

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

May 21, 2023

Transform Fear

Fear is a powerful emotion. The fear experienced when someone believes God will not come through or fix a situation is not the same fear that paralyzes someone shocked at the sight of an oncoming train while crossing a railroad track or someone immobilized by a burglar. This fear is ongoing; it keeps believers from growing in their faith. Fear can prevent believers from making decisions that allow them to be vulnerable or experience challenges beyond their comfort zones. Someone once said, "Fear is the only thing that multiplies faster than rabbits."

The Apostle Paul took on every challenge, aggressively went out into the unknown, and faithfully served Christ. Paul even said that though he was the least of the apostles, the one unusually born, he worked harder than all of them (1 Cor 15:9-11; 2 Cor. 11:5; 12:11). Paul worked hard and suffered much for the progress of the gospel. He says this in 2 Corinthians 4:7-12; "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death works in us, but life in you." At times Paul seems fearless; "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek..... (Romans 1:16-17) He seems willing to take on any challenge.

However, it is Paul who says, "And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling." (1 Corinthians 2:3). Paul was not fearless; Paul made a decision to fear God more than he would fear man. "For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ." (Galatians 1:10).

A writer once said, "If you're not afraid to face the music, you may someday lead the band." Paul's life demonstrated courage because he feared the composer more than the music, so he ended his ministry leading the band under the direction of the composer. I am not sure what your fears may be, but whatever they are, let them be controlled by a reverent fear of God (1 Peter 1:17). It is



UPCOMING Events



CONTEMPORARY SERVICE KICK BACK
SUNDAY, MAY 28TH at 1 PM
Join us after Contemporary Service on Sunday, May 28th for free food, fun, games, music and fellowship. For more information contact Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



NEW MEMBER CLASSES
Attention New Members or those interested in joining our Living Word Fellowship Family. Join our New Member Classes. Classes are on select Sundays from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Upcoming class dates include: **SUNDAY MAY 21st & 28th; SUNDAY JUNE 4th & 11th; SUNDAY JULY 2nd & 9th; and SUNDAY AUGUST 6 & 13**
Register on the events page of our Website and for more information contact Pastor Duane Lawrence at dlawrence@lwfellowshipchurch.org



FAMILY BIBLE ENCOUNTER
JUNE 6TH—8TH 6:30 P.M.
Living Word Family, It's Time for the Family Bible Encounter. Join us June 6th - 8th at 6:30 p.m. for FUN, FELLOWSHIP & ENRICHMENT. A light Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. each day. The Theme for this year is Twists & Turns: Following Jesus Changes The Game! Psalm 25:4 Register on the events page of our website and for more information contact **Sylvia Edwards at sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org**



CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
Join us for the Center For Christian Living every Tuesday at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m. starting June 13th and ending July 25th. This reformatted CFCL will focus on topics related to the theme for the year, which is "BE INTENTIONAL" There will be classes for women, men, 55+ adults, adults, young adults, youth and kids. For more information visit www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/center-christian-living



LWCA SUMMER CAMP—LAST CALL FOR LOCK-IN RATE OF \$85 PER WEEK
Skip Into Summer With The Living Word Christian Academy Summer Camp
Pre-Registration Special of \$85 per week if you register by May 15, 2023! Regular Price is \$120 per week per child Ages 5-12 Register at www.lwcacademy.org or call (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

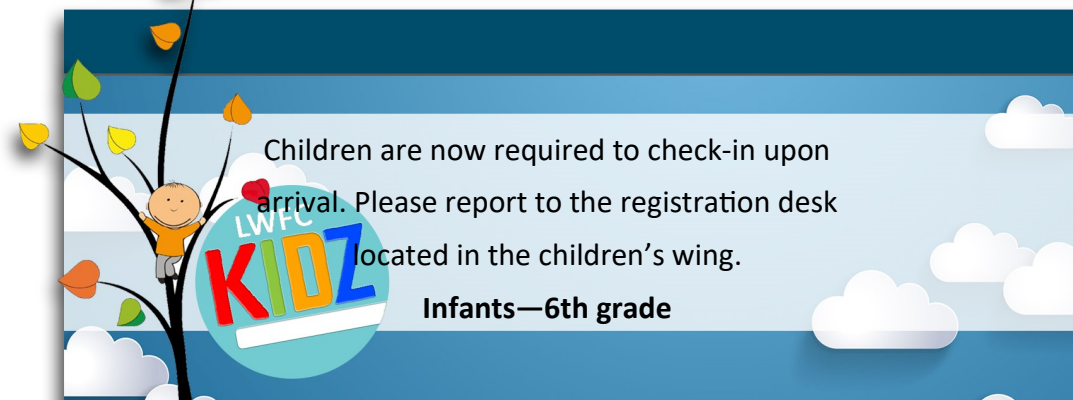
"We Will Win Part II"

James 5:7-11

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

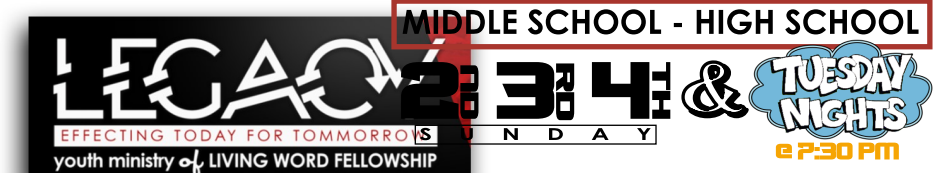
Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

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



We Will Win Part II
James 5:7-11

A. Learn to Wait (vs. 7-8):

- 1. Despite the abuse of the rich (5:1-6), believers must not take things into their own hands. They must wait for God’s timing.
- 2. Like a long-distance runner, we need to be so focused on finishing the race we become compelled to endure (Hebrews 12:1).
- 3. When we don’t understand why we are suffering, we must once and for all decide to trust God because we know He cares (Romans 8:28,31; 1 Peter 5:7-8).
- 4. We must work hard to remain cohesive (4:1-12; Matthew 24:12).
- 5. The presence of the Lord, who has all authority and power, must always remain in our minds (John 15:1-5; 1 John 3:1-3). This is the mark we must press for (Philippians 3:12-16).
- 6. Our hearts, because it is where all our emotions reside, can control the directions of our lives, so we are commanded to once and for all remain committed to the Lord’s Word so that in the midst of our stresses, we stay sober-minded.
- 7. The Lord will return, and He is a just God, so we know; our suffering will not last forever.

B. Don’t Fight Your Own Battles (v. 9):

- 1. We are commanded to continuously not internally express intense groans against anyone (Philippians 2:2:14; Colossians 3:13).
- 2. If satan divides us, no one will stand (Luke 11:17; James 4:6-10; Matthew 24:12). We need each other, so we cannot allow our circumstances to cause us to turn on each other.
- 3. “Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.” (Matthew 7:3-5; NASU)
- 4. Endure the trial trusting Him to take care of the problems you experience (Romans 12:19; 1 Thessalonians 2:16). No need to fight our own battles.

C. Be Blessed; It’s Worth the Wait (vs. 10-11):

- 1. There are those we can learn from those who endured evil and afflictions.
- 2. When we reflect on the many Bible characters who continuously remained faithful amid extremely difficult circumstances, including Job, the negative circumstances became favorable and satisfying and could only be attributed to the work of God (Romans 8:28).
- 3. These believers clearly understood how Job remained faithful, trusting the Lord no matter how extremely horrifying his circumstances were.
- 4. Because some of these believers were in Jerusalem, they fully understand how the Lord suffered, rose, and ascended to heaven.
- 5. The Lord is deeply sympathetic to our pain. He willingly responds to the groans of our hearts (Romans 8:26; Hebrews 3:14; 4:14-16) and comforts us when we grieve (John 14:1-3). He promises never to give us more than we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Missions Ministry

Our Missions Team needs your support as we prepare for upcoming summer mission trips. Your continued support through donations and prayers is needed.

How to Donate

1 Visit lwfellowshipchurch.org

2 Select Give

3 Select Give Now!

4 Choose 'Missions' in the Fund Drop Down

5 Select Sub-Fund Choose Mission Trip

6 Add Missionary's First and Last Name if Applicable

7 Input your donation amount & submit

Use Your Phone to Scan & Give Now

For more more information on missions at LWFC or how to donate contact Valarie Miller at lwfmissions@lwfellowshipchurch.org

FAMILY BIBLE ENCOUNTER

June 6th-8th

6:30 p.m.

Dinner

5:30 p.m.

FOLLOWING JESUS CHANGES THE GAME PSALM 25:4

REGISTER AT <https://bit.ly/FBE2023>

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Clyde Ramsey & family, Helen Wardlow & family, Mary Wheatley and Carol Dickerson & family, Leo Banks & family, Tomitra Wiley & family, and Gail O'Neal & 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, Dorothy Price, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Ruby Hunter, Yvetta Ford, Diane Ford, Rita Hughes, Patrice Terrell, and Calvin Wilson.

WE WILL
WIN
PART II



JAMES 5:7-11