

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

December 11, 2022

Spirit-Led

Where did your heart take you in the midst of all you have faced this week or this year? I Did it take you to search for more money, change who you date or marry. Did it change the places you go to, cause you to seek advice from people just because they are close friends, or did it cause you to read the scriptures more, and find a church that teaches you to grow and improve your prayer life like never before? Where did your heart take you in the difficult times you experienced this week or during the course of this year? “But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.” (Luke 8:15; NIV)

Where did your mind lead you in the difficult times this week or during the course of this year? Did it lead you to doubt, fear, or confuse you? Did it lead you to search the scriptures, seek godly advice, attend Bible Study more, or pay more attention to the sermon messages? Where did your mind lead you in the midst of difficulty? “And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.” (Rom 8:27; NIV)

In the difficult times you have experienced this week or this year, where did your mouth go? Did it retaliate, return insult for insult, or did it bless those who curse you, and pray for those who slander you? What did your mouth do during this week or this year? “The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.” (Luke 6:45; NIV) “But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.” (Luke 21:14-15; NIV)



UPCOMING Events



ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY
Join the LWFC Kids Ministry for their annual Community Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 17th at 10 a.m. in the Legacy Sanctuary. Enjoy a Christmas presentation, food and toy giveaway for the kids. Donate unwrapped toys by Thurs. Dec. 15th. Bins are located in the foyer. See you there to fellowship with the community for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!



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 Stay connected by joining our Facebook Group at www.facebook.com/groups/lwfclegacyyouth



CONNECTION SUNDAYS—CHRISTMAS EVENTS EVERY WEEK IN DECEMBER

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



BE INTENTIONAL WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY CONFERENCE 2023

The Women of Grace Ministry BE INTENTIONAL Conference will take place Sat., Feb. 4, 2023 9 a.m.—2 p.m. This dynamic Conference will feature praise and worship, vendors, a panel discussion, and our phenomenal sister-in-Christ and featured speaker, Priscilla Shirer. Register for an Early Bird Special of \$40 by Dec. 15, 2022. After Dec. 15th, the cost will be \$50.00. T-shirts are available for pre-order at an additional cost of \$20.00-25.00. For more information visit www.wogconference.org or Register Now at <https://bit.ly/WOG2023>



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.lwacademy.org



Children are required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.

Infants—6th grade



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Peace Be Still”

Philippians 4:4-9

Dr. Pierre Cannings

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

Call to Discipleship

Benediction



Peace Be Still Philippians 4:4-9

I. Be Well vs. 4-5

- a. Rejoice - **to be in a state of happiness and well-being, rejoice, be glad**
 - i. **Rejoice**- The experience of deliverance and the anticipation of salvation provide the most significant occasions for rejoicing among the people of God in the OT. The coming of the Messiah, who delivers his people and brings salvation becomes the basis for rejoicing in the NT.
 - ii. There is no doubt that joy was understood in terms of a deep inward experience, but this inner disposition likely found tangible expression in the Christian communities when they gathered.
 - iii. The deep-rooted joy of the Christian is not abated when the circumstances of daily life are adverse. Joy is experienced in suffering and even persecution. This was the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5:11-12) and the experience of the early Church (Acts 5:41; cf. 1 Thess 1:6). Paul exemplified this possibility of joy in suffering in his own life (2 Cor 7:4; Col 1:24) and encouraged his churches to follow suit (Phil 2:17-18). Suffering is prominent in the background to the statements concerning joy in 1 Peter and Hebrews.
- b. **Again Rejoice**- **to repetition in the same (or similar) manner, again, once more**

II. Peace Be Still vs. 6-7

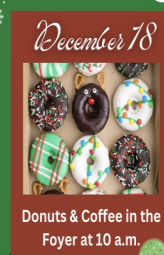
- a. Nothing
 - i. Anxious - **to be apprehensive, have anxiety, be anxious, be (unduly) concerned**
 1. It is "anxiety in face of something" (1 Pt. 5:7; Phil. 4:6). There is always a hint of the future, but in relation to the antonym ἡδονή (Lk. 8:14) μέριμνα has the sense of "sorrow," and in Mt. 10:19 par. μεριμνᾶν means "to consider," "to prepare"
 2. This would not be so if the admonitions not to care, but to cast one's care on God, were based on the idea that God guarantees the fulfillment of all striving. Phil. 4:6 shows, however, that in petitionary prayer, which is based on anxiety, the man who prays attains a certain aloofness from his wishes when he puts them before God μετὰ εὐχαριστίας, and he thus finds liberation from care. 1 Pt. 5:7 (cf. v. 6) also shows that to cast one's care on God does not mean to think of Him as the One who guarantees one's wishes, but to see in Him the One who knows what we need better than we do ourselves. These exhortations to prayer are thus designed to give absolute freedom from care as anxiety
- b. Everything
 - i. Pray
 1. Eph 6:18- petition A classic definition of Christian prayer is "an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies"
 - ii. Supplicate
 1. Supplicate - **urgent request to meet a need, exclusively addressed to God, prayer**
 - a. In the NT δέομαι always has the sense of "to ask" or "to seek" as the context may determine. In the form δέομαι σου at the beginning of direct speech it may sometimes mean no more than "please," as when Paul asks the chiliarch for permission to address the people (Ac. 21:39) or the eunuch asks Philip to explain the passage in Isaiah (Ac. 8:34)
 2. With thanksgiving - **the expression or content of gratitude, the rendering of thanks, thanksgiving**
 - a. The community's thanksgiving may also focus upon a particular benefit it has received from God (2 Cor 1:11; 9:11-12), and thanksgiving should be a feature of all prayer (Phil 4:6; 1 Thess 5:17-18; Col 3:15-17; 4:2). Thus, according to 1 Tim 2:1, worship features not only a prayer of intercession for the whole world but also a general thanksgiving
 3. Request be Made Known
 - a. Peace of God
 - i. Peace of God
 1. In one form or another the notions of wholeness, health, and completeness inform all the variants of the word. Peace is not, then, simply a negative, the absence of war. Peace is a positive notion, a notion with its own content
 2. Our starting-point is the OT word שָׁלוֹם in the sense of the salvation which comes from God, especially the eschatological salvation.
 - ii. Surpasses Understanding - surpasses all power of thought
 1. Surpasses- **to surpass in quality or value, be better than, surpass, excel**
 - a. The salvation given by God completely "exceeds" what we can grasp or think
 2. Comprehension - "Understanding." In this sense it is an intellectual organ, the faculty of knowledge whether as state or act. The peace which God gives to those who pray is a liberating power far beyond the human thought which is dominated by anxiety
 - iii. Guarded
 1. Guard - to provide security, guard, protect, keep
 2. Hearts - as center and source of the whole inner life, its thinking, feeling, and volition
 3. Minds - that which one has in mind as product of intellectual process it means the thoughts which proceed from the heart of Christians
 - a. In Christ Jesus

III. Dwell vs. 8-9

- a. Dwell On ... **to give careful thought to a matter, think (about), consider, ponder, let one's mind dwell on** detailed and logical manner—"to think about, to reason about, to ponder, reasoning"
 - i. True - to being in accordance with fact, true
 - ii. Honorable- of characteristics, states of being, and things honorable, worthy, venerable, holy, above reproach
 - iii. Right- **obligatory in view of certain requirements of justice, right, fair, equitable**
 - iv. Pure - Holy
 - v. Lovely- to causing pleasure or delight, pleasing, agreeable, lovely, amiable
 - vi. Good Repute - to what is being said with cautious reserve' (in deference to the transcendent or out of respect for those of high status, words ought to be carefully chosen, for one might utter something sense **praiseworthy, commendable**
 - vii. Excellence **uncommon character worthy of praise, excellence of character, exceptional civic virtue**
 - viii. Worthy of Praise – **the act of expressing admiration or approval**
- b. Peace of God
 - i. Learned
 - ii. Received
 - iii. Heard
 - iv. Seen
 - v. Practice
 1. Peace of God - Romans 15:33- as nearly synonymous w. messianic salvation messianic kingdom character of God
 - a. Paul used the formula, "the God of Peace" a total of six times. The earliest reference is 1 Thess 5:23 and the latest is Phil 4:9. Most often (five times) it appears as a benediction or prayer but also to enforce an ethical admonition: "God is not of chaos but of peace" (1 Cor 14:33). Once it is combined with the "God of Love" (2 Cor 13:11) and once changed to "the Lord of Peace," (2 Thess 3:16). Here he prays that peace will be given to his readers always and in every way. In another text the God of peace will "sanctify" them completely (1 Thess 5:23).
 2. Will be with you


Connection Sundays

December 18



Donuts & Coffee in the Foyer at 10 a.m.

December 25



Ugly Sweater Sunday Photo Wall

Connection Sundays are designed for fellowship, serving, and celebrating Christ as a church body. Join us, for activities each Sunday in December.

For More Information

Contact Jeffrey Allen at Jeffrey.Allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Ashley Gipson & family, Curtis and Tomitra Wiley & family, and O'neal and Mary Stovall & family, the family of Ethel Davis, Vivian Jackson & family, and Kim Young and the family of Anthony Paul Young, Sr.

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, Jessie Austin, Patricia Jackson, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, and Deborah Smith.

