

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

December 25, 2022

## The Indescribable Gift

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"  
(2 Corinthians 9:15; NASU)

It's that time of year when warm sentiments and goodwill are in the air. It's also that time of year when people go to great lengths to express their feelings in tangible ways. Numerous flyers, promotions, and commercials appeal to every shopper for every conceivable item. We have days such as Black Friday and Cyber Monday – and the time in between - is dedicated to shopping. And, as we all know, there is a giver and a recipient for every gift.

The gift usually says a lot about the giver and their sentiments about the recipient. It's rare to ever get a gift from someone whose sentiments are unfavorable towards you, and if you do, it might be from Dollar Tree (No offense intended!). The average gift has a limited lifespan and quickly becomes a fading memory. A genuine gift will usually cost...definitely time, thought, and money.

Ahhh, there is a gift that, when compared to all gifts ever given, Paul summarizes as "indescribable." He got it. The gift...Jesus Christ. His cost...His life. If, but for a moment, we could try to describe this gift, it would start with...Historical yet Current, Aged yet Relevant, Expensive yet Affordable, Unchangeable yet Dependable. Try describing this gift audibly for one minute, and you'll give up and scream out loud, "INDESCRIBABLE." Unlike the average gift, this gift gets even more meaningful with time, depending on the recipient.

With every gift, regardless of the cost, the recipient can place their value and expression of gratitude. It can be from the simple 'oooooh,' or 'ahhhhh' to cherished or recycled. History recalls gold, frankincense, myrrh, an alabaster jar, and even a simple expression of thanks from one of the lepers.

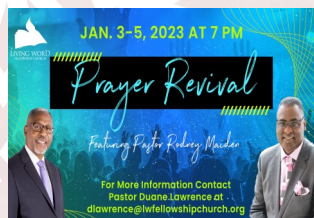
While Thanksgiving might still be lingering with the savor of foods enjoyed, let's not diminish the real gift by equating it with normal gifts, decorations, food, and fun. Unlike any other holiday, this day has much more significance. Unlike any other gift, this one is Undeserved, Unsolicited, Unchangeable, and Unspeakable, but it can also be Unclaimed...hence the reason to seize the moment to evangelize.

The challenge...make Jesus the Reason by doing something that draws attention to Jesus or by just telling someone about Jesus. Remember, you may be the only Jesus some people will ever meet. Reflect Him Well!

Celebrate Christ!!!  
From Pastor and Eve Cannings



## UPCOMING Events



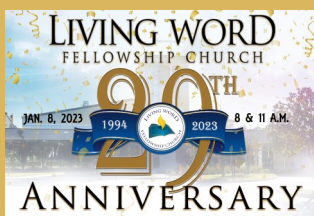
### ANNUAL PRAYER REVIVAL

Join us for our annual Prayer Revival, Jan. 3rd-5th, each night at 7 p.m. in the main sanctuary. Each night will feature group prayer, praise & worship, and a word from Pastor Rodney Maiden. Come and be renewed and refreshed for 2023.  
For more information contact Pastor Duane Lawrence at [dlawrence@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:dlawrence@lwfellowshipchurch.org)



### LIVING WORD CHURCH FAST

Our church will begin the Daniel Fast on Monday, Jan. 1st at 6 p.m. and will last through Saturday, Jan. 7th. We will break the fast with our Deacon families. Join us for our Prayer Revival each night at 7 P.M. Jan. 3rd -5th.



### CHURCH ANNIVERSARY—CELEBRATE LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH'S 29TH YEAR!

Join us on Sunday, Jan. 8th to celebrate Living Word's 29th Church Anniversary featuring Pastor Rodney Maiden for 8 a.m. service and Jonathan Evans for 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service.



### 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. Registration 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](http://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](http://www.lwacademy.org)



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

"Gift of Hope"

Galatians 4:4-7

Dr. Paul Cannings

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.



MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL



## Gift of Hope Galatians 4:4-7

### A. The Hope (v. 4):

1. A date was set by God (vs. 2) so that God's ordained plans were fully and timely executed when everything was ultimately in place.
2. God is the only person who determined when Christ would come to earth – Emmanuel (God with us).
3. God led Paul to write this sentence to specify and carefully delineate that once in eternity, a birth was brought into existence by Him, and it was unique because He created the entire process out of nothing. Jesus was begotten.
4. There was a purpose to all the above, and that was to buy us back, like a person using every opportunity to purchase a slave off of the slave market. "... you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.' (1 Corinthians 6:20).
5. God did not redeem us so that we go to heaven. He redeems us so that we can experience all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of His kingdom; "...behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.' (Luke 17:21)
6. When Christ redeemed us from sin, His focus was to provide us abundant life (John 10:10), a relationship that grows to become a friendship (John 15:12), and a relationship that transforms us into His very nature (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-4; 2 Peter 1:3-4). Paul in Ephesians 3:14-19 says we are His family that grows up to experience His fullness.

### B. The Gift (v. 6):

1. Because these are believers Paul is writing to, Paul said they are already in God's family as sons and will always be this way.
2. God once and for all is the only person who determined not just Christ coming to be with us, but also the Holy Spirit permanently, completely possessing us (John 14:16-17; Ephesians 1:3-4; Titus 3:4-7). This is who works in us to make us a brand new creation (Romans 12:2; Philippians 2:12-13).
3. God is a Spirit being, so in order for us to have His exact nature, so that we can be His children, sons, and friends, the Holy Spirit came into us at the point of salvation (Titus 3:4-8) making us a brand new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) because Christ is "the firstborn of all creation."
4. The transformation process takes place in our hearts, which is viewed in the scriptures as the inner most being of a person. When this transformation has taken place, the entire person is impacted. This is why as a new creation, we become God's children, sons, and friends (Ephesians 3:14-19).
5. The transformation process creates a very intimate relationship with the Lord. This process allows us to boldly come before the Lord as our Daddy as boisterous or as loudly as we would like (Romans 8:26).
6. We are no longer under the ownership of satan, where he could have abused us anytime he chose. This is because we have been redeemed.
7. The main purpose for which Christ died is to remove us from being under the ownership of satan. He did this by transforming us into the very nature of God in us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
8. We are not only sons. God's purpose is also to make us have complete access to inheriting all He has in store for us because Christ is the possessor and heir of all things (Matthew 21:38; Hebrews 1:2), and we are made to be in Him at the point of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-10; Colossians 3:1-4).

**2022 Contribution Statements**  
Beginning on January 3rd, LWFC members can begin submitting requests for their 2022 contribution statements

**3 Ways to Receive**

- ✓ Email
- ✓ Mail
- ✓ Pick-Up

**USE QR CODE TO REQUEST STATEMENT**

Pick-Up Requests are available within 48 Hours. Please select your desired pick-up date when requesting your contribution statement. Pick-ups are available from 10:00AM-2:00 PM in the Admin Office.

**Important: Contribution Statements must be requested using the online form. LWFC will not automatically send out statements.**

Visit: [bit.ly/3WqPWko](https://bit.ly/3WqPWko)

7350 W. TC JESTER BLVD. HOUSTON, TX 77088

**WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY**

**BE INTENTIONAL**

**FEBRUARY 4, 2023**

**WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

*"Created In Christ Jesus For Good Works" Ephesians 2:10*

Featuring Priscilla Shirer

REGISTER AT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/WOG2023](https://bit.ly/WOG2023)

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTPS://WWW.WOGCONFERENCE.ORG](https://www.wogconference.org)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Kim Young & family, the family of Ethel Davis, Vivian Jackson & family, Jo Lathan & family, and Larry Ellis & 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, Betty Goode, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Patricia Jackson, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, and Deborah Smith.

