke 12:31-34; John 15:6-7).
7. When Jesus entered God's court, He, who made us all guiltless before God, was seated in equal standing with God with all honor to execute all that takes place in God's court.
8. When we are accused Christ pleads (He is the One who paid for all our sin) for us against our accusers on our behalf and has absolute authority to decide what God does towards us. This is why we can know for sure that we will not experience more than we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13). We can also cast our cares on Him as often as we need to (1 Peter 5:6-10).
9. Once we accept Christ, He becomes our wall of defense against satan so that we can be fully exposed to Christ who "freely gives us all things". He even hears the groans of our heart (Romans 8:26).



ALL AGES INTO SPRING FREE FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

Before & Afterschool Program

LIVING WORD CHRISTIAN CENTER
6601 ANTOINE DR. HOUSTON, TX 77091

TRY US OUT FOR 1 WEEK FOR FREE
\$75 PER WEEK / \$50 OFF OF YOUR 1ST MONTH

281-445-9673



COVENANT KEEPERS MARRIAGE MINISTRY

Marriage Retreat

LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Friday, April 29th 7 - 9 p.m.
Saturday, April 30th 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

NO GRUDGES, FIGHT FAIR AND FORGIVE QUICKLY

Registration \$100
Kids Saturday Conference Included

Friday Dinner
Saturday Breakfast
Lunch Included

Contact Sherri & Terry Randle at lwfmarriage@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Joseph Dorsey & family, Mary and O'Neal Stovall & family, Tony Hall & family, the family of Alonzo Barnes, Dana & Nikisha Doyle & family, Greg & Georeba Odums, and the family of Lyndia Tarkington.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, the Tillis family, Rudy Mazin, Janice Collins, and Noah Cain.

NOTHING CAN STOP US



ROMANS 8:31-34