

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

January 22, 2023

## Your Daily Walk

You look at the news and see the kind of devastation that is taking place in Ukraine, and you wonder if they would give up, but all you hear is send more tanks, need more ammunition, need more weapons, etc. For the love of their country and their passion for having their own autonomy, they fight. Their leader remains among them as he fights a political war and advocates for the needs of his people each and every day. He goes into the trenches with his soldiers and walks the streets with world leaders. Years from now, they may be forgotten, but their country stands.



What are we fighting for that has generational value? When we finish fighting, the generations that come behind us find strength, purpose, and passion for making things better for the next generation. When we spend our money, what is it that we buy that has lasting meaning? When we claim to love, are those around us better? Each day our young people are dying from drive-by shootings, and teachers die or are wounded while trying to teach their classes. Children do this while dressed in the nicest clothes and have cell phones and all the video games they can get. We “ooh” and “awe” when a baby is born, but “oh WOW when they grow up”. Again, what are we fighting for while satan runs the world (1 John 5:19) with a passion for destroying all who live in it (John 10:10).

We even come to church wanting God to bless us in the city and the fields, can't find time to bring our children to church, but can faithfully attend their games. What drives us when we wake up (Psalm 127)? What is our war that we are passionate about that we vocally encourage others to engage in?

When we are told to have a passion for Christ (Luke 12:29-32), there is silence as if to say, “I’d like to, but there is so much on my plate.” A passion for Christ builds character (Romans 5:1-5; Philippians 2:12-13), makes a man like Christ, a woman like the church, and children godly so that by obeying their parents, they live long in the land. Because of their commitment to growth, God establishes strong families and provides long life and riches (Psalm 112; 128; Proverbs 24:3-5) for generations to come. What we seek first needs to be last so that the last thing we desire creates so much value it endures for generations to come.

God has such a passion for us He would send His son on earth with one focus that He would die for us (John 3:16). It did not matter the rejection or the desertion by His own disciples. His passionate love was what drove Him to love people He knew would reject Him and nail Him to the cross; what a legacy!!

What difference does your daily walk create that last because it has value?

## UPCOMING Events

	<p><b>Family Sunday—Deacon Family Fellowship Sunday, January 29, 2023</b>  <b>ONE SERVICE AT 9:30 A.M.</b>          Join us January 29th for our first Deacon Family Fellowship of the year. Remember that day, we will have only 1 service at 9:30am and immediately afterwards the fellowship will begin. Please go to your deacon family room to get your food, then join us in the Legacy Sanctuary. We can't wait to break bread with you! See you there!</p>
	<p><b>DRAMA AUDITIONS FOR EASTER—2/5 1 P.M.</b>          Drama Ministry is looking for actors for our upcoming Easter Production. Please come Sunday, February 5, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. in the main sanctuary. Prepare a monologue and song. For more information, contact <b>Melita Washington</b> at <a href="mailto:melita290@gmail.com">melita290@gmail.com</a>          Join our <b>Facebook Group</b> to stay connected at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/lwfc dramaministry">www.facebook.com/groups/lwfc dramaministry</a></p>
	<p><b>BE INTENTIONAL CONFERENCE 2023—2/4/23</b>  <b>FEATURING PRISCILLA SHIRER</b>  <b>LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!</b>          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, <b>Priscilla Shirer</b>. Registration is \$50.00. T-shirts are available for pre-order at an additional cost of \$20.00-25.00. For more information visit <a href="http://www.wogconference.org">www.wogconference.org</a> or Register Now at <a href="https://bit.ly/WOG2023">https://bit.ly/WOG2023</a></p>
	<p><b>SILVER STARS BLACK HISTORY EVENT</b>          Join the Silver Stars (55+) Ministry on Saturday, February 25th from 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. in the Legacy Sanctuary, for a dynamic Black History Month program: Black Resistance—Still Hear But God!!! ALL ARE WELCOMED! For more information contact <b>Jacqueline Jordan</b> at <a href="mailto:Jacqjordan@att.net">Jacqjordan@att.net</a></p>
	<p><b>LWCA PRESCHOOL—\$85 PER WEEK</b>  <b>BEFORE/AFTER CLUBS—\$35-\$55 PER WEEK</b>          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 <b>(713) 686-5538</b> or register at <a href="http://www.lwacademy.org">www.lwacademy.org</a></p>



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Communion
- Visitor's Welcome
- Worship In Giving
- Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*
- Special Music
- “Be Vigilant”
- Joshua 6:15-20
- 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**

LEGACY  
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW  
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**

**2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS**

**SUNDAY**  
6:30 PM

## Be Vigilant Joshua 6:15-20

### A. A Time to Shout (vs. 15-16):

1. When our commitment is relentless it refines us, deepens our faith, shapes our determination to fulfill the Lord's will no matter how impossible the obstacles may seem.
2. They were eager from early in the morning to endless break camp. They diligently did what the Lord had instructed them to do. We must actively and continuously align our will to His by denying fears, anxieties, and past bad experiences opposing obedience to His will.
3. Their obedience to God was specific to the message God delivered through Joshua. We must make sure what we are obeying is the truth because the main reason the Spirit of God is in us is to guide us into the truth (John 14:16-17; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-15). This leads to fellowship with God (John 15:1-11, 13; 1 John 2:5-7).
4. Even though this made no strategic military sense, the people were completely determined in their hearts as they marched around the city to do what the Lord said.
5. After the people definitely obeyed the Lord, Joshua continuously told the people to shout. Instead of a strategic military plan, God's instruction was to worship Him.
6. Trusting the Lord's will, worshipping Him with all our hearts, believing in Him to fulfill His promises, no matter how impossible they may seem, was all that was needed 40 years earlier.

### B. Don't Allow God's Goodness to Corrupt Worship (vs. 17-19):

1. The city was completely and endlessly under the ban; no exceptions. Even though God provides us victory, He does not want us to become corrupted by it. (Deut. 8:11-20)
2. The people must know that even though God had generously and powerfully put Jericho under their control, all that was in the land was still the Lord's property. Nothing we have achieved belongs to us.
3. It was Joshua who made the decision. He was completely comfortable initiating the mobilization of a team to spy out the land regardless of the overwhelming odds against them.
4. The prosperity of a nation can cause our hearts to drift from God. Years later, the nation of Israel no longer worshiped God. "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." (Matthew 6:24; NASU)
5. Ban also means "devoted"; they must remain devoted to God when they are exposed to all the riches of Jericho in God's Promised Land. Remember that the people were coming from slavery and the wilderness.
6. He was persistently teaching them, in the face of wealth, to be content in whatever state they were in. This is what leads to godliness. Contentment with godliness is gain (Philippians 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 6:6; Hebrews 13:5).
7. All the silver, gold and articles of bronze are consecrated for service unto the One who empowered them to enter the land. God asks for ten percent of the one hundred percent that He owns.
8. God told them to give, rather than the priest taking it to Him.

### C. Joyful Praise in the Midst of Adversity is Victory (vs. 20; Ps. 34):

1. The people obeyed God and made a very loud, public noise. What matters most is the complete surrender to His will which is best demonstrated in worship.
2. It was not a call to war; it was a call to worship.
3. It was not their military might that made the walls fall flat. It was their willingness to listen with a sincere heart of obedience to God.
4. The people endlessly cried out very loudly. They claimed victory because God promised it (Joshua 6:2).
5. The walls kept falling until they were flat on the ground. Without God, Israel would have had to scale the walls and enter in through the gates of the city.
6. Israel maintained their attack until the City of Jericho was captured.
7. No matter how valiant the warriors of Jericho were, God is the Lord Almighty. God can allow the intensity of life to seem impossible to overcome so that we can be exposed to His ability and our need to depend on Him.

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://BITLY/WOG2023](https://bitly/wog2023)  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTPS://WWW.WOGCONFERENCE.ORG](https://www.wogconference.org)

The Silver Stars 55+ Ministry  
 Presents  
**BLACK HISTORY**  
 Theme: Black Resistance Still Here. But God!!!  
**ALL ARE WELCOMED!**  
**SATURDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 25, 2023**  
**11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**  
 For More Information Contact:  
 Jacquelyn Jordan  
[jacqjordan@att.net](mailto:jacqjordan@att.net)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Eleanor Wilson & family, Alex Wolfe & family, Roy Harrison & family, Shirley Harris & family, and Mignette Dorsey & 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

