

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

October 9, 2022

## Stay Focused On God



Sometimes our worst enemy is our mind. We have so many thoughts racing through the mind that can create fears that inhibit us. Speculations can send our thoughts in so many directions—thoughts of not being good enough, or a lot of persistent problems that can lead some people to feel depressed and overwhelmed. God knows this, which is why He instructs us to destroy “speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Winston Churchill, one of history’s greatest leaders, was tormented by what he called his “Black Dog” – periodic moods of soul-crushing depression. William Manchester wrote that Churchill suffered from “spells of depression, sinking into the brooding depths of melancholia” all of his life. One friend said of him, “What a creature of strange moods he is, always at the top of the wheel of confidence or at the bottom of an intense depression.”

Often feelings of disappointment and hopelessness overwhelmed him, and thoughts of self-destruction were never far away. Churchill once told his doctor, “I don’t like standing near the edge of a platform when an express train is passing through. I don’t like to stand by the side of a ship and look down into the water. A second’s action would end everything.”

Churchill coped with his depression by cultivating zestful companionships, avoiding hospitals, and incessant activity. He told one friend that unless he was perpetually active, he would relapse into “dark moments of impatience and frustration.” Morgan, R.J. (2000) Nelson’s complete book of stories, illustrations and quotes (electronic edition, p.208) Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers

Life can become overwhelming. That is why the scriptures encourage us to cast all our “anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7) Christ says, “Come to me all who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

Paul puts it this way; “Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:1-3 NIV) And, of course, one of my favorite passages of scripture: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 4:8-9; NIV)

The mind is “a terrible thing to waste.” (Romans 12:2) “Stay focused...” (Hebrews 12:1-3).

## UPCOMING Events



**LEGIT YOUNG ADULTS & UMT OUTREACH EVENT AT LWCA—OCT. 15TH 7 A.M.**  
The LEGIT Young Adults Ministry and the Urban Missions Team is joining forces for a service project at the Living Word Christian Academy Saturday, October 15th from 7 a.m. – 10 a.m. Come, Serve, Learn About Our Urban Missions Efforts and Fellowship with LEGIT afterwards. For more information contact **Natividad Smith** at [nds\\_smith@yahoo.com](mailto:nds_smith@yahoo.com)



**BIBLE STUDY METHODS CLASS—OCT. 15TH Hosted by Kingdom Builders Men’s Ministry**  
All are welcome to join us for the Bible Study Methods Class hosted on Oct. 15th at 9 a.m. in the Legacy Sanctuary by the Kingdom Builders Men’s Ministry. This session will be led by Nord Bullock. For more information, contact **James Thompson** at [thompson929@gmail.com](mailto:thompson929@gmail.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.lwccademy.org](http://www.lwccademy.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 [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” Part II  
2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Click on the “Resources” tab and click “Sermon Notes”

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

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  
6:30 PM

## Battlefield Part II 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

### A. Powerful Weapons (v. 4):

- The scripture says we must not use human logic (Proverbs 3:4-5) because the flesh is where sin springs from (Romans 6:12-14).
- Paul says we cannot design a response to someone attacking us based on how we feel or the logical way we think. This ignites weapons of the flesh which automatically leads us to sin.
- 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 powerful Word of God (2 Peter 1:3-4; Hebrews 12:4).
  - The wisdom that comes from God (James 1:5-8; 3:17-18).
  - Truth that girds us for action and delivers us from sinful habits (Ephesians 6:14)
  - The angels that protect us (Hebrews 1:14) because we now live in heavenly places (Eph. 1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12).
- The purpose of the divine power (Ephesians 6:12) is to tear down and overthrow thoughts that can be destructive. The fortresses that Paul is referring to (using Rome warfare as a backdrop) are:
  - False arguments based on human logic that make people feel powerful because of the support they have (powerful positions they may have) or the level of education they may have acquired.
  - Slander; The believers in Corinth and the false teachers were slandering Paul which created a lot of division in the church.
  - They were not committed to exploring the facts of Paul's ministry. It was more about how persuasive the false teachers were (2 Corinthians 11; Matthew 18:15-21).
- The strongholds that are like a fortress that represent the arguments, thoughts, and plans that Paul was opposing.
  - What are these "mental walls"? They are reasonings that are opposed to the truth of God's Word; pride of intelligence that exalts itself. Paul was not attacking intelligence, but intellectualism, the high-minded attitude that makes people think they know more than they really do (Rom. 12:16).
- Used metaphorically of any strong points or arguments one trusts (2 Corinthians 10:4, Proverbs 10:29; 21:22).

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

- 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).
- Every thought full of pride (maybe because they are well educated or are in powerful positions) raises against God's knowledge (Romans 12:16).
- A lofty thought is incredibly prideful when we seek to use the Word of God out of context to support our personal convictions.
- We must aggressively address the thought processes we are using that violate the Word of God, because they can become demonic (James 3:13-18).
- We 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).
- 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.

### C. Gear up (v. 6):

- When a believer chooses to be a doer of the Word, they live by faith and not by sight (James 1:22-25; 2:14-26). Faith is rewarded (Hebrews 11:6) and moves the mountains - fortresses in a believer's mind.
- 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).
- Not disobeying God takes place when there is the fullest degree of commitment to willingly and actively submit oneself to the saving will of God as we live by faith and not by sight (Hebrews 11:6).
- Once we live in the Spirit of God, the following takes place:
  - The Word of God is brought back to our remembrance (John 14:26)
  - The Spirit of God convicts when we sin (John 16:7-11).
  - The Spirit illuminates the Word of God (1 Cor. 2:10-15).
  - 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).
  - We are empowered because God is at work in us, "both to will and to work for His good pleasure." (Phil. 2:13).
  - When we pray, God answers our prayers (John 15:7-10).
- 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:** JoeAnn Hayes & family, Roderick Williams & family, Jerry Griffin & family, Talicia Stringer & family, Margaret Baptiste & family, Jerald and Ethel Owens & family, Maryland Flax & family, Krystal and Kenneth Dabney & family, Dorcus Blackmon & family, and Terry and Deidre McCoy & family.

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

# BATTLEFIELD

## 2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-6