

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

November 13, 2022

## Keep Your Mind Loose

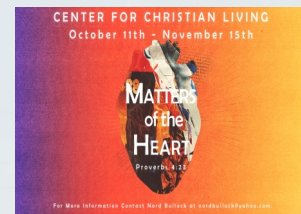


Seeing my mother, a person who has always been a vibrant force raising eight children along with her husband, being lifted into an ambulance, then racing behind the ambulance to get to the hospital did not allow me to be sober-minded. Standing outside of a room at the hospital, not knowing if my wife was dead or alive, did not cause me to be sober-minded. These are circumstances that we may experience which may not leave us sober-minded even though we are told, "But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us." (Romans 8:37) Even though I believed verses like these at the time my heart was anxious and fearful. I must admit though that I was still hopeful.

Being sober-minded means not allowing our emotions amid difficult circumstances, to cause us to stop praying or trusting in the Word of God. For this reason, David said in Psalm 119:66-68, "Teach me good discernment and knowledge, for I believe in Your commandments. Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word. . . You are good and do good; teach me Your statutes." No matter what we experience, we must always remain teachable. When we stay teachable (a heart open to learning and applying God's Word), trials become learning experiences that grow us to become more and more dependent on the inner workings of the Holy Spirit. This process causes us to grow in wisdom, empowering us to address satan's schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:11-12). "How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. For her profit is better than the profit of silver and her gain better than fine gold. She is more precious than jewels; And nothing you desire compares with her. Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor." (Proverbs 3:12-16; NASU; "her" refers to wisdom).

A dependence on the Holy Spirit allows Him to grow so much in us that the influences of the flesh become less and less impactful on us; "for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live." (Romans 8:13) The more we make the willful decision to work in the Spirit we are deciding to apply God's Word by meeting anxiety with prayer (Philippians 4:4-9). We are demonstrating trust by being thankful rather than complaining (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Philippians 2:14-14), just like Job did (Job 2:10; Psalm 34). Once we obey Him amid challenging circumstances, He will work it out for our good (Romans 8:28). Therefore, choose to wait on Him by applying His Word to each issue each day (Isaiah 40:27-31). This is how we keep our minds loose.

## UPCOMING Events



**CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING**  
**TUESDAY, NOV. 15TH—12 P.M. & 7 P.M.**  
This Tuesday is the last in the Center for Christian Living's dynamic series on Matters of the Heart! Join us this Tuesday, November 15th at 12 p.m. for bible study and at 7 p.m. with special guest speaker and Licensed Counselor RaShun Cowan, MS, LPC, for a special segment on grief. For more information visit the Center for Christian Living page on the Website or contact **Nord Bullock** at [nordbullock@yahoo.com](mailto:nordbullock@yahoo.com)



**KINGDOM BUILDERS' Men's Ministry**  
**GAME NIGHT**  
November 18th at 6:00 p.m.  
In Legacy Sanctuary  
Join the Kingdom Builders Men's Ministry for a Game Night filled with fun, food and fellowship! All are welcomed to attend. For more information contact **James Thompson** at [thompson929@gmail.com](mailto:thompson929@gmail.com)



**THANKSGIVING BASKET GIVEAWAY**  
**NOV. 19TH 9-11 A.M. AT THE REACH**  
**NOV. 20TH 12-2 P.M. AT LWFC**  
The Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway will be Nov. 19th & 20th. Sign up with your Deacon to donate items and sign up to volunteer during the weekend of events. For more information visit the thanksgiving giveaway page on our website at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/thanksgiving](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/thanksgiving)



**NOV 20TH—ONE SERVICE AT 9:30 A.M.**  
**JOIN US AFTER SERVICE AT 12:00 P.M.**  
**FOR THE THANKSGIVING FEAST**  
PLEASE REGISTER TO ATTEND SO WE HAVE AN ACCURATE HEADCOUNT FOR DINNER. Register here <https://bit.ly/3RLfnk0> or for more information contact **Keron Brown**.



**LWCA PRESCHOOL—\$85 PER WEEK**  
**BEFORE/AFTER CLUBS—\$35-\$55 PER WEEK**  
Would you like your children to learn to be a little more like Jesus? Then, join the Living Word Christian Academy for preschool and before and after school programs and clubs including: robotics, chess, tennis, music, culinary arts, academic enrichment and much more! For more information, call (713) 686-5538 or register at [www.lwcacademy.org](http://www.lwcacademy.org)



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

"Loosed and Ready"

1 Peter 1:13-16

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 e 7:30 PM**

## Loosed and Ready 1 Peter 1:13-16

### A. Loose Your Mind (v. 13):

1. In Oriental cultures, they wore long robes . When they had to travel long distances, they would tuck their robes into the belts in order to move quickly to their destination.
2. The believers underwent fiery trials (1:7) that tested their faith in the Lord. Rome persecuted them horribly. Since he failed Christ when He was on trial, Peter challenges them to be prepared for action by being ready to learn and trust the Word of God so they can readily apply it to their circumstances.
3. We must allow this mindset to occupy our thoughts. We must be able to come to a clear understanding of God's Word based on an accurate interpretation, so we can assertively address the issues we may experience.
4. We must continuously and habitually not allow our emotions to override our commitment to obey the scriptures.
5. We are commanded to make a decisive decision, once and for all, to expect the Lord to do what He promises in His Word because the Word endures forever (1 Peter 1:23-25) and it does not return unfulfilled (Isaiah 55:11).
6. We must focus on the knowledge that while obeying the Lord's will, if we sin, Christ will generously, spontaneously, and with no reservation, provide to us His favor once we confess our sins (1 John 8-10). We must trust that His grace is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).
7. This mindset allows us to count our trials as joy (James 1:2-4) and trust the discipline of the Lord (Hebrews 12:4-11).

### B. The Ready Stance of an Overcomer (vs. 14-16):

1. To be obedient is to willfully decide to submit to the Lord's will . After all, He needs to transform us to holiness. To gird up knowing the Word is one thing. Complying to His will in the heat of a trial is a mindset that Peter says we must possess.
2. When our minds are girded up and sober, we are continuously being transformed through the ministry of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:2), so that we do not go back to our old ways of thinking in the heat of fiery trials (1 Peter 5:9-10).
3. Going back to our old way of thinking causes us to put back on the old man (Ephesians 4:17-24) and live a carnal life before God and man (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).
4. God is deity by His very nature which means there is absolutely no possibility that the world can have an evil influence upon His character. By His very nature, He is holy.
5. When no one was seeking God and had no desire for God (Romans 3:9-11), He drew us to Himself (John 6:44), providing us a desire for His Word (Romans 10:9) so that by depositing the Holy Spirit inside of us (Ephesians 3:16; Titus 3:4-8) we would have the ability to walk with Him.
6. Since we are blessed to experience His grace and the deposit of the Holy Spirit inside of us, we must gird up our minds and remain sober so that our dedication to the Lord is endless. This allows us to no longer walk in the flesh, but in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 7).
7. We must focus our lives on embracing the 'whole Christian walk', which includes "counting our trials joy". (James 1:2-4). This process is not just a Sunday morning experience, but an experience that requires, "presenting our bodies as living sacrifices" daily (Romans 12:1-2).
8. The Lord, because of all He has done and does for us to move from becoming saved to being holy, commands us to consecrate ourselves to Him and devote ourselves to serve Him. This mindset matures us to holiness (John 15:1-13; Philippians 2:13).



**HAPPY VETERANS DAY!**

CONNECT WITH US!  
REGISTER WITH US  
FOR EVENTS AND UPCOMING  
MINISTRY INFORMATION

Register at <https://bit.ly/VeteransFaithInitiative>

For more information contact Reginald Parker at [reginald.parker.jr@veteransfaithinitiative.org](mailto:reginald.parker.jr@veteransfaithinitiative.org)



**Angel Tree**

This Christmas, we have the opportunity to reach the children of prisoners with gifts on behalf of their parents, and the Good News of God's unfailing love.

Join us immediately after service to collect your child's Angel Tree card.

For More Information, contact Co-Coordinators  
Pamela Collier or Janice Brown at  
[jrbrown\\_10@att.net](mailto:jrbrown_10@att.net)

One gift per child is required. Unwrapped purchased gifts should be donated by Nov. 27th

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** The family of Andre Waldrup, the family of Joseph Brown, Paul Gates & family, the family of Clara Bell, the family of Leola Moore, the family of Angelica Joyce Roberts, Terry McCoy & family, Shirley Harris & family, Oneal Stovall & family and Nathan and Evelyn Harvey & 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, Randy Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Patricia Jackson, Sherri Love, Clara Williams,



1 Peter 1:13-16