

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

January 29, 2023

## Worth the Wait

I pray you had a good week. I know it could have been challenging (a nice way of saying overwhelming), to say the least, but the Lord has kept you. Sometimes the more significant challenge is knowing everything will be the same in the coming week. It will be the same at home, our jobs, our money, our health, and where life has us emotionally. We are told to keep hope alive, but we don't always feel that. That thought is more of an encouragement sometimes than an emotional experience. This is why one of the hardest things in our walk with Christ is to learn to wait.

When I think of the people in the scriptures learning to wait, it makes them excellent examples. One of those individuals that I admire is Abraham. I can't imagine what it would have been like to be told to leave your family and everything you know to wander through the land of Canaan. You are told you will be the father of a great nation. You will establish a nation with such a large group of people that they will be "as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore...." (Genesis 22:17). However, God only provides you one child after 25 years, and allows you to face and overcome one issue after the next while away from your people.

Learning to wait is learning to trust God not just for what He says, but because of who He is. He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18), He cannot fail, nothing is impossible for Him (Matthew 19:26), He is love (not just loving; 1 John 4:7-11), His very nature is good so there is no way He can do anything wrong (Matthew 19:17), He is all powerful so no one or nothing can defeat Him (this is why what someone means for evil He can make good; Romans 8:28), and He is the only One who when He blesses you nothing can tear it down (Psalm 128). If we commit to walking with Him, He will build a hedge of angels around us (Psalm 34:7-9; Hebrews 1:14) because He promises to never leave us nor forsake us. So waiting on Christ is more about who He is and His reputation than what He promises to do. This mindset empowers us to trust Him because we can do all things through Christ (Philippians 4:13), we are more than conquerors because of Him (Romans 8:37), and the Holy Spirit empowers us to find God's strength to make it through everything we may experience (1 John 4:4). So waiting, because we believe in His character is our victory (Isaiah 40:28-31).

Not learning to wait is to miss your season. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9; NIV)



## UPCOMING Events



**Family Sunday—Deacon Family Fellowship**  
**Sunday, January 29, 2023**  
**ONE SERVICE AT 9:30 A.M.**  
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!



**DRAMA AUDITIONS FOR EASTER—2/5 1 P.M.**  
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 to cold read scenes. For more information, contact **Melita Washington** at [melita290@gmail.com](mailto:melita290@gmail.com). Join our **Facebook Group** to stay connected at [www.facebook.com/groups/lwfc dramaministry](https://www.facebook.com/groups/lwfc dramaministry)



**VALENTINES DINNER DANCE—2/10/23**  
**ALL ARE WELCOMED TO ATTEND**  
This 2023 Year we are celebrating Valentine's as a Church Family! Join us for an evening celebrating LOVE with entertainment by the legendary Kyle Turner, a professionally catered three-course dinner, and dancing the night away. **\$55 per person.** Register online at <https://bit.ly/LWFCValentines> until Mon., Feb. 6th, 2023. In person ticket sales will also be available Sunday, January 29th and Feb. 5th, following each service, cash only. Seating is limited.



**SILVER STARS BLACK HISTORY EVENT**  
Join the Silver Stars (55+) Ministry on Saturday, Feb. 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 **Jacqueline Jordan** at [Jacqjordan@att.net](mailto:Jacqjordan@att.net)



**LWCA FREE VALENTINES EVENT**  
**February 25, 2023 4:00—6:00 P.M.**  
Roses are Red, Violets are Blue. Jesus Loves you and we do too! Join us for a Living Word Christian Academy Valentines Event! Calling all fathers & daughters, mothers & sons, DRESS UP & Join us for an evening of LOVE! Register at <https://bit.ly/LWCAValentines2023> or contact Sylvia Edwards for more information.



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

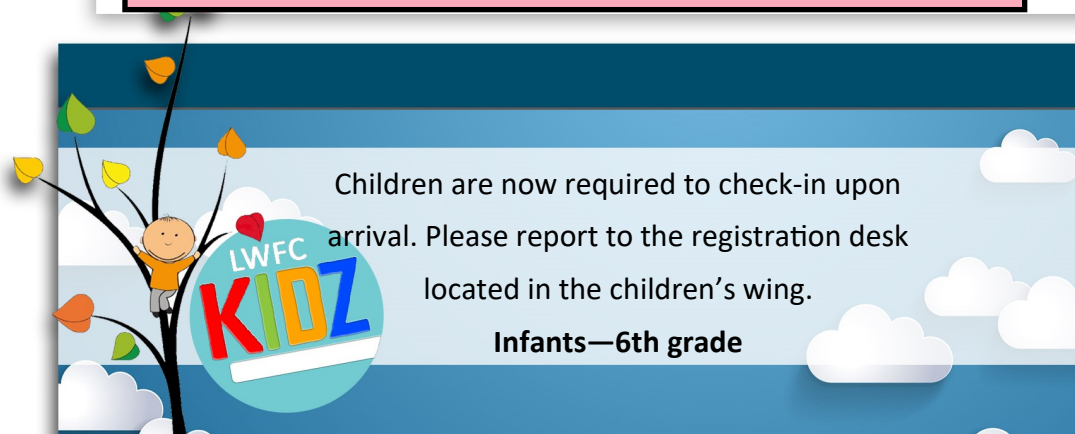
"Against the Grain"

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**





Against the Grain  
Joshua 14:6-11

A. His Word Never Fails (v. 6; 1 Peter 1:22-25):

- 1. The sons of Judah came before Joshua as if they were coming to a court hearing with high respect for the authority the Lord God provided Joshua.
- 2. Caleb told Joshua that they had the same experience from the message provided by the Lord through Moses. They both remained faithful to the Lord when spying out the land, so the Lord blessed them for trusting Him.
- 3. When we have a clear understanding that is the result of our practical application of God’s Word (1 John 2:3-6), it does not matter what we may experience from that time forward; we must trust the Lord for the blessings He has for us in the future.
- 4. What the Lord said in the past is still good in the present, and it must be honored.

B. Remain Faithful Against the Opps (vs. 7-8):

- 1. Caleb was forty-years-old when the Lord said everyone twenty years-old and below shall live. This means that the Lord kept His promises to Caleb and Joshua and they are now in their eighties and still strong enough to fight in the war and lead their tribes. They have no doctors or medications. The Lord is faithful to His promises and is committed to fulfill all His covenants.
- 2. Caleb reported to Moses what he saw and was passionately committed to, despite the obstacles, to willfully do what he had set his mind to do.
- 3. Even though ten spies did not support what Caleb and Joshua said, Caleb still viewed them as his brothers.
- 4. Caleb had a complete understanding of the gravity of the challenge before Israel. He made an intentional decision to magnify the power of God rather than the enormity of the problem before them. We spend so much time talking about the problems we experience, rather than the answers the Lord God provides.
- 5. Fear completely turned their hearts away from being determined. They were totally against going into the Promise Land.
- 6. Despite the vicious and powerful nature of the enemy—the large walls, the decision of the ten spies caused the people to turn against the will of God, Caleb willfully got behind all that the Lord commanded Moses to do. This was intentional because it was done with a complete knowledge of all that was taking place in the Promise Land. Against all odds Caleb determined in his heart to obey God and became purposeful about it.
- 7. Caleb completely, to the fullest extent trusted the covenant the Lord had made (Lord). He trusted the sovereign power of God (God), and with determination he had an overflowing desire to obey God despite the odds.
- 8. Caleb’s commitment to the Lord was so sincere that he was completely committed to doing whatever the Lord God requested of him.

C. Remember, God is for REAL! (vs. 10-11):

- 1. The Lord, who has demonstrated that He has all authority and power and truly desires to have a relationship with Israel. God kept His Word and provided Caleb eighty-five years of protection, vitality to deal with the wilderness, and demonstrates they will be successful with the invasion into the Promise Land.
- 2. The Lord God has faithfully executed everything He verbally communicated to Caleb. Eighty-five years later proves that the Lord’s Word is dynamic and true.
- 3. God’s Word is perfect and He is faithful. Caleb was just as physically strong then as he was when God made this promise. Just like he could have gone into the land and fought 40 years earlier, he fought with the same strength 45 years later.
- 4. No matter what challenge was provided to Caleb he was physically equipped to get it done. Whether it was going into the Promise Land or coming out.

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

Valentines Dinner & Dance

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH @ 7:00 P.M.  
All Are Welcome!

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REGISTER AT <https://bit.ly/LWFCValentines>

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 .

AGAINST

The

GRAIN

JOSHUA 14:6-11

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