

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

March 12, 2023

True Abundance

Tithing sermons turn some people off immediately. Interestingly, these are the same people who want God to bless them, but do not want to experience this God's way. These individuals may not want to pay for all that education requires, but do so because they want the results. They may not want to pay expensive medical bills, but they do so because they need to resolve their health issues. When God speaks, excuses sometimes abound, especially as it relates to what the preacher wears or drives or whether the church is liked or not. This is done while everyone wants to be blessed by God.

Henry P. Crowell, affectionately called "The autocrat of the Breakfast Table," contracted tuberculosis when he was a boy and couldn't go to school. After hearing a sermon by Dwight L. Moody, young Crowell prayed, "I can't be a preacher, but I can be a good businessman. God, if You let me make money, I will use it in Your service." Under the doctor's advice, Crowell worked outdoors for seven years and regained his health. He then purchased the little run-down Quaker Mill at Ravenna, Ohio. Within ten years, Quaker Oats was a household word to millions. Crowell also operated the huge Perfection Stove Company. For over forty years, Henry P. Crowell faithfully gave 60 to 70 percent of his income to God's causes, having advanced from an initial 10 percent (Tan, P. L. (1996). Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times (p. 474). Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc.). As you know, Quaker Oats still exists today and is still a household name.

We expect God to provide for us, but when we face some struggle, we show a lack of appreciation for what God has done for us. We must always remember that we bless God because He first blessed us. Giving is respect, appreciation, and trust that God "is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we could ask or think, according to the power that works within us." (Ephesians 3:20). Notice this verse says, "the power that works within us." The power within us is the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 3:16). Our obedience under the influence of the Holy Spirit generates our sustained blessings. "Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for good will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God." (2 Corinthians 9:10-11). Everyone wants to be 'enriched in everything,' but not everyone wants to do this in God's way. Remember being 'enriched in everything' is 'for all liberality'.

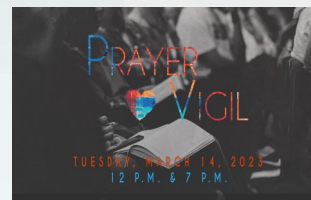
Giving has always been a show of respect, reverence, and honor. Since the time giving was instructed to the nation of Israel, it has always been directly attached to worship. Worship without giving is not worship (Malachi 1:6-14).



UPCOMING Events



LEADERSHIP TRAINING
SAT. MARCH 18TH AT 8:30 AM
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 at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served. Register at <https://bit.ly/LeadershipMarch2023>



FIRST PRAYER VIGIL OF THE YEAR
MARCH 14TH 12 P.M. & 7 P.M.
Living Word Family, please join us March 14, 2023 at 12 noon and at 7:00 p.m. for the first Prayer Vigil of the year. Help us pray for our families, our church, our community, city, nation, and world. For more information contact **Tomitra Wiley** at tomitraw@sbcglobal.net



MEN'S BE INTENTIONAL DISCUSSIONS
March 18, 2023 12:00—2:00 P.M.
Join the Kingdom Builder's Men's Ministry for their BE INTENTIONAL Discussion series. The next session is Saturday March 18th from 12:00 pm - 2:00 p.m. Men will discuss "How to fight in your relationships" For more information contact **James Thompson** at thompson929@gmail.com



GARDENING WITH THE URBAN MISSIONS TEAM—3/18 1-5 P.M.
Volunteer with UMT on Saturday March 18, 2023 from 1:00—5:00 pm to refresh our church in time for Spring! Gardening Tools & Refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact **Natividad Smith** at nds_smith@yahoo.com



LEGIT GET FIT
Living Word Family! Come join us for our LEGIT Young Adult Ministry as we Get Fit on March 25th at 9:00 am in the Legacy Sanctuary. We will have Deanna Mitchell, the coordinator for our Faith & Fitness Ministry, come out training on this day. Food will be provided and a question and answer panel afterwards. Register at <https://bit.ly/LEGITFit> or contact **Keron Brown** at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Respect"

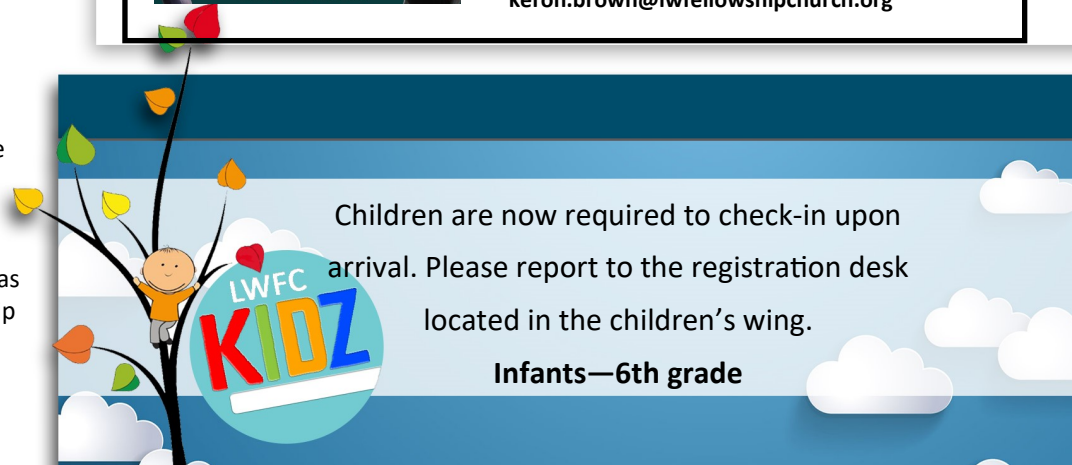
Deuteronomy 12:4-7

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

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Respect
Deuteronomy 12:4-7

A. My House (v. 4):

1. When we worship the Lord God, nothing or no one must provide our undivided time, services, or gifts to Him. God bluntly states that He is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5; 34:14).
2. The Lord God, who has all authority and power and is supreme over all, is disrespected when we give more time, service, and money (worship) to something or someone else.
3. Because there are so many distractions with foreign gods, we must be decisive and carefully put together well-thought-out plans that provide undistracted devotion to Him.
4. Whatever place the Lord designates for worship, as we can see in Revelation 2-3, is carefully and distinctively organized as His ordained place of worship.
5. When the Lord is willfully and with purpose held high, and His place of worship respected, the mindset that leads to sincere worship is crystallized.

B. Acceptable Worship (v. 6):

1. Worship begins with a vivid demonstration of trust and love in God’s prescribed place of worship.
2. A Burnt Offering demonstrates a worshipper's full surrender to the Lord God.
3. Because we are expected to come fully surrendered, what we bring will be a sacrifice to God. It is not a convenient gift (the attitude of Cain compared to Abel; Genesis 4:1-8).
4. The tithe is an acceptable gift because God considers it holy (Leviticus 27:30-33). Even though Abraham did what was the custom in his day, when he gave a tithe, God still accepted it as holy. He did this by faith, not by the law (Genesis 14:17-24; Hebrews 7:4-10).
5. A contribution was a tax for those twenty years and above who had to pay for the upkeep of the temple.
6. Votive was an offering made as a part of a vow to God; the giver was then obligated to complete the vow.
7. “Of your hand” is to willfully obligate oneself to spontaneously and not sparingly bring a volunteering offering to the Lord. This offering is provided with such liberality that the giver does not stop until the need is thoroughly fulfilled (Ex 35:19, 29; 36:3).
8. The Jews were obligated to bring many offerings. God asks for us to bring a tithe, and we feel challenged. Would we become like the Jews who, by the time of Malachi, felt it convenient to rob God?
9. God expects to be first when we give. He does not like leftovers. We can start with what we have (2 Corinthians 8:12), but it must be first.

C. Rejoice: His Rewards (v. 7):

1. Even though men were the prominent persons engaged in worship, God told them to bring their entire household.
2. A faithful giver is allowed to experience the abiding favor of the Lord because they demonstrated a willful, purposeful respect for Him.
3. These worshippers can now worship in a spirited, festive manner because they are now guaranteed God’s favor no matter what they may experience.
4. The Lord God will fulfill His promises because of their commitment to worship Him. He will cause them to prosper so that they live happily and wealthy.
5. Whatever we set our minds to do, the Lord’s favor will guide us and prosper us so that we experience His goodwill (2 Corinthians 9:6-10).



TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023
12 P.M. & 7 P.M.

PRAYER VIGIL



ADD PRAYER REQUESTS HERE
WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG/PRAYER-REQUEST-FORM



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: Vicki Wilson & family, Gloria Franklin & family, Susie Farley & family, Helen Wardlow & family, Alexander Crawford & family, Ethel Lewis & family, Lula Hayes & family. and Donnie Emerson & 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, Betty Cunningham, Wanda Turk, Deborah Smith, Dorothy Price, and Kathryn Ford-Cheatham.



RESPECT

DEUTERONOMY 12:4-7

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