

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

May 7, 2023

## The Good Father

There is a lot of excitement when a married couple who desires to have a child says they are pregnant. The grandparents who have been waiting for a grandchild go out of their minds with excitement (yes, Lord!). However, this is a beginning of a process that begins with nine months of many changes and challenges for the mother especially. As the child grows up, the parents are willing to provide for the child, but when the child allows the parents to nurture them to maturity, they become even more excited to do whatever it takes to bless their child.

When we accept Christ into our lives, we have great anticipation of all the things we believe the Lord is going to do. When the Lord moves us to a process of spiritual growth, we may become impatient. When the Lord requires a walk of faith to experience His blessings, we sometimes demonstrate an unwillingness to submit to His will, but we definitely want His blessings.

Blessings are not hard to come by because our Lord is loving (1 John 4:7-10) and gracious (His kindness is limitless; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10), but He does not bless us for our motives (James 4:1-4). He blesses us to accomplish His purposes for our lives (John 15:1-13) and His agenda for all mankind (1 Peter 4:7-10). These blessings also spread to all those in our family (Psalm 112:1-3; 128; Psalm 24:3-5; 1 Corinthians 7:12-16). However, God is not saving us to become our 'Sugar Daddy' He is saving us to re-establish a relationship He lost in the Garden of Eden (2 Corinthians 3:18). "Greater love has no one than this that one lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

Experiencing God is a process, just like a family having a child and then raising the child. When the child is born and commits to allowing the parents to grow them, the parents willingly bless the child because they want to see the child become all they have the potential to be. If the child decides to be a discipline issue, the parents still take care of the child, but they spend most of their time disciplining the child. Christ came to give us life and life abundantly (John 10:10). He came to become our friend (John 15:13). The issue is, are we willing, like a mother having a child, to accept the process (discipleship; Luke 14:25-33) so that the friendship He died for leads to a fellowship (1 John 1:5-7). Are we willing to grow in Him rather than need His discipline because of our unwillingness to submit to His will? This is more about us than Him. I pray and hope we will love Him so much that we trust Him completely and He is able to freely shape us to be just like Him (Galatians 2:20). Like the good Father, His blessings will flow (Psalm 112:1-3).

## Thank You Living Word Family

THANK YOU!!! The Strength of a Strong Leader is as strong or Great as the Encouragement beneath their wings. Your words, gifts, and smiles reminded me that God uses others to help me carry on. I so appreciate you and will cherish this memory. You made 66 memorable in my heart!

~ Pastor Cannings



## UPCOMING Events



### WILD CARD SUNDAYS—DODGEBALL TODAY! SUNDAY, MAY 7TH AT 2 PM

Living Word Family, join the Sports Ministry for Wild Card Sundays to play Dodgeball today at 2:00 p.m. after second service at Living Word Christian Academy. This event is for ages 11+ For More Information contact **La'Quinton Lockhart** or **Alyson Pryor** at [demonlockhart@gmail.com](mailto:demonlockhart@gmail.com)



### WIDOWS MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP

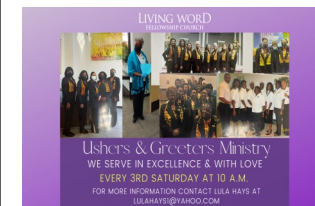
**SATURDAY, MAY 13TH 11 AM—1 PM**

Join the Widows Ministry for their monthly fellowship on Saturday May 13, 2023 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. For More information and to RSVP contact **Mary Wheatley** **Mary Wheatley** [mwheatley2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mwheatley2@sbcglobal.net) or **Pamela Farris** at **Pamela Farris** [farris4e0711@gmail.com](mailto:farris4e0711@gmail.com)



### FAITH & FITNESS WALK IN THE PARK SAT. MAY 13TH AT 9 AM

Join the Faith & Fitness Ministry for a Walk at Hermann Park on Saturday, May 13th at 9:00 a.m. All are welcomed, so join us for fellowship, fitness and fun! Register on the events page of our website and for more information contact **Dean'na Mitchell** at [dkmitchell87@gmail.com](mailto:dkmitchell87@gmail.com)



### USHERS & GREETERS FELLOWSHIP SATURDAY, MAY 20TH AT 10:00 AM

Serve in Excellence with the Ushers & Greeters Ministry. Join them in fellowship every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting will be May 20th. For more information, contact **Lula Hayes** at [lulahayes1@yahoo.com](mailto:lulahayes1@yahoo.com)



### MEN'S MINISTRY BE INTENTIONAL DISCUSSIONS—SATURDAY, MAY 20TH

Join the Kingdom Builder's Men's Ministry for their BE INTENTIONAL Discussion series. The next session is Saturday May 20th from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. For more information contact **Ian Moore** at [ianmooresr@gmail.com](mailto:ianmooresr@gmail.com)



## 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"

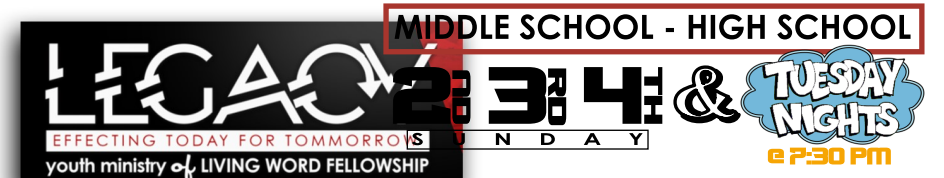
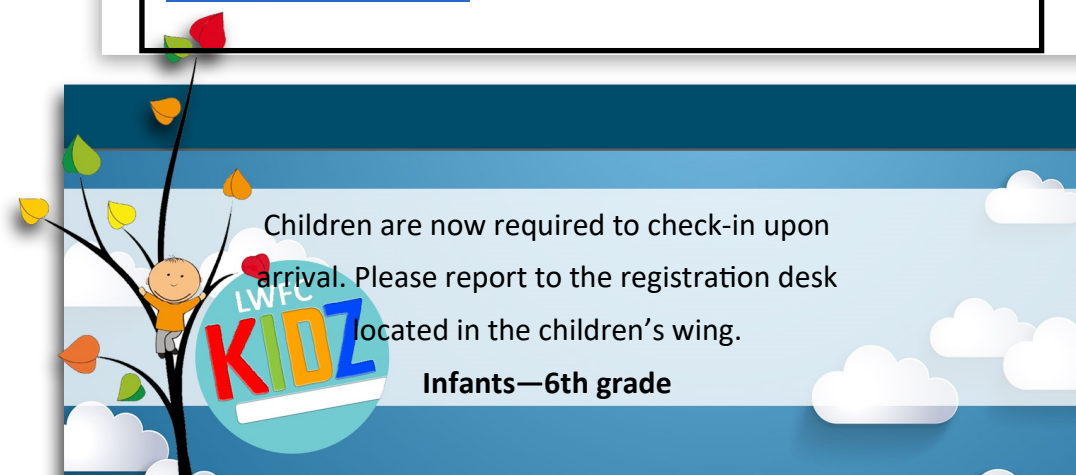
James 5:7-11

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction





We Will Win  
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 be come 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 any one (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. Wait to Win (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).

WIDOWS MINISTRY  
FELLOWSHIP



MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>  
11 AM-1 PM

For location and more details contact,  
Pamela Farris at [farris4e0711@gmail.com](mailto:farris4e0711@gmail.com)



MISSONS MINISTRY

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

How to Donate

1 Visit [lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://lwfellowshipchurch.org)

2 Select Give

3 Select Give Now!

4 Choose 'Missions' in the Fund Drop Down

5 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 [valarie.miller@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:valarie.miller@lwfellowshipchurch.org)

PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Cynthia Wattell & family, Clyde Ramsey & family, Helene Wardlow & family, Carol Dickerson & Mary Wheatley & family, and Leo Banks & 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, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Hattie Boutte, Arleatha Housely, Susie Farley, Patsy Gatterson, Ruby Hunter, and Bobbie Carter.

WE WILL  
WIN



JAMES 5:7-11

WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG | @lwfchouston |   

7350 TC JESTER BOULEVARD HOUSTON, TEXAS 77088 281-260-7402