

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

July 23, 2023

Worth The Wait

I pray you had a good week. I know it could have been challenging (a nice way of saying overwhelming), to say the least, but the Lord has kept you. Sometimes the more significant challenge is knowing everything will be the same in the coming week. It will be the same at home, our jobs, our money, our health, and where life has us emotionally. We are told to keep hope alive, but we don't always feel that. That thought is more of an encouragement sometimes than an emotional experience. This is why one of the hardest things in our walk with Christ is to learn to wait.

When I think of the people in the scriptures learning to wait, it makes them excellent examples. One of those individuals that I admire is Abraham. I can't imagine what it would have been like to be told to leave your family and everything you know to wander through the land of Canaan. You are told you will be the father of a great nation. You will establish a nation with such a large group of people that they will be "as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore...." (Genesis 22:17). However, God only provides you one child after 25 years, and allows you to face and overcome one issue after the next while away from your people.

Learning to wait is learning to trust God not just for what He says, but because of who He is. He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18), He cannot fail, nothing is impossible for Him (Matthew 19:26), He is love (not just loving; 1 John 4:7-11), His very nature is good so there is no way He can do anything wrong (Matthew 19:17), He is all powerful so no one or nothing can defeat Him (this is why what someone means for evil He can make good; Romans 8:28), and He is the only One who when He blesses you nothing can tear it down (Psalm 128). If we commit to walking with Him, He will build a hedge of angels around us (Psalm 34:7-9; Hebrews 1:14) because He promises to never leave us nor forsake us. So waiting on Christ is more about who He is and His reputation than what He promises to do. This mindset empowers us to trust Him because we can do all things through Christ (Philippians 4:13), we are more than conquerors because of Him (Romans 8:37), and the Holy Spirit empowers us to find God's strength to make it through everything we may experience (1 John 4:4). So waiting, because we believe in His character is our victory (Isaiah 40:28-31).

Not learning to wait is to miss your season. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9; NIV)



UPCOMING Events



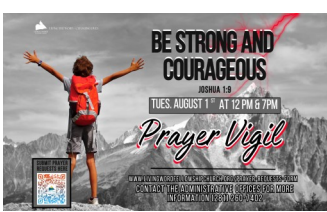
DEACON FAMILY FELLOWSHIP
Church Family! Its that time again! Join us for **ONE SERVICE at 9:30 a.m.** on Sunday, July 30th followed by our Summer Deacon Family Fellowship. Immediately after service, we ask that you head to your deacon rooms to get your food and come join us in the Legacy Sanctuary to fellowship! Remember to bring your schools supplies and Backpack donations. For more information contact **Keron Brown** or **Rashaud Hudson**. We hope to see you there!



NACA HOMEOWNERSHIP EVENT
Join us Living Word Family and learn about credit restoration and the best ways to save for buying a home. This event will give advice from the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (NACA) specialist on information about purchasing a home whether you are a first-time home buyer or repeat home buyer. Also there will be information on restructuring your mortgage. For more information contact Jeff Allen at jeffery.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH
Join us Aug. 5th 10 a.m.—1 p.m. as we serve and evangelize our community! Please help us by donating clothes, backpacks, girls hair accessories, and any other school supply items. You don't want to miss this opportunity to serve our community. Register a child to receive a backpack and school supplies on the events page of our website. For more information, contact **Keron Brown** or **Rashaud Hudson**.



PRAYER VIGIL—TUES. AUG. 1ST 12 & 7 P.M.
Join us for a Back to School Prayer Vigil Tuesday, August 1st at 12 p.m. and at 7 p.m. with the Theme, "Be Strong and Courageous" Joshua 1:9. Jesus has instructed us to pray - join us as we collectively pray for one another and other prayer concerns. For more information contact **Pastor Duane Lawrence** or **Tomitra Wiley**.



LWCA BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL
Back to School is almost here! Sign up for our LWCA S.T.E.A.M. (science - technology - engineering - arts & math) before and after care for ages 5-12. students will learn chess, robotics, arts and crafts, cooking classes, outdoor sports including tennis, and godly principles. Special lock-in price of \$85 if you register by August 15, 2023! \$120 per week after that date. Register 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

"Order My Steps"
Judges 4:4-10, 12-22

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

LEGACY EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMOROW'S youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

3:30 4:15 & TUESDAY NIGHTS **7:30 PM**

Order My Steps Judges 4:4-10, 12-22

A. Step Up (vs. 4-6):

1. The people so respected her that they endlessly brought before her their problems to litigate in a similar manner like it is with the supreme court judges of America. She was the judge in this area. Because of this she was considered a governing civil magistrate who they considered, being that she was also a prophetess, a person who executed the divine will of God.
2. Deborah sought out Barak because she understood her role and was completely surrendered to execute God's plan for her life in her position. It is Barak's lack of leadership, the desperate needs of the people (she would know that first hand), and a commitment to obey God's command that caused her to assert leadership.
3. Speaking under the authority of the Lord who sovereignly constitutes His will towards His people (His message is complete; nothing to add to it or take from it), orders Barak to function with a deep commitment and execute for God's people what God had delivered to her.
4. Barak's persistence in requesting Deborah's help demonstrates that she was not quick to take over. She was compelled because of her obedience to God and Barak persistence in seeking her help.
5. Many times women take over the leadership of their home because of their impatience rather than wait for God to make it necessary, example Abigail (1 Samuel 25:3-42).
6. Because of the might of Sisera's military the glory received when his army is defeated would not be assigned to Barak. Because in a battle he was certain to win he willfully choose to disobey God unless Deborah goes with him.
7. God does not take matters lightly when we know what to do and choose not to do it.
8. Sisera would be placed into the possession of a woman who would have complete control over all that happens to him.

B. Even When (vs. 14-16):

1. Deborah took charge and continuously, kept verbally commanding Barak, as if she never planned to stop, to be determined and focused on the purpose for which he now lives.
2. It was not that Barak did not take leadership over Israel's military (no where does it say that Deborah led the army). Barak did not trust God's word. He knew of the power of Sisera, he lived everyday combating the problem seeing the ill effects of it, and therefore allowed the circumstances he experienced to overrule his obedience to God.
3. Even though Barak will not get the glory for Sisera's defeat, God is still requiring Barak to take leadership in battle.
4. A man's lack of willingness may take away the credit provided by their children to their parents when they grow up, but he is still required to do his part as a provider, protector and the training up of the child.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Vincent Robertson & family, Tonya Hudson & Rashaud Hudson & family, Sylvester Jackson & family, Myrtle Nichols & family, Robert Horn & family, Ruth Crandon & family, Judy Flemings & family, Clifford Jackson & family, and the family of Lakeesha Davis.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Betty Goode, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey, Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, Betty Cunningham, Dorothy Price, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Yvette Ford, Calvin Wilson, Elizabeth Bean, Diane Ford, Patrice Terrell, Patsy Gatterson, and Rita Hughes.

Order My Steps

Judges 4:4-10, 12-22

