

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

May 1, 2022

## The Faith in Surrender

We must allow God to have His way. When God is in control, we are allowing someone Who loves us with His whole life to care for us, fight for us, and to direct our lives. There is nothing to lose! We have everything to gain (Philippians 1:21; 3:7-16). The issue that prevents us from allowing God to have His way in our lives is our lack of complete trust in Him.

A little boy walked down the beach, and as he did, he spied a matronly woman sitting under a beach umbrella in the sand. He walked up to her and asked, "Are you a Christian?" She said, "Yes." He then asked, "Do you read your Bible every day?" She replied, "Yes." He surprised her by asking another question. "Do you pray often?" She answered with a smile, "Yes." After this question was answered, the young boy sighed expressively and then asked one final question, "Will you hold my quarter while I go swimming?"

The young boy's faith in God caused him to trust this woman with his quarter. Is our faith in Christ being alive in us and our belief that he is the only way, truth, and life, enough for us to trust Him with our life? If our answer is yes, then we must allow God to have His way by first committing to renew our minds, so He can transform them. Second, we have to allow ourselves to experience His perfect will (Rom. 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18). "I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve." (Jeremiah 17:10; NIV)

Sometimes people will ask, what is God's will? The answer is found only when you release your will to Him, trust that Christ loves you and will never leave you, nor forsake you (Matthew 11:38-30; John 10:11-18). His Word never returns void (Isaiah 55:11), it endures at all times (1 Peter 1:22-25), it is powerful (Hebrews 4:12) and the Holy Spirit remains with us forever (John 14:16-21). The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth and enlighten our hearts to love Christ as we experience His love for us. (Ephesians 1:18; 3:14-21; 5:15-18).

Remember God is most glorified in us, when we are most surrendered to Him.



## UPCOMING Events



**Center For Christian Living—Apr. 19th - May 24th**  
"The Encounter With Jesus" will take place through 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](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/center-christian-living) or contact Nord Bullock at [nordbullock@yahoo.com](mailto:nordbullock@yahoo.com)



### Celebration of Life for Lyndia Tarkington

**Saturday, May 7, 2022**  
**Viewing: 10:00am**  
**Service: 11:00am**

*"We cherish you, we love you, we will miss you, but we know God has you in His loving arms until the end of time."*

*"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." -John 9:4-7 KJV*



**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 at [wilsone\\_ewilson@yahoo.com](mailto:wilsone_ewilson@yahoo.com)



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY PASTOR PAUL CANNINGS

Yesterday, our own Pastor Paul Cannings celebrated his Birthday. Send him well wishes and post him a birthday message and well wishes for the year to our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/LWFCHouston](https://www.facebook.com/LWFCHouston)



**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

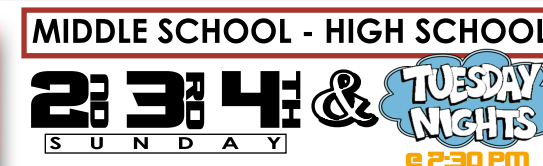
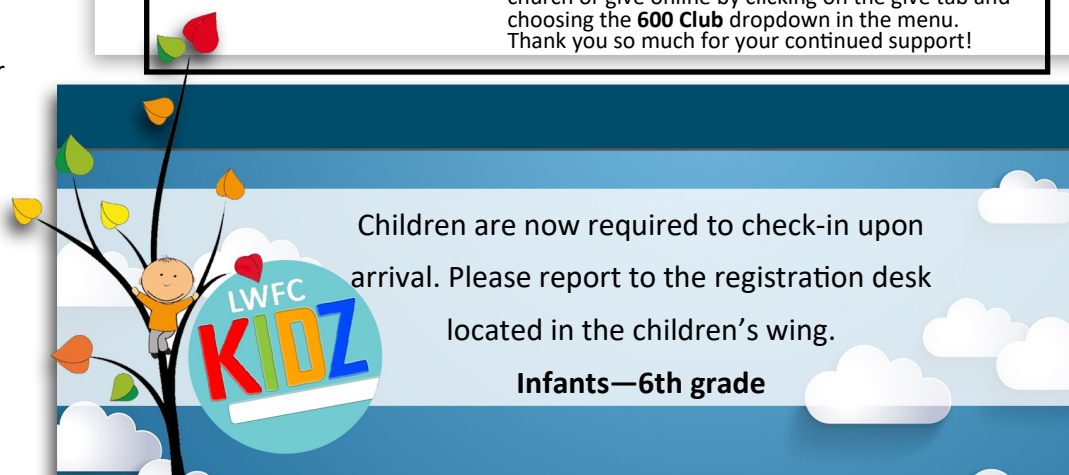
**"Nothing But Love"**  
Romans 8:35-39

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

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction





Nothing But Love  
Romans 8:35-39

I. Love in Suffering (vs. 35-37)

- a. Who Will Separate - to cause separation through use of space between, divide, separate
  - i. Love - the quality of warm regard for and interest in another, esteem, affection, regard, love
    - 1. God has the first word. He establishes the relationship. This is laid down once and for all in R. 8. His resolve, election and calling are decisive
    - 2. He is also able to reach out and sustain his people still on earth. His love enfolds them as a power which hostile and untoward circumstances cannot disrupt or prevent.
- b. Will?
  - i. Tribulation - trouble that inflicts distress, oppression, affliction, tribulation
  - ii. Distress - a set of stressful circumstances, distress, difficulty, anguish, trouble
  - iii. Persecution- a program or process designed to harass and oppress someone, persecution
  - iv. Famine – hunger
  - v. Nakedness- being without adequate clothing, with connotation of destitution, lack of sufficient clothing, destitution
  - vi. Peril - danger, risk
  - vii. Sword- violent death
    - 1. The parallel with 2 Cor 11:23–27 also makes clear that such a list is not a mere literary form but is a firsthand expression of Paul’s own experience. Since he regarded his own experience as the outworking of the eschatological tension between the ages (of Adam and of Christ), he naturally saw his experience as typical for all his fellow believers
- c. It is Expected
  - i. Sheep to the Slaughter - The quotation is verbatim from Ps 44:22 but there may already be an echo in Zech 11:4, 7 (πρόβατα τῆς σφαγῆς); cf. also Isa 53:7
    - 1. Same idea of continuous martyrdom in 1 Cor. 15:31. As sheep for the slaughter
- d. We are Conquerors
  - i. Overwhelmingly Conquer - Overwhelmingly - as a heightened form of νικᾶν prevail completely ὑπερνικῶμεν we are winning a most glorious victory
  - ii. ὑπερνικᾶω is a heightened form of νικᾶω, hence something like “win a glorious victory, win more than a victory”; “we are more than conquerors”; “overwhelming victory is ours.”

II. Powerful Love (vs. 37-39)

- a. I am Convinced
  - i. Convinced persuade, appeal
    - 1. “I stand convinced.” The items mentioned are those that people dread (life, death, supernatural powers, above, below, any creature to cover any omissions).
- b. Nothing
  - i. Death - the termination of physical life, death natural death  
θάνατος appropriately heads the list, not simply because of v 36, but primarily because death has loomed throughout chaps. 5–8 as the great hostile power (see chaps. 6–8 Introduction), the fullest measure of sin’s power over this age (cf. 1 Cor 15:26; see on 5:12, 21).
  - ii. Life- the death/life pairing is simply a way of embracing every conceivable condition of human kind (cf. 14:7–9; 1 Cor 3:22; Phil 1:20).
  - iii. Angels-intermediate beings as serving spirit-powers
    - 1. Paul probably has in mind particularly the idea of angels as inhabiting the lower reaches of heaven (or lower heavens; cf. 2 Cor 12:2; Eph 6:12), and therefore as a potential barrier between God and his people on earth; but also perhaps the idea of angels as rulers of the nations
  - iv. Principalities - an authority figure who initiates activity or process, ruler, authority Also of angelic or transcendent powers, since they were thought of as having a political organization
  - v. Powers - an entity or being, whether human or transcendent, that functions in a remarkable manner, power
  - vi. Height -as an astronomical term the space above the horizon, the world above (which would be the domain of many transcendent forces

II. Powerful Love (vs. 37-39) continued

- vii. Depth - the space or distance beneath a surface, depth since they are said to be creatures and the context speaks apparently only of transcendent forces
  - 1. neither height nor depth.” The contrast most likely uses astronomical terms: ὑψωμα as the apogee of the planets, the highest point in the heavens reached by the heavenly body At the very least his thought and assurance embrace all that is or can be imagined as belonging to the full sweep of space as well as of time
- viii. Created Thing - individual things or beings created, creature
  - 1. nor any other creature.” Since God alone is creator, nothing else is omitted in κτίσις. The status of the preceding members of the list is likewise relativized: powers etc. they may be, but only creatures
- c. Love of God – Which is in Christ Jesus
  - 1. As Jesus did not distinguish His activity from that of God, but did what only God can do, forgiving sins, so Paul regards the love of God as basically one with that of His Christ (R. 8:37; 2 Th. 2:16). The loving action of God is revealed and executed in that of Christ:



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 & family, and Phillip Baillou & family, 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, Noah Cain, and Betty Goode.

