

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

March 5, 2023

Seen & Unseen

For many people, seeing is believing. This is why Christ said to Thomas, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? People would literally say, "Until I see what you are talking about, I will not believe." The integrity of the person saying it does not matter, but what matters is the person will never be tricked again. Seeing means that "I do not have to trust anyone or anything, I do not have to fear anyone getting over on me." The person does not want any uncertainties, therefore, no anxiety.

The opposite is true in scripture. Believing God at His Word allows a person to see (2 Peter 1:2-11). ".....that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory....." (Ephesians 1:17-18; NASU) The Word of God actually instructs us "for we walk by faith, not by sight..." (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Many times Christ would take His disciples into various situations. Some examples are a storm on the sea, five loaves and two fish, and Lazarus being dead for four days, to mention a few. He constantly challenged them to trust what He was teaching, rather than their past experiences or similar circumstances. He directed them to think or do what He asked in the midst. We often listen to our fears, bad experiences, and anxieties, rather than trust God's Word.

When we are controlled by what we see, it distracts us from trusting God and prevents us from experiencing His powerful work in and through our lives. Here are some examples; the disciples viewed Lazarus as dead; Christ viewed Lazarus as asleep because He is the resurrection. The disciples saw Calvary as Christ dying; Christ viewed it as life for everyone who believed. The disciples saw the Samaritan woman as a non-Jew, therefore not worthy of the Savior and as a sinner; Christ viewed her as lost in a field ready to be harvested. While walking on water in the midst of the sea, Peter saw death; Christ saw a need to believe.

Needing to see how everything can work can lead us to be controlled by life's issues. Faith does not need to be seen. A deep conviction controls faith so what God says is true (Hebrews 6:18). His Word is powerful (Hebrews 4:12), and it does not return void (Isaiah 55:11). This is why "...faith is the assurance of things hoped for, and the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) So, if we need to see before we believe, our faith will constantly waiver. If we are controlled by our commitment to obey God, we run the steady race of endurance (Hebrews 10:32-39; 12:1-3). The only fight we fight is the fight of faith (2 Timothy 4:6-8). "Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believe" (John 20:29).



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>



DÉCOR TEAM TRAINING—3/11/23 9:00 A.M. OLD FELLOWSHIP HALL
Join the Décor Team for a training Sat. March 11, 2023 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. in the Old Fellowship Hall. The Cost is \$10 and please bring heavy duty wire cutters. Register at <https://bit.ly/DecorTrainingMarch2023>
For more information, contact Elizabeth Ellis or Verna Mitchell at lizsunshine23@gmail.com



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 1-5 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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

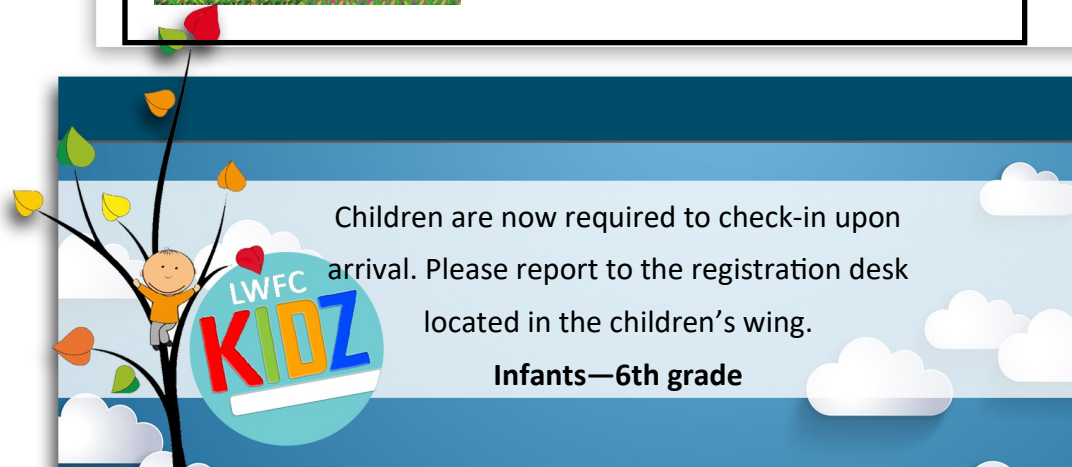
"Confidence" Part II

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 took (40 years).
- 3. Because of his faith, he rejected the opportunity to identify with Pharaoh’s family. People in the Book of 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).



APPLE / LAPTOP / MOBILE PHONE/
SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING

SAT. MARCH 11th 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.
LEGACY SANCTUARY

SCAN TO REGISTER





Register at <https://bit.ly/MarchTechTraining>



Featuring Our Very Own
Sharon Daniels
Prairie View A&M University
Computer Science Department, Roy G.
Perry College of Engineering





BRING YOUR TECH QUESTIONS & GET ANSWERS!



L.E.G.I.T GETS FIT





feat. Deana Mitchell of Faith & Fitness

MARCH 25TH AT 9:00 AM

WORK OUT • PANEL DISCUSSION • FOOD

Sign Up to Attend

<https://bit.ly/LEGITfit>

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT KERON BROWN AT
KERON.BROWN@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!





PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Curtis & Felicia Sanders & family, Verna Mitchell & family, Pam Collier & family, Lorna Turner & family, Vicki Wilson & family, and Gloria Franklin & family, Helene 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, Dorothy Price, and Kathryn Ford-Cheatham.

CONFIDENCE
PART II

HEBREWS 11:24-27