

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

October 16, 2022

## The Peace in Stillness



Silence is either created or treasured. Once experienced, the person longs for it more and more. With so much mental stimulation, finding quiet moments has become a challenge in our present world. However, when some people find stillness, their minds keep them so occupied that they must turn on music or the television to quiet their minds. Nothing may have changed in their life, but they have a moment of quietness that leads to peace.

In the scripture, the stillness of our spirit is not determined by what is happening or not happening around us. It is a mindset, as explained by Paul in Philippians 4:8-9. Philippians 4:4-7. It is an attitude shaped and based on our confident trust in Christ. David said it this way when Abimelech was going to kill him once he found out that David who killed Goliath was in his presence; "O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!" (Psalm 34:8-9; NASB) This mindset radiates throughout the chapter.

An art gallery once offered a prize for the best painting on "PEACE." Top prize: A giant waterfall, with a tree hanging over the furious waters. The tree leaves partly cover a little bird resting in a nest. Peace is not the absence of storms but tranquility amidst storms. (Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations: Signs of the Times).

I am amazed at how many times Christ went off alone in the scriptures. Here are some examples - Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:47; Luke 9:18. There was a time where God led Christ away to be alone in Luke 4:1-13. It was in this alone time that Satan was at his worst. Christ modeled this mindset for us. No matter what Satan said, He kept His mind set on the will of God even though He was still hungry and weak and needed angels to minister to Him. Satan had to leave Him because His confident trust in God's Word was His unshakable strength.

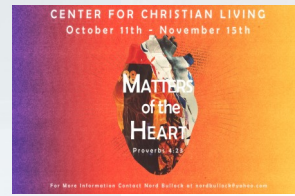
Please remember, like Christ did, that the Word triggers the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. When we apply the Word, the Holy Spirit transforms us (Romans 12:2). Our confident trust in God's Word allows the Holy Spirit, who is our peace, to be the peace in our lives, whether our circumstances change or not. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, ..... and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace, I leave with you; My peace I give to you..... Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. (John 14:26-28; NASB)

As we run this race, remember to keep our eyes fixed on Christ, who is the Word, who is our power (Hebrews 12:2) and our strength (Isaiah 40:27-31).

## UPCOMING Events



**Poets in Autumn – Oct. 21st 7:30 P.M.**  
Join us Friday Oct. 21st 7:30—9:30 p.m. for the Poets in Autumn tour at Living Word Fellowship Church. This fun-filled night of poetry features a national tour of poets and artists. Register to attend or volunteer with the LEGIT Young Adults at <https://bit.ly/3D6f0Xs>



**Center for Christian Living Matters of the Heart Oct. 11th – Nov. 15th**  
CFCL is back for the fall with "Matters of the Heart" This is a collaboration of Christian education classes from the Men ministry, Women ministry, Marriage ministry and the Young Adult ministry. For more information visit the CFCL website at [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)



**HARVEST FEST—CHURCH PICNIC—DFF Oct. 30th 12:00. P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**  
Join us at Living Word Fellowship Church on Oct. 30th from 12:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M. for our Harvest Fest, Church Picnic and Deacon Family Fellowship! Enjoy food, fun, games, bouncers, rock climbing, candy, fellowship and more! For More information contact Sylvia Edwards or Rashaud Hudson.



**LWCA IS NOW ENROLLING—\$85 PER WEEK BEFORE/AFTER CARE—\$35-\$55 PER WEEK**  
The Living Word Christian Academy is having a Fall 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.lwcaacademy.org](http://www.lwcaacademy.org)



**HELPING HANDS GRIEF MINISTRY 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 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 on the events page of the website or contact Maxine Thomas, Margaret Baptiste or Pastor Duane Lawrence at [bmaxthomas@gmail.com](mailto:bmaxthomas@gmail.com).



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

"Empowered"

2 Corinthians 10:5-6

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

## Empowered 2 Corinthians 10:5-6

### A. Tear Down (v. 5):

1. Speculations and our imaginations, when practiced, can become driven by satan and his demons (1 Timothy 1:1-3; 2 Timothy 2:23, 26; James 3:13-16).
2. Every thought by itself, is full of pride (maybe because well educated or in powerful positions); is raised against God's knowledge (Romans 12:16).
3. A lofty thought is incredibly prideful when we seek to use the Word of God out of context to support our personal convictions.
4. We must aggressively address the thought processes we are using that violate the Word of God. This is because they can become demonic (James 3:13-18).
5. Every way of thinking, every speech or philosophy that displaces the knowledge and practice of God's Word is critical to defeating the influences of the flesh.
6. We should also "refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels." (2 Timothy 2:22) If we don't, we can experience the influence of demons on our lives (2 Timothy 2:22-26).
7. As His children, we must learn to listen with a mind to submit to His will and positively respond to doing what God says. (John 15:1-11) An obedience that is dominated by faith in Christ alone.

### B. Gear Up (v. 6):

1. When a believer chooses to be a doer of the Word, they end up living by faith and not by sight (James 1:22-25; 2:14-26). The Lord rewards faith (Hebrews 11:6) and moves the mountains that are fortresses in a believer's mind.
2. Paul is ready to destroy all refusals to hear God or to live with a careless attitude towards the Word of God (Luke 21:34; 1 Corinthians 10:12; Titus 3:8; Proverbs 13:13).
3. Not disobeying God takes place when there is the fullest degree to submit oneself willingly and actively to the saving will of God as we live by faith and not by sight (Hebrews 11:6).
4. Once we live in the Spirit of God, the following takes place:
  - a) The Word of God is brought back to our remembrance (John 14:26)
  - b) The Spirit of God convicts us when we sin (John 16:7-11).
  - c) The Spirit illuminates the Word of God (1 Cor. 2:10-15).
  - d) We are able to walk in "the light as He is in the light" so that we do not fulfill the lust of the flesh (1 John 1:5-7).
  - e) We are empowered because God is at work in us, "both to will and to work for His good pleasure." (Phil. 2:13).
  - f) When we pray God answers our prayers (John 15:7-10).
5. To experience completeness in Christ is not perfection (1 John 1:8-9) it is more influenced by the Spirit than the flesh as explained in Romans 8:12-14.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Maryland Flax & family, Krystal and Kenneth Dabney & family, Dorcus Blackmon & family, the family of André Waldrup, and Terry and Deidre McCoy & family.

**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, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Donald Edwards, Grace Edwards, Kimberly Dillard, Beverly Woods, Beatrice Williams, Bobbie Carter, Glory Wilson and Kevin Carey.



## 2 CORINTHIANS 10:5-6