

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

November 27, 2022

## Lacking Nothing



As I write this pastor's corner I cannot help but think of all the things that I, along with the staff, by God's grace, were successful in doing as I pastored members through this year. When I think of all the challenges people have faced, I can easily see why many people may not have the thanksgiving spirit. The challenge is God does not allow us to complain (1 Corinthians 10:10; Philippians 2:14-18; Colossians 3:13). A further challenge is how does He not allow us to complain, but at the same time, He allows so many challenges to come into our lives?

Here is a contrast to bear in mind. *"Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow."* (James 1:17) *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."* (John 10:10; NASU) *This thief is also a roaring lion seeking whom to destroy (1 Peter 5:8), and he is relentlessly on the hunt (Revelation 12:10). Christ uses satan's evil nature for a purpose, like in the case of Job, to bless us to become overcomers (Romans 8:37), and then to eternally bless us for accepting His maturation process (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10). This way, no matter what schemes satan has, eventually we will know them all (2 Corinthians 2:11). Satan will become irrelevant as we learn to live in the Spirit, rather than in the flesh.*

The more in the Spirit we live, *"He who is within us becomes greater...."* (1 John 4:4). *So, when we are anxious, we know to pray (Philippians 4:4-9). When we are perplexed, we learn to walk in the light (1 John 1:5-7). When we are weak, He teaches us to walk in His strength by trusting in His Word. If we forget His Word, but have taken the time to study it, He brings it back to our remembrance (John 14:26). So, even though "we are afflicted in every way; but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed...." we live and walk in the spirit (2 Corinthians 4:7-12). What satan does for evil, the Lord who reigns turns into good, if we continue to obey Him (Romans 8:28). This is why James says to "consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance...., so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (James 1:2-4). Remember this only takes place because "those whom the Lord loves He disciplines...." (Hebrews 12:7-11). When we accept His discipline we bear much fruit (John 15:1-5) and He grants us the desires of our hearts (John 15:7-8). This is why we can rejoice!*

*"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."* (Heb 12:11; NIV; Philippians 4:8-9)

## UPCOMING Events



**GIVE TUESDAY— NOVEMBER 29TH**  
Living Word Family join us in giving to support and make a necessary impact on Living Word Ministries and Outreach on November 29th for **GIVE TUESDAY**. We appreciate all of your support to our over 100 ministries that help women, men, young adults, youth, children, and the community through our dynamic Community Outreach arm, The Reach Center! Give online at <https://bit.ly/LWFCGIVE> or **TEXT TO GIVE** at (281) 884-3886.



**WIDOWS MINISTRY CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP**  
**SAT. DEC. 10TH 10 A.M.—2 P.M.**  
Join the Widows Ministry for their Christmas Celebration on Saturday, December 10, 2022. Call Mary Wheatley to RSVP at (281) 931-5744.



**CONNECTION SUNDAYS—CHRISTMAS EVENTS EVERY WEEK IN DECEMBER**

**DEC. 4TH** — Toy & Clothing Drop Off in the Foyer at 10 a.m.  
**DEC. 11TH**—Texans vs. Cowboys Game Day Attire  
**DEC. 18TH**—Donuts & Coffee in the Foyer at 10 a.m.  
**DEC. 24TH**—"I Remember Christmas" Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 p.m.  
**DEC. 25TH**—"Ugly Christmas Sweater" Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m. & Photo Wall



**LEGACY YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
Youth 7th-12 grade join us for food, fellowship, & fun on Friday, December 16th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bring a gift no more than \$10 for the white elephant exchange. For more information, contact **Allison Pryor** at [aemilyp1@gmail.com](mailto:aemilyp1@gmail.com) Stay connected by joining our **Facebook Group** at [www.facebook.com/groups/lwfclegacyyouth](http://www.facebook.com/groups/lwfclegacyyouth)



**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.lwccademy.org](http://www.lwccademy.org)



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

"Lift Up"

1 Chronicles 16:7-14

Click on the "Resources" tab and click "Sermon Notes"

Call to Discipleship

Benediction

Children are 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**  
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW  
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP  
**SUNDAY 6:30 PM**

## Lift Up 1 Chronicles 16:7-14

### A. Make Him Known (vs. 7-9):

1. The more David walked with God, the more David worshiped the Lord, God bountifully.
2. Everything does not have to be right before we proclaim the greatness, goodness, and love of God.
3. When we call out to the Lord we must never forget the reputation He has established with us which is based on all He has done for us.
4. We tend to thank the Lord only when the big victories occur. The Lord is always at work (Hebrews 1:1-3) in each moment of every day. Give Him thanks for the small things so that the big things lead to a praise service among the people (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
5. We are commanded to celebrate God (Deuteronomy 28:47-48; Psalm 13:6; 27:6; 33:3), to praise God and to sing about His love towards us (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16-17). This is a part of collective worship that we are required to actively engage in, no matter if it is through song or not.
6. We are commanded to verbalize acts of God that are extraordinary because they are beyond what any human being has the ability to do. When we make a conscious effort to thank the Lord for the small things, then we can celebrate even more energized when His wondrous works are manifested.

### B. From the Heart (vs. 9-11):

1. We are commanded to be joyous in our expressions of praise whether it is as an individual, a choir, or a congregation, and this includes musical instruments.
2. Since giving Him glory is highly emotional, we must cause our expressions to come from our deepest and innermost feelings about how good God has been to us.
3. Our state of mind should be to search for the Lord as if we are looking for something that is extremely valuable. This turns our searching into a pursuit (1 Chronicles 28:9; 2 Chronicles 15:2; Luke 12:31).
4. Because the Lord guarantees us that we will find Him, our pursuit of Him should exhibit a continuous display of extreme happiness and emotional outburst of jubilation.
5. David repeats our need to pursue the Lord. This is the pattern that David exhibited each day, whether it was in His obedience, His music, His fighting for the Lord's people, or in His worship.
6. In order to obey His command to worship Him (Hebrews 11:23-26), we need to pursue every opportunity without interruption, to be in His presence. David puts it this way; "As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." (Psalm 42:1; NASU)

### C. All He has Done (vs. 12-14):

1. David took on Goliath because he internally mediated on the fact that he viewed the killing of the lion and the bear to be acts of God's supernatural power.
2. Meditate on the special displays of His divine power which is outside the realm of the ordinary. When we see the rainbow, or when the sun rises and He allows us to be in another day, meditate on His marvelous works.
3. The Lord is gracious but we must remember He is also just.
4. The Lord is supreme over everything and He is sovereign; He does not depend on anything or anyone to make decisions or to execute His will.
5. No matter how out of control things may seem, we can lift Him up because He rules.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** The family of Andre Waldrup, the family of Joseph Brown, Paul Gates & family, the family of Clara Bell, the family of Angelica Joyce Roberts, Nathan and Evelyn Harvey & family, Ashley Gibson & family, Curtis and Tomitra Wiley & family, O'neal and Mary Stovall & family, Vivian Jackson & family, the family of Ethel Davis, and Wilbur and Donnie Emerson & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, the Tillis family, Betty Goode, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Rufus Hadnot, Randy Hadnot, Pat James, Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Patricia Jackson, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, and Deborah Smith.

