

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 16, 2023

Badge of Honor

While a probation officer, I could not believe that some of the kids on my caseload saw going to jail as a badge of honor. It is as if they could now legitimately claim their street rights.

On October 16, 1987, the world finally exhaled after holding its breath for 58 hours when Robert O'Donnell, a paramedic in Midland, Texas, freed 18-month-old Jessica McClure from the 22-foot deep, 8-inch wide hole she fell into. It was finally over; Baby Jessica was safe. But, it was not over for Jessica; it was just the beginning. She was alive, but the ordeal left her with some medical issues that required 13 reconstructive surgeries. She had to have 60% of her right foot amputated, and she still bears some scars from the incident, one of them on her forehead.

How do you think Baby Jessica has responded to her scars now that she is not a baby anymore? When she was eleven, she told the Ladies Home Journal, "I am proud of them [the scars]. I have them because I survived." A few years later, when she was sixteen, she appeared on ABC's Good Morning America (January 27, 2003) and said her scars "remind her of how much God loves her."

There are two ways of responding to our pain. We can be angry at God because bad stuff happens to us or we can praise Him that He is with us through it all. (Fresh Illustrations)

Think about the people we honor in the scriptures; Abraham, who 25 years waited on one child when promised a nation; Job was called righteous by God, but suffered as if he had sinned terribly; Anna, who served in the temple for years, doing the worst kind of work, cleaning up from all the dead animals that were slain, because she was looking for Christ to come. We see the list in Hebrews 11 and recognize how their faith led them to endure circumstances that lasted years and how their endurance became their reward (Hebrews 11:6).

The hard times we experience when we choose to trust God cause endurance to become the badge of honor that blesses us. ".....the one who endures to the end, he will be saved...." (Matthew 24:13) It is recognizing how God has carried us through that makes us have many hallelujah moments; that is why "those who wait on the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary." (Isaiah 40:31) Remember; "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!" (Psalm 34:7-8)

It is not the swift that win the race, but those who endure to the end.



UPCOMING Events



TECH TRAINING—APRIL 29TH 9 A.M.— 1 P.M.
Sign up for social media tech training, Saturday, April 29th from 9AM-1PM featuring our very own Sharon Daniels, Computer Science professor at Prairie View A&M University. Be sure to register and bring your favorite technology devices. For more details or assistance, please contact marketingmb@lwfellowshipchurch.org. We hope to see you there!



SILVER STARS 55+ MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP
Join the Silver Stars 55 + Ministry for fellowship and fun at their monthly meeting on Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in the Old Fellowship Hall. For more information contact Jacqueline Jordan at jacqjordan@att.net



CRUISIN' WITH THE CANNINGS 9/30-10/5
Cruise with the Cannings and Power Walk Ministries Sept. 30th - Oct. 5th 2023 on a 4 Day/ 5 Night journey to Puerto Rico, Costa Maya & Cozumel. Deposit of \$225 per person is due April 14, 2023. Full cruise cost starts at \$770 per person. For Full Cruise Details, and Payment Schedule, Please Contact the Church at (281) 260-7428 or Grab a Full Informational Handout from the Connection Center **BOOK YOUR trip TODAY** at bernice@bctours-travel.com



WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
Join the Women of Grace Ministry for their BE INTENTIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST Saturday, May 6, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Register today at <https://bit.ly/WOGPrayerMay2023> or for more information contact Eleanor Wilson at wog77088@gmail.com



LWCA SUMMER CAMP—6:00 AM—6:30 PM
Skip into summer with the Living Word Christian Academy Summer Camp. We can't wait to grow your child in Christian values, Robotics, Chess, Tennis, Culinary Arts, Arts & Crafts, Academic Enrichment & much more! Pre-Registration Specials Available. Lock-in price is \$35 per week per child ages 5-12. Plus, registration fee is waived if you register by 5/12/2023 online at www.lwcacademy.org or by calling (713) 686-5538.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Because He Is"

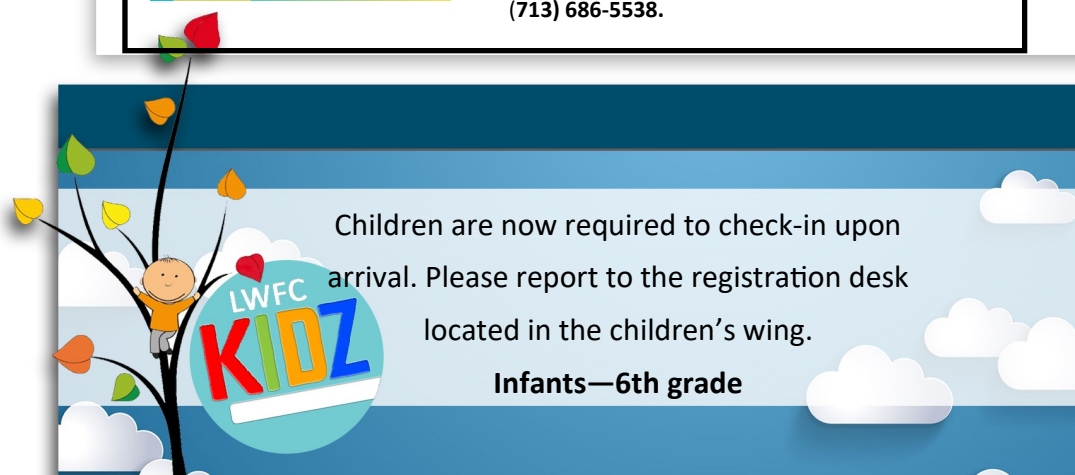
Psalm 33:18-21

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



Because He Is
Psalm 33:18-22

A. We Are (vs. 18-19):

- 1. Note this passage so that faith rather than anxiety guides us (Philippians 4:8-9).
- 2. God faithfully pays attention to the needs of those who trust Him.
- 3. God can faithfully care for those who fear Him because He reigns.
- 4. God powerfully responds to those who reverence Him (Psalm 112:1-3; 128).
- 5. My hope must be based on my confidence in His Word (Hebrews 11:3,6).
- 6. God faithfully serves those who steadfastly wait on Him (Joseph, Elijah).
- 7. God powerfully comes through for those who believe in His love for them.
- 8. Those who seek the Lord, He promises, they will find Him (Luke 12:31-32).

B. Learn To Wait (v. 20):

- 1. Whatever difficulties we face, our trust in His goodness leads to His deliverance.
- 2. Our trust in His goodness leads to His protection.
- 3. Faithfully waiting on God keeps us alive and productive in challenging times (Isaiah 40:27-31).
- 4. If hard times cause us to experience losses, God restores the faithful.
- 5. Waiting on God must be based on our faith, not our outer circumstances.
- 6. Waiting on God is our conscious awareness of His faithfulness and love for us.
- 7. Waiting on God is our conscious awareness of His power and might.
- 8. Remember that God is deeply committed to powerfully supporting us.
- 9. Remember that God is deeply committed to protecting us against evil attacks (Psalm 34:7).

C. Trust Him (vs. 21-22):

- 1. God’s goodness and love should penetrate our hearts.
- 2. God’s goodness should lead us to a strong desire to worship Him.
- 3. All those who fear God enjoying His lovingkindness must endlessly worship Him.
- 4. When we surrender our lives to God, it reduces anxiety and increases praise.
- 5. Trusting in God opens our eyes to His love and power and increases worship.
- 6. Our trust can remain steadfast because His reputation precedes Him.
- 7. We can face life with certainty because His name is above every name.
- 8. God powerfully comes through for those who trust His love for them.
- 9. My hope is based on my conference in His Word (Hebrews 11:3,6).
- 10. God faithfully serves those who trust Him (Joseph, Elijah).

Silver Stars 55+

Join Us Every 4th Saturday at 11 a.m.
Life App Classrooms



For More information contact Jacqueline Jordan at jacqjordan@att.net



GARAGE SALE

The Reach

APRIL 22ND 8AM-1PM

4333 W. LITTLE YORK RD. HOUSTON, TX 77091
DONATE YOUR GENTLY USED ITEMS!

FOR MORE
DETAILS CONTACT
PASTOR BOUTTE
AT (713) 683-0847




PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Susie Farley & family, Ethel Lewis & family, Lula Hayes & family, Lora Turner & family, Luciana Hill & family, and Cynthia Wattell & 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, Lakesia 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, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Joshua Williams, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joyce Newsome, and Jackie Hawthorne.

Because HE IS

PSALM 33:18-22

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