

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

February 5, 2023

It's A Mindset

Trusting God can be a challenge, especially when it involves us changing our mindset about life issues, our lifestyle, or anything we may desire to do. It is a more profound challenge when we grow up listening to people we deeply love and who may have shared adages that we found meaningful with good results. The challenge is even worse when we are confronted with something we hold deep convictions for. An example is 'ignorance is bliss.' This obviously contradicts scripture (the Bible, a lot of words).

This process is the same as we would see in the days of Christ. Christ "came to His own and His own did not receive Him." (John 1:11) Christ did not teach anything that was not established as sound doctrine in the Old Testament because He is the Word and was always the Word (John 1:1-4), and all things are through Him (Colossians 1:15-18). However, to the Jewish leaders who added three hundred more laws to the Mosaic Law, Christ, the Word, was considered a false teacher. No matter how many supernatural miracles He did. No matter how glorious these miracles were, they still did not believe that He spoke from God. So, it is not like supernatural miracles can move people to do whatever the Lord says to them today.

For our mindset to decisively change to Christ, we need first to make a willful decision to trust Christ because we fundamentally accept, He is the truth (John 14:6), and He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). This alone does not transform us (1 Corinthians 8:1-2); the Jewish leaders prove that. It is when we apply ourselves to the second thing. "But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil." (Heb 5:14; NIV) "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." (1 John 1:7; NIV) As we see in Hebrews 5:14, we must decide to eat solid food. Just wanting to eat infant food can cause us to eventually turn away from God (Hebrews 6:1-8) and develop a hard heart towards the Lord (Ephesians 4:17-19). The third challenge occurs when the Lord's Word conflicts with our actions.

We need to immediately confess sin with a heart to change (John 21:15-17). The next step is accepting trials as Christ's love language (I know, crazy, huh; Hebrews 12:7-11; James 1:2-4). Fifth, commit to using your spiritual gift because together, it grows us to be just like Christ (Ephesians 4:12-13, 16). Lastly, commit to love those you hate (Matthew 4:43-48).

We must decide to lose our minds in Christ and walk in His Ways (2 Peter 1:3-4). This teaches us to trust Him rather than nail Him to the cross when He contradicts our convictions or passions.



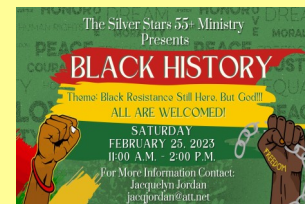
UPCOMING Events



DRAMA AUDITIONS FOR EASTER TODAY AT 1 P.M.
Drama Ministry is looking for actors for our upcoming Easter Production. Please join us 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
Join our **Facebook Group** to stay connected at www.facebook.com/groups/lwfc dramaministry



VALENTINES DINNER DANCE—2/10/23
ALL ARE WELCOMED TO ATTEND
Church join us for an evening celebrating LOVE with entertainment by the legendary Kyle Turner, a professionally catered 3 course dinner, and dancing. **\$55 per person.** Register online at <https://bit.ly/LWFCValentines> until Mon., Feb. 6th, 2023. In person ticket sales available today, Feb. 5th, following each service, cash accepted. 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



CONTEMPORARY SERVICE FELLOWSHIP
Calling everyone who attends the contemporary service! Join us February 26th at 1:00 P.M. for our first after service fellowship event of the year! We will have basketball, spade, dominoes, Uno, and more. Food will be provided by the Covenant Keepers Marriage Ministry! For more information, contact Keron Brown or Rashaud Hudson! We hope to see you there!



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

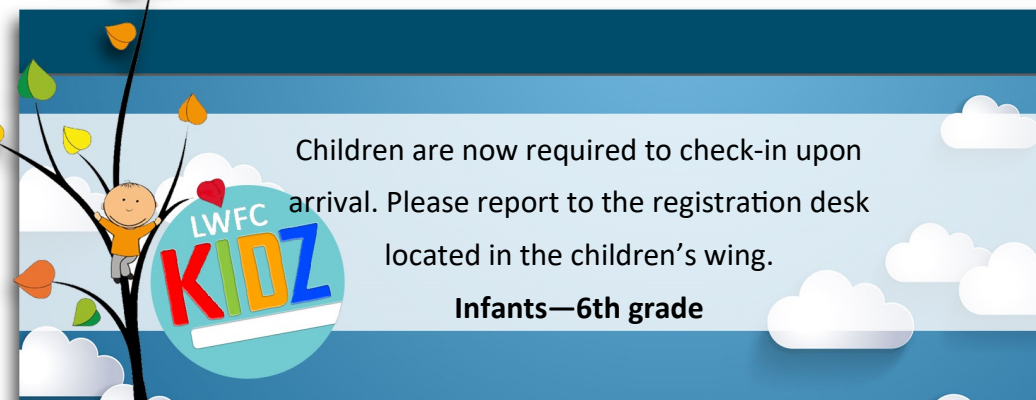
"Work It Out"

James 2:18-23

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

Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Work it Out
James 2:18-23

A. Know and Do (v. 18):

- 1. James commands the believers he is addressing to exhibit a significant manner of faith. This is because, during trials and difficulties, they prove to be hearers, not doers (James 1:21-25). They blamed God for their failures and instead recognized that God does not tempt anyone (James 1:12-16).
- 2. James challenges these believers to stop behaving like it was with the Pharisees and Jewish leaders who had a lot of knowledge of the scriptures; even though they knew who Jesus was (John 5:39), they still nailed Him to the cross. Knowledge alone can lead to arrogance because, without obedience, it does not change the heart (1 Corinthians 8:1-2; 1 John 2:3-6).
- 3. James is challenging these believers whose behavior contradicts their faith claim . He is saying, ‘how can you be deeply committed to God’s Word, and it never affects the decisions you make or observe no spiritual maturity?
- 4. James states that works always manifest the true representation of faith . This is because the nature of faith is that it is a full surrender to God’s Word due to a complete trust in Him. Since God’s Word instructs us to act, it is impossible for it not to require obedience.

B. Don’t Become Useless (vs. 19-20):

- 1. This is a faith that results from an unreserved wholehearted commitment to God and believing God to be one God and His Word to be true. When there are conflicting beliefs (Jews were no longer in Jerusalem and were in countries with their own gods and beliefs) surrounding them their deep conviction is going to be tested.
- 2. James poses the question as to whether they are willing to come to the full realization based on a better understanding, through the influence of the Holy Spirit, that faith is always followed by works.
- 3. James calls this person who seems unwilling to accept what he is saying to be a person with an absence of good and a presence of evil.
- 4. To have a deep conviction and full surrender to God’s Word and not have the willingness to obey it makes faith of no benefit to the spiritual development of a believer (Ephesians 3:16-21).
- 5. To have faith alone does not stimulate the work of the Holy Spirit in a believer’s life (John 15:1-17; Romans 12:1-2). The believer bears no fruit, and the believer cannot please God.

C. Become a Friend of God (vs. 21; John 15:1-7, 13):

- 1. Abraham’s relationship with the Lord was restored to its rightful place because he believed what the Lord told him and put a lot of energy into obeying God.
- 2. Abraham’s obedience was so genuine and complete that when God told him to sacrifice his only son, whom he had waited for 25 years, Abraham still obeyed God whether he understood ‘why’ or not.
- 3. The depth of Abraham’s commitment to the Lord was fully revealed when God told Abraham to sacrifice his only son whom he waited for twenty fives to have. This act is faith at work.
- 5. Abraham’s intense trust in God led to his steadfast commitment to surrender to the Lord’s divine will totally . This confident trust in God moved Abraham to exert a lot of energy in fully completing all God told him to do.
- 6. Abraham’s steadfast obedience and complete surrender, which was demonstrated when he offered up Isaac, demonstrates that his faith in God is totally what it needs to be so that from this point forward, Abraham is going to do whatever is right in God’s sight.
- 7. Because Abraham was willing to do whatever God instructed him to do, no matter the sacrifice, his life lined up with God’s Word, so he did what was right most of the time.
- 8. Abraham’s life would be sober in a world filled with vile people and worldly attractions (Philippians 2:14-18). This set Abraham apart as consecrated to God. This is why he would be considered a man loyal to God and, therefore, a friend of God (John 15:13).



Poem By
**BLESSING
NWOSU**
Feb. 5th • 11 AM
Contemporary Service

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
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KERON.BROWN@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG



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

ROSES ARE RED,VIOLETS ARE BLUE
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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.

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

Widows
Singles
Silver Stars
Couples



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Roy Harrison & family, Shirley Harris & family, Mignette Dorsey & family, and Curtis and Felicia Sanders & 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, Niki-sha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Patricia Jackson, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, and Deborah Smith.

WORK
IT OUT

JAMES 2:18-23

