

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 25, 2022

The Author & Finisher



We live in a world full of bomb threats, wars, the spread of disease, home invasions, school shootings, road rage, etc. Could you imagine living in Gaza, starting the day with your family intact, but finishing the day with most of your family members dead? What would our mindset be if these circumstances were happening to us? How would we keep our minds from being overwhelmed with worry and stress every moment of the day?

Our physical world can serve to remind us of what it is like in the spiritual realm. In a physical war there are so many agencies that are fighting to protect us. Maybe this is why in America we don't experience as many terrorist attacks. Similarly, what are we doing when there are terroristic attacks against the mind? Our kids are on Tik Tok, watching TV (with a tremendous number of selections), texting, and sometimes they have four-way video phone calls; there is a constant battle for their minds as well.

Christ did not have bombs or planes shot out of a sky, but Christ did have terrorist who sought to stone him, made false accusations, and He was eventually nailed to the cross. What kept His mind even when His disciples deserted Him at the worst moment of His life? Christ repeatedly said, "I must be about my father's business." He trusted that His Father was in complete control of the results, no matter what chaos ensued around Him.

Paul had a tumultuous life (2 Corinthians 4:7-12). They were putting him in jail, whipping him, taking him before magistrates, and accusing him of things he did not do. Paul did not lose his mind because he is convinced that he is more than a conqueror. He knew nothing would separate him from the love of Christ... (Romans 8:37-39). The "God of peace" sustained his mind because he fixed his mind on "whatever is honorable, whatever is right" (Philippians 4:8-9). As a result, Paul disciplined himself to be able, no matter what, to do "all things through Christ who strengthened him" (Philippians 4:13). He allowed what was taking place around him to discipline him to what God was doing inside of him from the inside out.

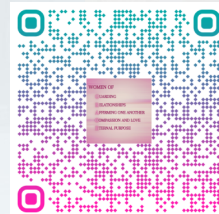
He lived in God's strength (1 John 4:4; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10). Daniel was the same way; he had people against him at his job, and people who wanted to kill him. But Daniel 1:8 says that Daniel made up his mind that he would do what God told him to do.

The pattern that saves the mind of the believer, is that no matter how difficult life may be, when the believer experiences life's difficulties they remain "fixed on Jesus who is the author and finisher of the race..." (Hebrews 12:1-3; Psalm 34).

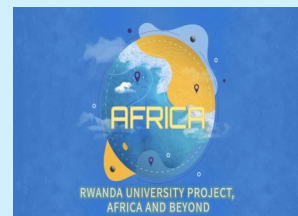
UPCOMING Events



MINISTRY BAZAAR - SUN. OCT. 2ND 10 A.M.
Are you ready to serve and looking for the Ministry that fits your spiritual gifting and desire? Come out to our LWFC Ministry Fair & Bazaar. Fun, Food, Showcases, Giveaways and Learn how you can be served and use your gifts and talents to serve the kingdom of God. Take your spiritual gifts assessment test before your come here at <https://bit.ly/lwfcgifts>



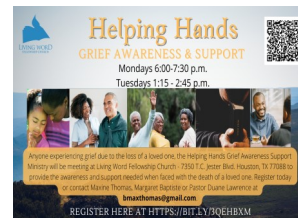
WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY POWER HEALTH EVENT—SAT. OCT. 1ST 9 - 11 A.M.
Ladies, join us for The Women of Grace Ministry Power Health Event! Get Equipped, Get Encouraged & Get Empowered with information on various topics related to women's health. Free Breakfast included. Please register at <https://bit.ly/3xpaTSr>
For more information contact Eleanor Wilson at wilsone_ewilson@yahoo.com



MISSIONS MONTH 2022—SEPTEMBER
Living Word, our Mission Ministry is impacting lives all over the world. In the month of September, learn the **WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, HOW and WHY of MISSIONS!** This week we will be highlighting our mission efforts in Africa, specifically the Rwanda University Project. Sign up to volunteer, and find out more information on the Missions page of our website at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/missions or contact Valarie Miller at valarie.miller@lwfellowshipchurch.org



LWCA IS NOW ENROLLING—\$85 PER WEEK BEFORE/AFTER CARE—\$35-\$55 PER WEEK
The Living Word Christian Academy is having a Back to School Special of \$85 per week for the full day program ages 18 months—4 years old. Before and After School Care ages 5-12 years-old, \$55 per week and only \$35 per week for either Before or After care. Transportation is included from select schools. For more information, call (713) 686-5538 or register at www.lwacademy.org



HELPING HANDS GRIEF MINISTRY
Mondays 6:00 p.m. / Tuesdays 1:15 p.m.
Anyone experiencing grief due to the loss of a loved one, the Helping Hands Grief Awareness Support Ministry will be meeting Mondays at 6 p.m. in the admin conference room and Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. in Legacy to provide the awareness and support needed when faced with the death of a loved one. Register today or contact Maxine Thomas, Margaret Baptiste or Pastor Duane Lawrence at bmmaxthomas@gmail.com.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Get Out"

Acts 9:10-17

Assistant Pastor Pierre Cannings

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

LEGACY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL
2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY
6:30 PM

Get Out Acts 9:10-17

I. Go Out... vs.10-12

- a. Get up and Go
 - i. Vision - Here I am Lord –
 1. The “Lord” appeared to Ananias in a vision. That it was Jesus and not God who was so designated is clear from vv. 14–16. Ananias responded with, “Here am I, Lord” (“Yes, Lord,” NIV), words reminiscent of the response of Old Testament characters to a vision of God, such as Abraham (Gen 22:1f.; 11) and the boy Samuel (1 Sam 3:4–14).
 - ii. Get Up – to initiate action
 1. His instructions were precise, giving the exact location Paul was to be found. He was staying with a man named Judas who lived on “Straight Street
- b. I have prepared Saul
 - i. Vision – Paul had a vision
 - ii. Lay Hands on him

II. Do I Have To Go...vs. 13-14

- a. I have Heard
 - i. How much Harm
 - ii. How much authority
 - iii. Ananias at first protested the commission. He was all too aware of who Paul was. Perhaps he had learned of Paul’s reputation as a persecutor from some of the Christians who had fled Jerusalem and taken refuge in Damascus. Word was even out that he had papers from the Sanhedrin authorizing him to arrest any and every Christian.
 - iv. Ananias is well informed on what we have learned from vv. 1, 2. There are two differences. (1) In v. 1 Saul approached the High Priest (singular); here he is said to have authority from the high priests (plural).

III. He Went...vs. 15-17

- a. Go—Ananias obediently made his way to the street called Straight, and entered the house of Judas. There, without delay, he fulfilled his commission, laying his hands on the blind man and addressing him in terms of brotherly friendship.
 - i. The Lord gives reasons for his instructions, speaking in the biblical style that Luke considers suitable for such purposes; see
- b. For He is Chosen Instrument
 - i. Chosen- a special choice, selection, choice, election
 - ii. Instrument - vessel a human being exercising a function, instrument, vessel
 1. and refers to God’s gracious act (cf. ἔλεος in Rom. 9:23) in determining the salvation of those whom he calls. Assuming the metaphorical use of σκεῦος this could be the meaning here: Saul, notwithstanding his past, is nevertheless one whom I have called to be a Christian; he is one of the elect
 2. Of Mine
 3. To Bear My name to the Gentiles and Kings and the Sons of Israel
 - a. without the idea of outward or inward stress carry, bear, marks
 - b. The apostle has to show that he is a bearer of Christ Scriptures about suffering with Christ and if he suffers, we will.
 - c. that he will bear the Christian message, regarded as summed up in my name (cf. e.g. 8:12), before the persons mentioned. He will take the name of Christ throughout the world that all may hear it.
- c. I will Show
 - i. Show - to give instruction or moral direction
 - ii. How much he must suffer for my name’s sake

1. Suffer- endure
 - a. When Jesus speaks of the way of suffering which His disciples must tread He does not use πάσχω, → 9:16, 18 f. Elsewhere in the NT however, the word is used to denote the sufferings of Christians, i.e., in Ac. 9:16; Rev. 2:10 Paul and 1 Pt.
 - b. Paul’s sufferings are described in the rest of Acts; the epistles, especially 2 Cor. 11:23–33, present a grimmer picture. Luke is caught between two motivations, on the one hand to show how much Paul was prepared to suffer for Christ, on the other to show the power of God to deliver him from suffering. For suffering ὑπέρ τοῦ ὀνόματος cf. 5:41.
 - c. 2 Corinthians 6:4-10, 2 Corinthian 11:23-28 Philippians 1:29
 - d. But the proclamation of the Gospel is also forwarded by suffering
 - e. shows how necessary and almost natural suffering is. 1 Th. 2:14
 - f. According to Phil. 1:29 παθεῖν is not a privilege of the apostle or a select few but is of the very essence of Christianity as such. All the same, it is a privilege, a special grace (ὑμῖν ἐχαρίσθη) which surpasses even the grace of being able to believe in Christ
 - g. 1 Pt. might give the impression that the author heavily stresses this relation when in 2:19f.; 3:14, 17; 4:1, 15, 19; 5:10 he takes the word
- d. So Ananias Departed
 - i. Laid Hands

IV. So Did Paul...

Church Bazaar

Sun. Oct. 2nd 10 a.m.

- Ministry Fair
- Food
- Dance
- Showcases

- Fun Music
- Giveaways
- Information

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Wesley Buckner & family, Nathan and Evelyn Harvey & family, the family of Mildred Thomas, JoeAnn Hayes & family, Roderick Williams & family, Jerry Griffin & family, Talicia Stringer & family, Margaret Baptiste & family, Jerald & Ethel Owens & family, Maryland Flax & family, Krystal and Kenneth Dabney & family, Dorcus Blackmon & family, and Terry and Deidre McCoy.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, 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, Betty Goode, Joseph Brown, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Donald Edwards, Grace Edwards, and Kevin Carey.

LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH



ACTS 9:10-17