

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

October 2, 2022

## Anchor Your Mind



In a sermon on the Holy Spirit, a very popular preacher in his day, Charles Spurgeon, confessed the following: "I hope that Divine Grace manages my will, because I am afraid my imagination is not.. Those with a fair share of imagination know what a difficult thing it is to control. You cannot restrain it.... My imagination has taken me down to the vilest kennels and sewers of the earth. It has given me dreadful thoughts, that while I could not avoid them, I was thoroughly horrified by them. These thoughts will come, and when I feel I'm in the holiest frame, the most devoted to God, and the most earnest in prayer, it often happens that this is the very time when the plague breaks out the worst." [1] Christ put it this way; "For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance, and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man unclean." (Mark 7:21-23; NIV) We seek to address in this series not whether we will have these thoughts, but how we overcome them.

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to divide the soul and spirit, joints, and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Heb 4:12-13; NIV) It must all begin with a commitment to obey the Lord's will because this is what is going to anchor our minds (Daniel 1:8). When our minds have been anchored, the truth of God's Word ignites the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This reminds us that the Spirit is the way (John 14:26), and helps to make God's Word clear (John 16:13). When we accept what the scripture teaches and apply it, the transforming work of the Holy Spirit empowers us to keep walking in it (Philippians 2:12-13) so that we understand it even more (Ephesians 3:16-21). As we understand it more deeply, our convictions grow (John 16:7-11; Galatians 5:24), so we become spiritually directed to walk in the Spirit and not the flesh (Galatians 5:16; Romans 8:12-17). At this point, Christ lives through us (Galatians 2:20).

What is the difference between Peter and Paul? Peter allowed fear to control his decisions, whereas Paul was guided by faith (Romans 8:37-39; before Peter could ever start walking with Christ, Christ told him not to fear; Luke 5:10). Paul's faith weakened his desire to trust in himself and strengthened his desire to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 12:7-12). So, it is the strength of the Holy Spirit that made Paul strong. The Spirit's renewing work in his mind was Paul's strength (Romans 12:2; Philippians 2:13). We need the Spirit's strength.

## UPCOMING Events



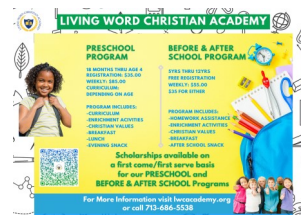
**LEADERSHIP TRAINING**  
**Sat., Oct. 8th 8:30 a.m.**  
 Leaders, deacons and ministry coordinators join us Saturday, October 8, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. for Fall Leadership Training. Breakfast will be served and please register by scanning QR code to the left or visiting this link <https://bit.ly/3emcFgI>. For more information contact Gail Oneal at [goneal@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:goneal@lwfellowshipchurch.org)



**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.



**MINISTRY BAZAAR - TODAY!**  
**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>



**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.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 or contact Maxine Thomas, Margaret Baptiste or Pastor Duane Lawrence at [bmmaxthomas@gmail.com](mailto: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

"Battlefield"

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

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**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**  
**2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
**SUNDAY**  
 EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW  
 youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP  
 e 2:30 PM



**Battlefield**  
**2 Corinthians 10:3-4**

**A. A Useless Weapon (v. 3):**

1. For though we walk – Walking (the daily application of God’s Word into real-life situations) causes us to experience the working out of our salvation in fear and trembling which leads to the transformation process (Philippians 2:12-13). This process allows us to experience the influence of the Holy Spirit so that we do not conform to the influences of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 5:15-18).
2. In the flesh - The scriptures say that the flesh is weak and corruptible and easy to produce sin which alienates us from God (Romans 8:7-8; Galatians 5:16-19).
  - a) The tongue never got saved and it is as follows:
    1. Causes a person to live an unrighteous life (James 1:26).
    2. Causes a person to make a lot of mistakes (James 3:2).
    3. Causes a person’s course of life to become very complicated (James 3:6).
    4. Deadly and cannot be tamed (James 3:8).
    5. Has the power of life and death (Proverbs 18:21).
  - b) The mind, when not focused on the Word of God, can become influenced by satan.
    1. Peter lifted in pride and became influenced by satan (Matthew 16:22-23).
    2. Ananias and Sapphira became greedy and influenced by satan (Acts 5:1-6).
    3. If the mind is not renewed a person can become worldly in their thoughts (Romans 12:2).
    4. When a person uses their own understanding, it can make their path in life go in all directions (Proverbs 3:5-6), and they can even become influenced by satan (James 3:13-15).
  - c) Our feet can lead us to sin (Proverbs 1:16) or peace (Ephesians 6:15).
  - d) To follow the heart’s impulses is to end with “evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.” (Matthew 15:19)
  - e) “A worthless person, a wicked man, is the one who walks with a perverse mouth who winks with his eyes, who signals with his feet, who points with his fingers.” (Proverbs 6:12-13; NASU)
3. We do not war – We are not to battle, like a soldier at war, based on the fallen nature of the flesh (1 Peter 2:11; 2 Peter 1:3-11).

**B. A Divine Weapon (v. 4):**

1. Weapons – We must always remember that our focus is to not rely on the flesh as a soldier who depends on a gun in battle, or as a skydiver who relies on a parachute.
2. Warfare – Warfare here means to design a strategy to carry out a military campaign against an opponent.
3. Flesh – To use the flesh is to be governed by human nature with all its weaknesses, our logical process is an inferior way to deal with spiritual things.
4. Divinely powerful - The arsenal that the Lord provides us (spiritual armor; Ephesians 6:10-18) relies on the Spirit of God (Romans 8:5-17; John 14:26; 16:7-11), the Word of God that is powerful (2 Peter 1:3-4; Hebrews 12:4), the wisdom that comes from God (James 1:5-8; 3:17-18), the truth that girds us for action and delivers us from sinful habits (Ephesians 6:14), and the angels that protect us (Hebrews 1:14).
5. Destruction – The purpose of the divine power (Ephesians 6:12) is to tear down and overthrow thoughts that can be destructive.
6. Fortresses - Used metaphorically of any strong points or arguments one trusts (2 Corinthians 10:4, Proverbs 10:29; 21:22). When God is allowed to renew the mind the transforming work of the Holy Spirit tears down these fortresses.

**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.

BATTLEFIELD

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-4