

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

February 26, 2023

By Faith

Many people quote this verse; "for we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7) How do we actually do this? When we face job stress and people are in our faces. How do we turn off sight and do faith? How do we not do sight if we see someone we love in a coffin before us? If a spouse says things we don't want to hear, how do we not do sight? When we are filled with anxiety, sometimes anger, fear, and stress, how do we manage all these emotions and more, and still live by faith? The challenge is that faith is not emotional (it does not illuminate our emotions; Romans 8:26); it is a cognitive process of developing the discipline of not allowing anything to divert us from obeying the Word of God (Romans 10:17; Hebrews 12:1-2). Because we are human, many times this verse (2 Corinthians 5:7) becomes more encouraging than a reality.

First, remember the Lord understands because He was challenged in the same way many times. To mention two, Christ being tried by Satan in Luke 4:1-11 and being told He had to take the beating that He took, led Him to pray sweats of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46). Paul said this was a fight for him (1 Timothy 6:12).

Second, remember we have His Helper (Christ), the Holy Spirit, in us. We are not on our own (John 14:16-17). The Holy Spirit is committed to reminding us of what the Word says (Not make us study; John 14:26), guiding us to understand it (John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-15), convicting us when we sin (John 16:8-11), praying for us when our heart groans (Romans 8:26), and when we grow in Him, bring from the inside out joy, peace, strength, etc. (Galatians 5:22-25) so that we grow because we live by faith. Remember, God is at work in us (Philippians 2:13), and He plans to finish it (Philippians 1:6).

Third, we must use the tools and blueprint the Lord provides just like a construction worker. The blueprint is the Word of God. We must be committed to obeying it, no matter the circumstances because this triggers the work of the Holy Spirit. Some of the tools are prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17), including saints (James 5:16), the church where the gifts of the Holy Spirit reside (Ephesians 4:12-13, 16; 1 Peter 4:7-11), sticking with the truth (the nature of the Holy Spirit), learn to get rest (Christ many times went away alone) and always remember Christ only disciplines those whom He loves (Hebrews 12:7-12), because it matures us (James 1:2-4) to experience the power of "He who is within us that is greater" (1 John 4:4). As a result, walking by faith, not sight makes us conquerors, especially since nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:37-29).

Faith is not seeing; faith is believing in the person who can—Christ.



UPCOMING Events



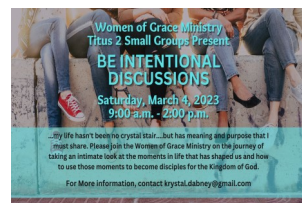
BLACK HISTORY MONTH—LAST SUNDAY
Journey with us through a historical journey in February for Black History Month. Tour our elaborate Black History Month displays and learn historical facts the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays in February. Celebrate our unique and dynamic African American culture from national treasures to local Acres Home historical moments. For more information and to volunteer, contact **Mary Wheatley at (713) 851-88**



VETERANS RESOURCE EVENT—TODAY
Calling all Veterans and caretakers of Veterans, join us for a FREE Resource Event Sunday, February 26th 10 a.m.—1 p.m. in the Main Sanctuary foyer. Get information, resources and stay connected for future events by registering with the Veterans Faith Initiative at <https://bit.ly/VeteransFaithInitiative> For more information contact Reginald Parker at reginald.parker.jr@veteransfaithinitiative.org



CONTEMPORARY SERVICE FELLOWSHIP TODAY—SUNDAY, FEB. 26TH 1:00 P.M.
Join us for fellowship after second service in the Legacy Sanctuary. Free Food, Fun, Basketball, Card Games and Fellowship with your church family. Food provided by the Covenant Keepers Marriage Ministry. For more information contact Rashaud Hudson or Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



TITUS 2 WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY BE INTENTIONAL DISCUSSIONS
"...My life hasn't been no crystal stair," but has meaning and purpose that I must share. Please join the Women of Grace Ministry Sat. March 4th 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. on the journey of taking an intimate look at the moments in life that has shaped us and how to use those moments to become disciples for the Kingdom of God. For more information contact **Krystal Dabney** at krystal.dabney@gmail.com



LEADERSHIP TRAINING SAT. MARCH 18TH 8:30 AM—12:30 PM
Get Ready Leaders of Living Word for the first leadership training of the year! **ELDERS, DEACONS, MINISTERS, TEACHERS, LA FACILITATORS and MINISTRY COORDINATORS**, your presence is required at this training session on March 18th from 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Breakfast will be served. REGISTER AT <https://bit.ly/LeadershipMarch2023>



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Confidence"

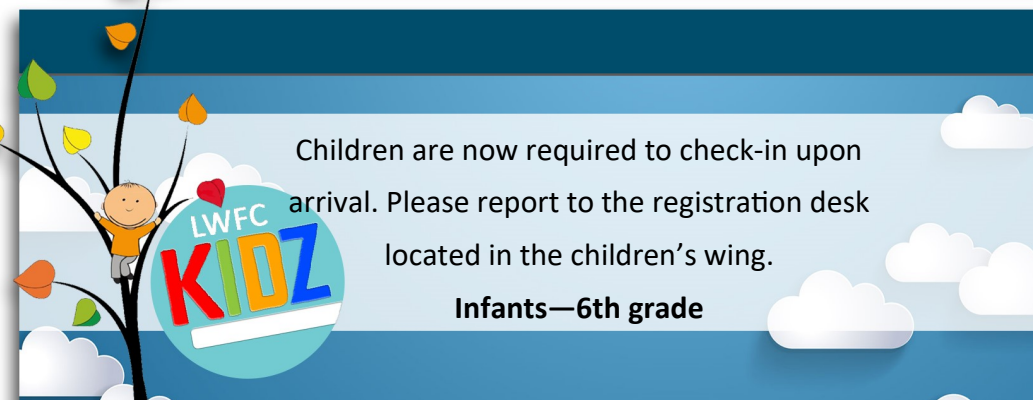
Hebrews 11:24-27

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

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Confidence Hebrews 11:24-27

A. Confirms Faith (v. 23):

1. The focus is on the way faith confronts opposition, hostility, and distress (10:32-39).
2. Faith is complete confidence and trust in God's divine truths, regardless of circumstances.
3. Moses' parents viewed his unusual attractiveness and elegant appearance as a visible sign of God's favor.
4. Moses' parents trusted God for His continued favor.
5. Their faith in God caused them not to respect Pharaoh's or anyone's words.
6. Faith causes believers to not accept everything the world teaches (Colossians 2:8).
7. Once we are certain that the Lord is speaking, circumstances should not control what God is teaching us to do.
8. Trials expose our convictions.

B. Requires Faith (v. 24):

1. Moses had deep convictions about God's promises.
2. Moses was confident that God would fulfill them no matter how long it takes (40 years).
3. Because of his faith he rejected the opportunity to identify with Pharaoh's family—Folks in the Book Hebrews had to decide whether to follow Judaism or Christianity.
4. Moses' decision led him to kill the Egyptian (faith without works – James 2:14-21).
5. Moses's complete confident trust in God caused him to be very intentional about the direction he was going to take for his life.
6. Moses' faith led Him to one day be Israel's liberator. Confident faith saves who we are.

C. Demands Endurance (vs. 25-26):

1. His convictions were so deep, and his hope so strong that Moses rejected the benefits of being in Pharaoh's family.
2. To not exercise faith was to decide to willfully live against the will of God – sin.
3. Moses decided to live the same way the Jews did – slaves. He counted everything a loss, just as the Apostle Paul did (Philippians 3:2-8).
4. His trust in God's promises caused him to accept the possibility of continuous abuse.
5. Faith is not ignorant suffering (Romans 8:18). It is an intelligent decision to trust God even if it requires spending the night in the midst of hungry lions.
6. Because faith may take us places we don't want to be, it requires a willingness to count all things joy in the midst of loss (Philippians 3:3-11) because if we try to save our lives it is that same life we lose (Matthew 16:25).

D. Keeps Hope Alive (v. 27):

1. Moses willingly left the comforts of Egypt for this hope.
2. His faith destroyed any possibility of fear.
3. Moses kept his attention fixed on the coming Messiah.
4. Moses lived, expecting the scales to tip in his favor.
5. Our awe of God's power can create a reverent fear of God which supersedes the fear of everything else (Hebrews 13:28-29).
6. Our convictions in the Lord must remain steadfast so that even when our expectations, based on the Word, make no sense, we can see what no one else believes is true (Hebrews 12:1-3).

Sign Up for Small Groups

Women of Grace Ministry
Titus 2 Small Groups Present
BE INTENTIONAL DISCUSSIONS
Saturday, March 4, 2023
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Update Your Info

...my life hasn't been no crystal stair....but has meaning and purpose that I must share. Please join the Women of Grace Ministry on the journey of taking an intimate look at the moments in life that has shaped us and how to use those moments to become disciples for the Kingdom of God.

For More information, contact krystal.dabney@gmail.com



READY TO RUN LEADERS?
Join Us For
Leadership Training
Saturday March 18, 2023
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Get Ready Leaders of Living Word for the first leadership training of the year! **ELDERS, DEACONS, MINISTERS, TEACHERS, LA FACILITATORS and MINISTRY COORDINATORS**, your presence is required at this training session. Breakfast will be served.

REGISTER AT <https://bit.ly/LeadershipMarch2023>

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Curtis & Felicia Sanders & family, Verna Mitchell & family, Pam Collier & family, Lorna Turner & family, Vicki Wilson & family, and Gloria Franklin & family, Hele- ne Wardlow & family, Eleanor Wilson & family, Alexander Cranford & family, Susie Farley & family, Lula Hayes & family, Ethel Lewis & family, and Donnie Emerson & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Margaret Baptiste, Retha Amos, 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, Betty Cunningham, Wanda Turk, Deborah Smith, and Dorothy Price.

CONFIDENCE

HEBREWS 11:24-27

WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG | @lwfchouston |   

7350 TC JESTER BOULEVARD HOUSTON, TEXAS 77088 281-260-7402