

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 17, 2023

The True Giver



Have you ever wondered about all the things God has done to sustain and keep us each and every day, hour, and second from the time we were born until now? Do we really believe that everything we have is a gift from God (James 1:17)? If we do believe this, have we any idea how many gifts God has provided since we were born? If all of our living depends on God's love, and He has indeed been gracious, why is giving to God so hard for some of us? According to an Internal Revenue Service analysis, Americans who itemize their deductions give less than 3% of their adjusted gross incomes to church and charity. The strange thing is, since God provides for everything we have and commands us to give to Him (Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:2), why do we think we can rob Him when at the same time we say He knows everything (Malachi 3:8-12)?

A little girl named Hattie Wiatt came to a small Sunday school and asked to go in, but it was explained that there was no room for her. She fell ill in less than two years and slipped away on her little last pilgrimage. No one guessed her strange, little secret until a torn pocketbook with fifty-seven pennies was found beneath her pillow. Wrapped in a scrap of paper was written, "To help build the little Temple bigger so that more children can go to Sunday school." She saved her pennies for the cause nearest to her heart for two years.

The pastor told the incident to his congregation, and the people began donating for the enlargement. The newspapers published it far and wide, and within five years, those fifty-seven pennies had grown to be \$250,000, and today in Philadelphia, can be seen a great church, named The Baptist Temple, seating 3,300; a Temple College with accommodations for more than 1,400 students; a Temple Hospital, and a Temple Sunday school so large that all who wish may come and be comfortable. It is not what our giving can do but what our giving in God's hand can become.

Giving blesses God because it demonstrates that a giver recognizes and appreciates the true Giver of everything - God. "You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. He humbled you and let you be hungry and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord. (Deuteronomy 8:2-3; NASU)

UPCOMING Events

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF FAITHFULNESS
Join us January 12, 2024 for our 30th Anniversary Gala. This is a formal event including entertainment, mocktails, fellowship, and more! Tickets are selling out fast for \$85. Payment plans are available. Visit bit.ly/LWFCAnniversaryGala to purchase your tickets today. For more information, contact the church at (281) 260-7402.

LEGACY YOUTH MUSIC FORUM TODAY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH 1:00 P.M.
Youth join us as we discuss what music speaks to your generation. Share your favorite Christian songs so that we can build a worship service for you that meets your needs. Send Christian Songs at <https://bit.ly/LegacyYouthMusic> and for more information contact Jordan Washington at legacyyouth@lwfellowshipchurch.org

MISSIONS MONTH SEPTEMBER 2023
Hey Living Word Family, It's Missions Month! Every Sunday in September tune in for special Missions presentations and highlights showing how Living Word Fellowship is making a Christian impact across the globe. Visit the Connections Center in the lobby or contact Valarie Miller for more information at lwfmissions@lwfellowshipchurch.org

MINISTRY HUNT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 10 AM - 2 PM
The hunt is on in the main foyer, Sunday, Sept. 24th. Between our services, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. have fun at our Church Ministry Fair. Come learn, hunt for more information, and sign-up to serve with one or more of our various ministries at LWFC. **Ministry leaders contact Jeffrey Allen to sign up for your tables and materials.**

LWCA BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL
Our children are back in school! Sign up for our LWCA before and after care for ages 5-12. students will learn robotics, arts and crafts, cooking classes, outdoor sports, and godly principles. Special lock-in price of \$55. Register at www.lwacademy.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

"The Drive"
Philippians 4:10-13

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

LEGACY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL
2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY
e 7:30 PM

The Drive
Philippians 4:10-13

A. Motivated (v. 10)

1. Paul is totally consumed with such a refreshing energy it radiates through him even in the midst of the circumstances he is experiencing. This refreshed energy to serve Paul was taking place because of the power, authority and dominion of the King of King who reigns in them.
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3. The only reason these believers were unable to passionately serve Paul was because it provided a decisive moment to actively engage in fulfilling what they believed God called them to do.

B. The Secret (vs. 11-12)

1. Paul did not allow his poverty, his inability to be able to take care of his own needs (once a self-sufficient tent maker) to cause him to complain or to control how he would purposefully serve God.
2. The secret to contentment is being committed to live godly (living conscious of God’s presence). When we reverence God in our decision making we reflect on His Word more than our emotional needs. The practicing of His Word allows the Holy Spirit to consume us (Ephesians 5:15-18) so that the fruit of the Spirit becomes who we are (Galatians 5:22-25).
3. Paul who was once a Pharisee of Pharisee, who obeyed the law based on the strictest set of Pharisees’ circumcised the eighth day.... ‘Hebrew of Hebrews,’ and found blameless, brought himself to a point where no matter the conditions he was exposed to, the agenda of Christ would never suffer.
4. As a result of trusting the Lord each day, no matter the circumstances that Paul may be experiencing, Paul’s life experiences completely taught him what it is like to live in plenty (like an animal that is completely full and well cared for) and also what it is like to go hungry.
5. Paul came to a complete experience of what it is like to lack any special benefits which includes falling short of receiving the same honor as the other disciples or having fallen short in meeting daily needs.

C. Empowered (vs. 13-14)

1. Paul says that because external challenges do not shape or determine his commitment to Christ he is capable of prevailing through whatever he may encounter especially since his salvation comes from the inside out (Philippians 2:3).
2. Because Paul came to a full understanding on how to count everything loss, he rejoices in all circumstances, and because of an active prayer life he is anxious for nothing. This has blessed him to completely understand what it is like to serve Christ no matter the short fall. Therefore there are no circumstances that would prevent Paul from doing what the Lord instructs him to do.
3. All that Paul does or accomplishes Paul attributes to the inward strength, ability and supernatural power of Christ continuously working within him (Philippians 2:13; 3:12-16). This attitude functionally explains what Paul said before in chapter 4:4-9, chapter 3:2-9 and chapter 3:12-16. These passages explain why Paul viewed remaining with the Philippians as gain. It also works out for their gain as explained in chapter 4:15-20.



Missions Month

Our Missions Team travels all over the world to spread the love of Jesus Christ. We appreciate your continued support through donations and prayers.

Sign Up at: <https://bit.ly/LWFCMissions>

www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/missions

Contact: Valarie Miller
at lwfcmissions@lwfellowshipchurch.org



Be Intentional
MINISTRY HUNT
2023 MINISTRY FAIR

Join us as we intentionally hunt out opportunities to serve through the various ministries offered at LWFC.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH 10AM-2PM

Register at <https://bit.ly/LWFCMinistryHunt2023>

For more information contact Jeffery Allen at jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Bryan Grant / Joyce Hayes & family, Brenda Bonhame & family, Aray Williams & family, James Thompson & family, the family of Kendra Scott, Paulette Mayo & family, the family of Erik Hailey, Jessie Austin & family, and Susie Farley & family.

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, Wanda Turk, Dorothy Price, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Calvin Wilson, Elizabeth Bean, and Patsy Gatterson.



THE DRIVE

PHILIPPIANS 4:10-13

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