

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 24, 2023

Overcomers



When anyone is raising kids, buying school clothes, games, or toys or allowing them free time is the best thing ever, they may think. When a parent chooses chores and homework, disciplining them for whatever reason, the parent is viewed as a ‘meanie,’ especially a step-parent. Interestingly, chores teach responsibility, and homework prepares them for a great future, whether academically or they choose to choose a vocation. Disciplining teaches them to be responsible for their actions and how those actions relate to those around them. So, the best contribution to their lives that causes them to experience all their potential are the things they may hate the most.

In our walk with God, are we willing to accept what He believes is best for the life He came and died to establish in and through us (John 10:10), or is our walk with God more about enjoying all the toys we desire to have?

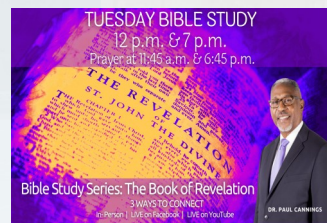
If our focus is the toys, our interest in developing a heart for Christ, John teaches, will not be there (1 John 2:15-17). If this is the case when God challenges us to grow and serve Him, we may become annoyed.

God’s desire is to provide us “life and life abundantly” (John 10:10). His goal is to establish a friendship (John 15:13) that grants us the desires of our hearts (John 15:7-8). Like any good parent knowing that the evil one is vigilantly seeking to destroy us (1 Peter 5:6-11), He desires the best for us. This is why there are times when God disciplines us because He loves us (Hebrews 7:5-11), He allows us to experience trials because He knows since “we are more than conquerors” (Romans 8:37), and “greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4; NASB) trials mature us and perfect us (James 1:2-4) causing us to become everything He has in store for us. God’s desire is not to make our experience difficult; it is to empower us so that with all the evil and stressful circumstances we may encounter, they never defeat us because by maturing us, we live as overcomers. As overcomers, we bear much fruit (John 15:1-4), gaining joy, peace, longsuffering, faithfulness, self-control (Galatians 5:22-25), not anger and bitterness. When we trust our heavenly Father’s commitment to raise us, we also gain His protection (Colossians 3:1-4); “The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; O fear the Lord, you His saints; for to those who fear Him, there is no want.” (Psalm 34:7-9; NASB)

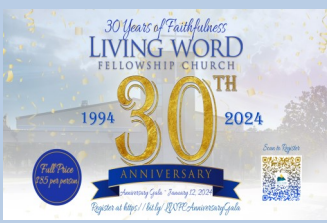
UPCOMING Events



MINISTRY HUNT TODAY 10 AM - 2 PM
The hunt is on in the main foyer today between our services, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Come learn, hunt for more information, and sign-up to serve with one or more of our various ministries at Living Word. For more information contact Jeffrey Allen at jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org



REVELATION BIBLE STUDY
Living Word Family join us for Revelation Bible Study Tuesdays at 12 pm & 7pm. Don’t miss this walk through the book of Revelation. Grow spiritually through bible study for the entire family. For more information visit the events page of the website or call the church at **(281) 260-7428**



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**.



PARKING LOT MINISTRY
Hey Living Word Family, the Parking Lot Ministry needs you! Donate your time one Sunday a month or more! We are a special brotherhood and would love to connect with you. For more information visit the events page of the website or contact **Deacon George Washington**.



LWCA BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL
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

“Presence”
Acts 5:1-11

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



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

Presence
Acts 5:1-11

- A. Absent (vs. 1-2):**
- 1. Ananias, along with his wife Sapphira, without the influence of anyone from the on-set, secretly conspired to deceive the members of the church when they knew the people (4:32-36) were freely sharing all that they had. They wanted everyone to think they were doing the same thing when they were not: hypocrisy.
 - 2. Ananias and Sapphira were fully conscious and in full knowledge of their decision. They purposely, with complete knowledge, conceived to deceive Peter and the congregation.
 - 3. Apostles, ambassadors of Christ, and eyewitnesses of Christ (2 Corinthians 15:6-9; Acts 9; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 Corinthians 9:1; Acts 1:20-26), operating with all authority provided to them by Christ (Matthew 28:18-20).
- B. Respected (vs. 3-6):**
- 1. For this passage to say ‘fill their hearts’ is to assert that Satan had completely influenced them mentally and emotionally so that the Lord no longer guided their moral compass. Their entire desire was to do what they had made up their minds to do.
 - 2. It is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18), and Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44), so this is why Peter said, ‘Satan filled your heart,’ to speak falsehood against the Holy Spirit who lives in their lives. He is the Spirit of truth (John 14:16-17). Because He is the Spirit of truth, He would have convicted them when they chose to lie. Despite the conviction of the Holy Spirit, they persisted, causing Satan to influence their hearts.
 - 3. Peter said that, what allowed Satan to influence Ananias is the fact that he constituted in his heart, once and for all, that this is what he will do. Nothing could have changed his mind; he was that purposeful and passionate about what he planned to do (same as Cain Genesis 4:6-7).
 - 4. Peter was told by Christ that it is God who exposed to him that Jesus is the Christ and that it is based on God providing this revelation that the church will be built (Mathew 16:13-20). In Revelation, it is the seven Spirits (Revelation 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6) who moved among the churches. The presence of the Holy Spirit is what crystalizes the church being the church. So, when Ananias came to Peter, who received this revelation, he brought a lie before the Spirit, who is the truth, so it was easy for the lie to be exposed.
 - 5. As soon as Ananias developed a clear understanding of what Peter was continuously saying to him (what Peter said to Ananias was constantly repeated), because he had no plans to change his mind, he died. To fall means that God’s judgment was executed. It also means that he has been punished.
- C. Come Correctly (vs 7-11):**
- 1. Because his wife’s spirit was the same as her husband, the result of her entrance was predicted. Her heart was just as stubborn as her husbands to the influence of God, represented by Peter.
 - 2. Because she said yes, Peter asked why she would go along with her husband and fully agree with him. In other words, Peter believes that this was a joint decision. Ananias did not need to convince her of this matter; she wanted to do this.
 - 3. What Peter is implicitly saying is that it makes no sense to try to make the Holy Spirit break down under evil and act in a manner that is disapproved by God. The Spirit of God would never be engaged in any form of evil or do anything contrary to the will of God. They were wasting time trying.
 - 4. When the congregation became fully aware that Sapphira had died in the same manner as her husband, they were tormented with fear and wanted to flee from God’s presence.
 - 5. Everyone paid attention to all that had transpired and was willing to learn and perform in a manner that was pleasing to the Lord.

WOMEN OF GRACE

BREAKFAST &
FELLOWSHIP
SATURDAY OCTOBER 7
9AM-11AM IN LEGACY

For more info contact Eleanor Wilson at wog77088@gmail.com

Covenant Keepers Marriage Ministry Life App

What Did You Expect?
A MARRIAGE SERIES

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY FOR
LIFE APPLICATION CLASSES AT 10 AM

For more details contact Terry or Sherri Randle at lwfcmarriagemin@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: James Thompson & family, the family of Kendra Scott, Paulette Mayo & family, the family of Erik Hailey, Jessie Austin & family, Susie Farley & family. and Derek Boykins & 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.

Presence

Acts 5:1-11

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