

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

March 26, 2023

See Beyond

One day, a certain rich man visited a rabbi, who took the rich man by the hand and led him to a window. "Look out there through the glass window," he said. The rich man looked into the street, "what do you see?" asked the rabbi. "I see men, women, and children," answered the rich man. Again, the rabbi took him by the hand and, this time, led him to a mirror. The rabbi asked, "Now what do you see?" Puzzled and somewhat bewildered, the rich man said, "Now I see myself." Then the rabbi said, "Behold, in the window, there is glass, and in the mirror, there is glass. Now, what do you see?" But the glass of the mirror is covered with a bit of silver (the rabbi used this to signify money), and no sooner is the silver added, you cease to see others; you see only yourself."

It can be difficult to give to God when all we see is our needs and, therefore, our need to keep our money. It is even more difficult when all we can think of is what God can do for us . The Bible constantly challenges us to deny ourselves and be a disciple of Christ (Luke 14:26; Galatians 2:20). This is easier said than done. How do we do this and experience the power of the Holy Spirit, grow in our faith, and learn to trust in God to supply our needs (Luke 12:22-34)?

When we are saved, the Holy Spirit, who is the very nature of God, comes into our lives and takes up residence (Romans 8:1-3, 11), calling our bodies His temple, His dwelling place (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The more we commit to obeying God, the more the Holy Spirit influences our lives. The more we submit ourselves to the direction of the Holy Spirit, as we implement God’s Word, the more the Holy Spirit empowers us to die to our own thoughts and feelings that may operate contrary to the Word of God (Romans 12:2). This is why the scriptures state that anyone who is a disciple of Christ loves others (John 13:34-35; Matthew 22:37-40).

Giving to God is difficult when we look in the mirror, rather than through the glass under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Giving to God is difficult when the silver (money) behind the mirror causes us to focus on ourselves (1 Tim. 6:17-19). But when we remove the selfish use of money by deciding to obey Christ, we can clearly see the needs of our church as it ministers to the lives of others.



UPCOMING Events



CONTEMPORARY SERVICE FELLOWSHIP TODAY AT 1 P.M.
Living Word, Join us for food, fun, and fellowship, Sunday March 26th after contemporary service at 1 p.m. We still will have two services that 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. We will have basketball, spades, dominoes, Uno, and more. Food will be provided! We hope to see you there! For more information, contact Keron Brown or Rashaud Hudson at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



GOOD NEWS FEST—SAT. APRIL 8TH 11 A.M. DONATE CANDY FILLED EGGS
Get ready for our Good News Fest, April 8th from 11am-2pm. We are asking for all to donate candy-filled Easter Eggs. Please get with your ministry leaders and coordinators to see how you can help engage the community and share the gospel. Bring donated eggs to the Children’s Wing. For more information, contact Sylvia Edwards at sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org



RESURRECTION WEEKEND—APRIL 7TH—9TH
FRI. APRIL 7TH 6 P.M.
Good Friday Service & "Worth It" Play
SAT. APRIL 8TH 11 A.M.—2 P.M.
Good News Festival—Donate Candy-filled Eggs
SUN. APRIL 9TH—Resurrection Services
6 A.M. | 8:30 A.M. | 11 A.M.



WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY BE INTENTIONAL DISCUSSIONS—4/1 9 A.M.
Join the Women of Grace Ministry for their BE INTENTIONAL Discussion Series Saturday, April 1, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. We will be Life Mapping and continuing our small group discussions on the "Discipleships in the Making" book by Dr. Paul Cannings. For more information contact Eleanor Wilson at wog77088@gmail.com



DONATE TO OUR FOOD PANTRY EVERY 1ST SUNDAY
Donate to our Food Pantry Every 1st Sunday of the Month. The Reach serves over 300 families each week with canned goods, fresh vegetables and more! Help us keep our pantry stocked! We appreciate your donation and contact Pastor Allen Boutte at (713) 683-0847 to serve Tues., Wed. or Thurs.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“The Sower”

2 Corinthians 9:10-12

Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

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 2:30 PM

The Sower

2 Corinthians 9:10-12

A. The Supply Chain (v. 10):

- 1. God continuously provides (non-stop). It is His resources; as a result, that defray the cost of what believers give.
- 2. God is the creator, so He is the one who provides seed to the person who continuously sows. This is something no one has the power to make happen.
- 3. When a giver continuously scatters God’s provision with a cheerful heart and sows bountifully into God’s ministry (2 Corinthians 9:6-8), God continuously provides His resources to them. These are resources that He creates out of nothing. *“There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more. And there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want.” (Proverbs 11:24)*
- 4. This Sower is one who continuously gives and gives abundantly (Luke 6:38).
- 5. For the giver described above, God supplies them their daily food (Deuteronomy 8:2-6; John 6:26-40; Luke 12:13-23).
- 6. A believer’s obedience to the Word of God is due to the inner workings of the Holy Spirit (Philippians 2:12-13). The more they submit to God in this area, the more they live by faith and not sight. This mindset transforms the believers’ life into a person deeply committed to do what pleases God.
- 7. Abundant giving leads to conformity to all of God’s Word. A person that learns this surrenders to God for everything (Philippians 3:7-11).
- 8. A believer who is of the nature of verse 10 will constantly experience an abundance in everything, whether it is health, spiritual, financial, or in their family (Psalm 112, 128).
- 9. This believer, who lives by faith, experiences the Lord so powerfully as their giver; their faith grows deeper, so their gifts are very generous.

B. Blessed Givers Empower God’s Agenda (vs. 11b -12):

- 1. God’s bountiful favor to a liberal giver continuously produces a joyous worship-filled heart. They become a sincere worshipper.
- 2. The major purpose of this (Sower is nominative, and ‘for the ministry’ is also nominative) is to ensure God’s agenda for the church, His love for the saints, and their love for each other is executed powerfully.
- 3. This is a reference to priestly service (Philippians 2:17) that is focused on those in leadership furthering the agenda of God. They can serve full-time in ministry so the church’s services are conducted with decency and order (1 Corinthians 14:40).
- 4. Whomever is committed to living a consecrated, devoted life before God, the church must do its best to care for what they lack that is essential to their lives. This is given to those consecrated to God, not those caught up in worldly lust; that is why Paul specifies saints (1 John 2:15-17).
- 5. Because the ministry can effectively execute God’s agenda so that lives are being transformed, those giving liberally are ecstatic because they are experiencing God’s bountiful blessings. The saints are being strengthened in their time of need as the whole church experiences exuberant, vivacious worship before God.

WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY
BE INTENTIONAL DISCUSSIONS

Register for Event

Sign Up for Small Groups

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023 9:00 A.M.

Register at <https://bit.ly/WOGApril2023>
FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT ELEANOR WILSON AT wog77088@gmail.com

4/1	WOMEN OF GRACE EVENT	9 AM
4/7	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	6 PM
4/8	GOOD NEWS FESTIVAL.	11 AM - 2 PM
4/9	EASTER SERVICES	6 AM / 8:30 AM / 11 AM
4/15	KINGDOM BUILDERS MEN’S EVENT	12 PM
4/15	UMT GARDENING EVENT	1 PM
4/22	SILVER STARS 55+	11 AM
4/29	TECH TRAINING	9 AM




PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Susie Farley & family, Ethel Lewis & family, Lula Hayes & family, and Lora Turner & 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, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey, Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Patricia Jackson, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, Betty Cunningham, Wanda Turk, Dorothy Price, Joshua Williams, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, and Kathryn Ford-Cheatham.

The SOWER

2 Corinthians 9:10-12

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