

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 3, 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.

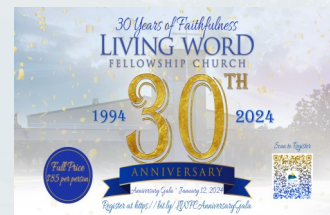
In our walk with God, are we willing to accept what He believes is best for the life He came and died to establish in and through us (John 10:10), or is our walk with God more about enjoying all the toys we desire to have? If our focus is the toys, our interest in developing a heart for Christ, John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

We must trust the heart of our Father even if it means losing our lives for Him: we gain a whole lot more (Luke 9:24). Remember He came to provide abundant life (John 10:10).



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 on sale now 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.



SPORTS MINISTRY FLAG FOOTBALL TODAY, SEPT. 3RD 2:30 PM
Are you ready for some football! Well, flag football that is. Come join us, today at 2:30 p.m., ready to play flag football and have fun at Living Word Christian Academy at 6601 Antoine Drive Houston, TX 77091. For more information contact Le’Quinton Lockhart at demonlockhart@gmail.com or Allyson Pryor at aepryor1@gmail.com



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 lwfcmissions@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 including tennis, and godly principles. Special lock-in price of \$55. 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

“Win-Win”

Philippians 1:21-26

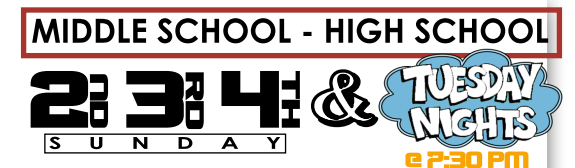
Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

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



Win-Win
Philippians 1:21-26

A. Win-Win for Me (v. 21):

- 1. Paul is so totally surrendered to Christ, everything about him is focused on becoming like Christ. The very nature of who Christ is dominates his day-to-day commitment to apply God’s Word (Philippians 3:7-11; Romans 7:14-25). This is the main point of emphasis we must all guide our lives by.
- 2. Paul’s desire is to not allow sin and day-to-day life’s struggles (Philippians 4:4-7; 10-14) to control his decision-making, his emotions, or his mindset (Philippians 3:9-11).
- 3. Paul writes about why this is beneficial, not restrictive, or creates a loss of great earthly experiences. This is why in chapter 3:7-9 again he says it is gain (same as 2 Timothy 4:6-8).
- 4. If Paul were to live continuously in his mortality, which includes all the influences that come from the flesh, his life would have many challenges; he would encounter that could cause him to have to ‘press to mark’ (Philippians 3:12-16).
- 5. Our earthly life must be so focused on the spiritual development of others around us (using our spiritual gift) that it shapes our future work and heavenly rewards. The Laodiceans were so focused on their earthly existence they had no heavenly rewards (Revelation 3:14-22). The believers in Corinth served, but it was for selfish reasons, so there were no heavenly rewards, and their efforts soon became corrupted (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 11:12-15).

B. Win-Win for You (vs. 23-24):

- 1. Because of this, Paul feels continuously or habitually pressed in spirit like a tight hold on a person. This includes experiencing great psychological pressure and anxiety so that he is distressed and troubled because he is pulled into directions and in the middle of two thoughts. (Philippians 2:17)
- 2. Paul’s passionate desire to serve the Lord in Phillipi, while craving (Paul has had challenging ministry experiences as God told him he would; Acts 9:15-16) to accept his fate, based on what he is hearing and seeing, made him feel like he was being crucified. Paul did see the third heavens and was given a thorn to keep him humble (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).
- 3. Our time on earth should be focused more on God’s agenda than anything else because our work must be done while it is day (John 9:4). This is the race to run (Hebrews 12:1-3).

C. Win-Win for Us (vs. 25-26):

- 1. When we truly have a deep conviction directed by faith, we will stand firm and be steadfast despite the troubles we may experience in our service to the Lord. Paul chose to stay even though he clearly understood it would be painful for him.
- 2. Their excess gladness is shaped by how Paul’s conviction to serve them has led them to be controlled by the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, who now empowers them to trust the Lord with all their hearts. Paul’s full surrender to God inspires their complete trust and confident commitment to the will of God.
- 3. Our willingness to ultimately serve the Lord can become a lightning rod for other believer’s full surrender to God.
- 4. Our faithfulness to listen to the Lord and serve Him with all our hearts should bless us to be exposed to His promise to not leave or forsake us (Matthew 28:20).



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: Melinda Myres & family, Lula Hayes & family, Beverly Pilson & family, Christopher Chapman & family, Katrina Humphrey & family, Lloyd Lewis & family, Barbara Taylor & family, Bryan Grant/ Joyce Hayes & family, Brenda Bonhame & family, Aray Williams & family, James Thompson & family, the family of Kendra Scott, and Paulette Mayo & 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, Deborah Smith, Dorothy Price, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Calvin Wilson, Elizabeth Bean, and Patsy Gatterson.



PHILIPPIANS 1:21-26