

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

July 17, 2022

Be Resolute

Obedience is difficult because God's standards do not always make sense to us (1 Corinthians 1:18-25), because our sinful nature is contrary to His righteousness. A speaker once said, "Every great person first learned how to obey, whom to obey, and when to obey." This is because it is our duty to obey God's commands, rather than seek to direct His counsel.

"Aretta Loving, a Wycliffe missionary, was washing her breakfast dishes when she saw Jimmy, the five-year-old neighbor, headed straight toward the back porch. She had just finished painting the back-porch handrails, and she was proud of her work. "Come around to the front door, Jimmy," she shouted. "There's wet paint on the porch rails." "I'll be careful," Jimmy replied, not turning from his path. "No, Jimmy! Don't come up the steps," Aretta shouted, knowing of Jimmy's tendency to mess things up. "I'll be careful," he said again, but by now he is dangerously close to the steps. "Jimmy, stop!" Aretta shouted. "I don't want carefulness. I want obedience!" As the words burst from her mouth, she suddenly remembered Samuel's response to King Saul: "To obey is better than sacrifice".

Aretta thought to herself, "How often am I like Saul or like Jimmy, wanting to go my own way"? I rationalize, "I'll be careful, Lord as I proceed with my own plans". "But He doesn't want carefulness, He wants obedience." (Stories, Illustrations & Quotes by Robert J. Morgan)

"Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:7-9)

It is when we are resolute to live under the authority of God that it generates the work and influence of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual development leads to lasting genuine relationships that bring God glory and blesses us (John 13:34-35; 1 John 1:5-7). Living on our strength does not provide us the ability to make relationships last (Galatians 5:16-25). He is the source, the accountability structure and the direction that makes relationships joyful and peaceful.



UPCOMING Events



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH—AUGUST 6TH 10 A.M.—1 P.M. DONATE TODAY!
Please Donate Backpacks, School Supplies, Hair products, Hair ties, Hair bows, headbands, and gift bags so we can make this years Back To School Bash the best year ever! We had an amazing turn out last year and we want all the children to have what they need headed back into the school year. Bins will be located in foyer, in the Children's Wing and at the Christian Outreach Center. Thank you for your support!



URBAN MISSIONS TEAM COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT
Service Opportunity for 5th – 12th graders to serve our community. We will be loading food into vehicles & sorting food items. Come join us on July 26th -28th at 7 am – 11 am. We will be meeting at the Reach Center at 4333 W. Little York Rd. Houston, TX 77091. This is the perfect opportunity for families to serve together. Contact **Natividad Smith at 832-701-4281** for more information or to sign up.



LEGIT BE THE LIGHT CONFERENCE
JULY 29TH 6:30 P.M. —July 30TH 9:00 A.M.
Ever wonder how you can make an impact for the kingdom as a young adult? Join the LEGIT Young Adults Ministry for empowering messages, dynamic worship, and engaging breakout sessions to discuss topics relevant to your maturity in the faith as a young adult. For more information, contact **Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwffellowshipchurch.org** or **Moniqua Glasper at 832.977.9674**.



LWFC SUMMER CAMP DISCOVERY
6:30 A.M.—6:00 P.M.
SPECIAL LIMITED PRICE—\$85 PER WEEK
Unique weekly themes mind-expanding, hands-on activities designed to make our campers smile, think, explore, and grow spiritually in exciting new directions. Your child will discover fun, learning friendships, and a lifetime of memories. For more information, call **(713) 686-5538** or register at **www.lwfcacademy.org**



CFCL TEACHER TRAINING JULY 23RD—24TH
Calling all Center for Christian Living Teachers, it's time for growth, greater understanding and skills to feed God's people. Join us for a training on July 23 at 9 a.m. and July 24 at 1 p.m. Register on the events page of our website and contact **Nord Bullock** for more information **nordbullock@yahoo.com**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Resolved"

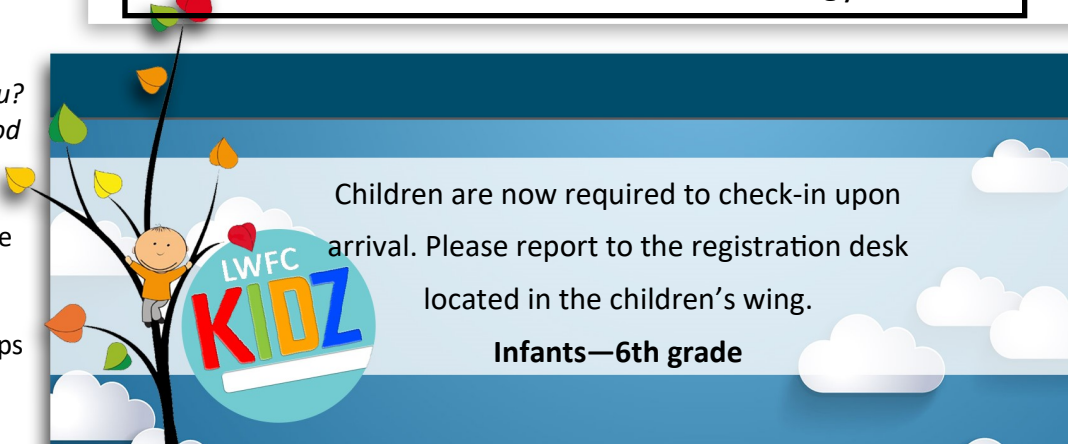
James 4:1-5

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

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



S E R M O N O U T L I N E

Resolved
James 4:1-5

A. Do Not Live Dependent on the Flesh (vs. 1-3):

1. There are a lot of inner experiences whether emotional or mental that quarrels and conflicts can originate from.
2. Quarrels here means the creation of conflicts so intense, it causes individuals to strive over words so passionately that it can lead to being physically abusive.
3. The word for conflict here is in reference to intense, serious, protracted, hostile acts that can } extend for a long period of time.
4. The numerous inner experiences that quarrels and conflicts can originate is based on what gratifies our natural emotional and physical desires.
5. These emotional and physical desires are so intense it is very similar to a military campaign where soldiers are actively engaged in relentlessly besieging a city.
6. How can we recognize the source by the war it wages?:
 - a) We habitually fix our strong inward impulses on things that the Lord has forbidden.
 - b) No matter how intense the desires are, we continuously crave for things God has forbidden and we can never get enough (Ecc. – vanity). Godliness leads to contentment (Philippians 4:10-12)
 - c) By committing murder, James is making reference to believers continuously hating someone secretly.. Later James would say their motives are wrong.
 - d) To be envious, James is describing a believer who continuously and eagerly displays jealousy to another person.
 - e) No matter how much this person burns with jealousy towards another, even after much effort they are not able to acquire what the other person has attained.
 - f) This attitude that is described in this verse causes a person, when they are not able to acquire what they lust for, to become so irritable they continuously, purposefully, and intensely struggle whether physically or non-physically with those around them.
7. How does God’s response teach us we are in the flesh:
 - a) To ask is to continuously come before the Lord recognizing that He is superior over us and we are dependent on Him for what we need.
 - b) Even though we demonstrate by praying, we recognize His power and our dependence; we cannot find what we are asking for to be supported by His Word.
 - c) What we are asking for is with the attitude above so He does not answer (1 John 3:21-22).
 - d) We may go before the Lord, with respect to who He is, but continuously not get a favorable response from Him.

B. No Loyalty to the World (v. 4):

1. These believers who cultivate a friendship with the world while forsaking their need to spiritually develop a relationship with the Lord are like a husband or wife who seek someone outside of their marriage while being married. This believer is likewise being unfaithful in their relationship with the Lord because they are constantly seeking to satisfy their own pleasures with the ways of the world while claiming to desire the Lord.
2. James asks a rhetorical question to a church he once pastored. They know of Israel worshipping false gods and how God responded. They know of the story of Hosea and Gomer describing their relationship with the Lord. So how do they not know?
3. To seek to establish a common interest in what the fallen, evil rebellious nature of a system that is led by satan (1 John 5:16) is to answer the question; “what fellowship can light have with darkness?.” (1 Cor. 6:14-18).

C. Live from the Inside Out (v. 5):

1. Because of the continuous possibility that we may be of the world, we may have an opinion that does not line up with what the scriptures state.
2. The prophetic divine knowledge of God is not silent; it communicates a message that directly addresses all these issues (2 Peter 1:3-4).
3. When the Lord sees us so engaged in the world, committing adultery against Him, “the spirit that He placed in us is filled with jealous desire”. The Spirit’s displeasure is that we would walk by faith and not by sight.
4. We do not lose the work of the Holy Spirit because His presence is in us permanently (John 14:16-17).
5. While we are craving to follow the way the world thinks, the Spirit of God is envious because His function is to guide us into truth (John 16:13) but not against our will.
6. The Holy Spirit prays for us (Romans 8:26) so He is envious of us because our prayers cannot be heard since we pray with wrong motives.
7. The entire purpose of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us for us to be Christ’s friend (John 15:13). His purpose for us must be our resolve.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Howard and Ora Lee Fields & family, Jesse and Beverly Austin & family, and Kandice Ryans & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptists, 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, Janice Collins, and Betty Goode.

