

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

May 28, 2023

It's A Mindset

Trusting God can be a challenge, especially when it involves us changing our mindset about life issues, our lifestyle, or anything we may desire to do. It is a more profound challenge when we grow up listening to people we deeply love and who may have shared adages that we found meaningful with good results. The challenge is even worse when confronted with something we hold deep convictions for. An example is 'ignorance is bliss.' This obviously contradicts scripture (the Bible, a lot of words).

This process is the same as we would see in the days of Christ. Christ "came to His own and His own did not receive Him." (John 1:11) Christ did not teach anything that was not established as sound doctrine in the Old Testament because He is the Word and was always the Word (John 1:1-4), and all things are through Him (Colossians 1:15-18). However, to the Jewish leaders who added three hundred more laws to the Mosaic Law, Christ, the Word, was considered a false teacher. No matter how many supernatural miracles He did. No matter how glorious these miracles were, they still did not believe He spoke from God. So, it is not like supernatural miracles can move people to do whatever the Lord says to them today.

For our mindset to decisively change to Christ, we need first to make a willful decision to trust Christ because we fundamentally accept, He is the truth (John 14:6), and He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). This alone does not transform us (1 Corinthians 8:1-2); the Jewish leaders prove that. It is when we apply ourselves to the second thing. "But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil." (Heb 5:14; NIV). "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin." (1 John 1:7; NIV) As we see in Hebrews 5:14, we must decide to eat solid food. Just wanting to eat infant food can cause us to eventually turn away from God (Hebrews 6:1-8) and develop a hard heart towards the Lord (Ephesians 4:17-19). The third challenge occurs when the Lord's Word conflicts with our actions.

We need to immediately confess sin with a heart to change (John 21:15-17). The next step is accepting trials as Christ's love language (I know, crazy, huh; Hebrews 12:7-11; James 1:2-4). Fifth, commit to using your spiritual gift because together, it grows us to be just like Christ (Ephesians 4:12-13, 16). Lastly, commit to love those you hate (Matthew 4:43-48).

We must decide to lose our minds in Christ and walk in His Ways (2 Peter 1:3-4). This teaches us to trust Him rather than nail Him to the cross when He contradicts our convictions or passions.



UPCOMING Events



**WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY
BE INTENTIONAL DISCUSSIONS**
Join the Women of Grace Ministry for our BE Intentional Discussion Series Saturday, June 3, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. - 11 a.m. For more information contact Eleanor Wilson at wog77088@gmail.com

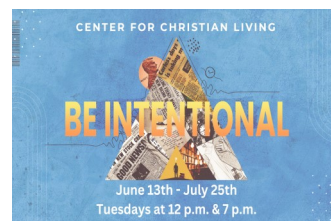


NEW MEMBER CLASSES
Attention New Members or those interested in joining our Living Word Fellowship Family. Join our New Member Classes. Classes are on select Sundays from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Upcoming class dates include: **SUNDAY MAY 21st & 28th; SUNDAY JUNE 4th & 11th; SUNDAY JULY 2nd & 9th; and SUNDAY 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 30, 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

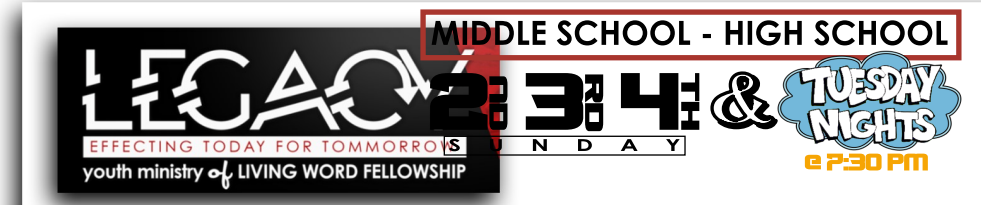
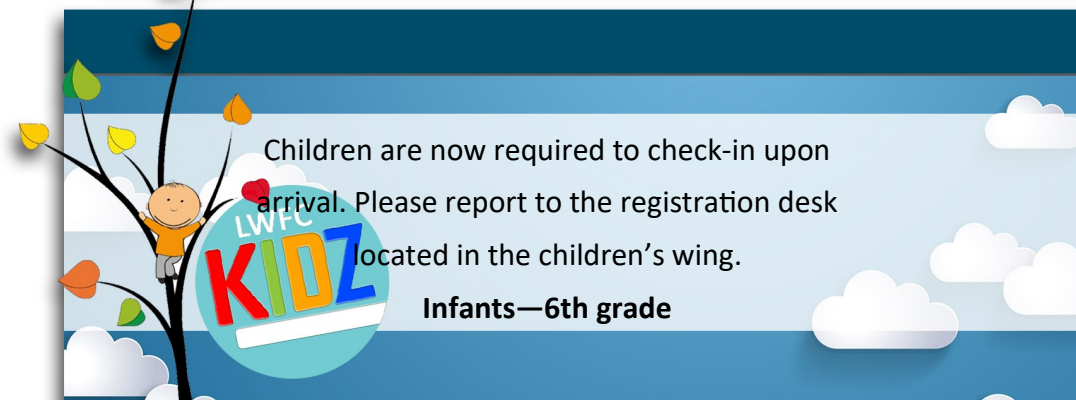
Special Music

"Don't Despair"
Lamentations 3:22-26

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Don't Despair
Lamentations 3:22-26

A. His Love Never Ceases (vs. 22-23):

- 1. The Lord has all power and authority, and because He alone sustains His relationship with us, He is capable of daily executing His steadfast, generous, kind love towards us.
- 2. No matter how ugly things may develop around us, the Lord is completely committed to generously bestowing His kindness towards us.
- 3. Like a mother nursing her child, the Lord is affectionate and wholly committed to executing His favor and grace towards us. This is impossible for Him not to do because love is who He is (1 John 4:8,16), and faithfulness to His covenant is what He does (Romans 8:37-39).
- 4. The Lord's loving-kindness provides us with inner spiritual refreshment as a result of the growth of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This transforms us to experience the strength of the Lord from the inside out (1 John 4:4).
- 5. We can live completely assured with one hundred percent certainty that the Lord will fulfill what the scriptures say He will do. Failure is impossible (Isaiah 55:11). There is guaranteed success.

B. Remain Hopeful and Seek Him (v. 24):

- 1. The Lord is utterly committed to His covenant with us, and no matter the level of resistance that may take place in or around us, He has the power and all authority to fight for us and deliver us from danger.
- 2. The people in Lamentations were about to lose everything, possibly their lives. The ones who were faithful could suffer because of all those who chose to live outside the will of God. Jeremiah is reassuring them that the Lord can replace everything, just like He did for Job, if they remain faithful to His Word (Romans 8:31).
- 3. Because of the Lord's power and His loving, gracious nature, we can with certainty expect Him to produce a better future which eventually will drown out the pain of our present troubles.
- 4. Because the Lord is all-powerful, He can create delightful and practical results that benefit those who trust Him no matter the difficulties they may experience.
- 5. For all those who eagerly and patiently endure all the trials they may encounter because they expect with confidence the Lord's loving-kindness and compassion to rescue them, these faithful believers will not be disappointed.
- 6. The Lord does not disappoint the believer who inquires of Him through prayer, godly counsel, and the study of His Word. This believer's efforts are guaranteed to be rewarded.
- 7. Because the Lord is all-powerful and will never forsake His covenant, He willingly extends His lovingkindness and grace to all those who trust Him, providing excellent practical results in their time of need.
- 8. When we are convinced that the Lord is faithful, it empowers us to silently and patiently wait on the Lord because we know He is good.
- 9. Our confidence in who the Lord is, those who trust His loving-kindness, compassion, and faithfulness to those He becomes our deliverance from all our troubles. This is why His faithfulness is new every morning.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Clyde Ramsey & family, Helen Wardlow & family, Mary Wheatley and Carol Dickerson & family, Leo Banks & family, Tomitra Wiley & family, Gail O'Neal & family, Byron Grand & family, Pastor Cannings & 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, Jessie Austin, Patricia Jackson, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, Betty Cunningham, Dorothy Price, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Ruby Hunter, Yvette Ford, Calvin Wilson, Diane Ford, Patrice Terell, Patsy Gatterson, Bobbie Carter, and Rita Hughes.

