

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

October 8, 2023

## Be Fervent



Some often describe satan’s influence as a little demon on our shoulders with a pitchfork in his hands while Christ or an angel is on the other shoulder trying to tell us what to do. This is actually far from the truth.

The scriptures teach that at the point of salvation (Romans 10:9), all of the Holy Spirit is deposited into our lives (Titus 3:4-8) with no plans to ever leave our bodies (John 14:16-17) until the rapture (Ephesians 1:13-14). This is why our bodies are viewed as His dwelling place (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). However, we can destroy His temple (our bodies) and minimize the work of the Holy Spirit by the way we treat our bodies with harmful things we put in them (cigarettes, excessive alcohol) or by deciding to live as carnal Christians (fleshly; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3), sinful lives (the wages of sin is death; Romans 6:23; 1 John 5:16) or willfully decide to turn away from God and live in a state of apostasy (Hebrews 6:1-6).

Satan, on the other hand, only in the case of believers, can influence us when we choose to use common sense rather than renew our mind with the Word (Romans 12:2; Proverbs 3:5-6). To not renew our minds is to confirm how the world thinks; there is no middle ground. Satan uses this to darken our understanding, make us sensual, greedy (Ephesians 4:17-19), and hostile towards God’s Word (Romans 8:5-9). When this occurs, it is very easy for satan to penetrate our minds to do what he wants us to do, like in the case of Peter (Luke 22:31-34; Matthew 16:21-23). This is because satan controls the way the world thinks, and it is imperative that we trust the Word for everything we need for life and godliness every day (2 Peter 1:3-4).

Satan uses other methods efficiently to turn us away from Christ. Here are some examples.

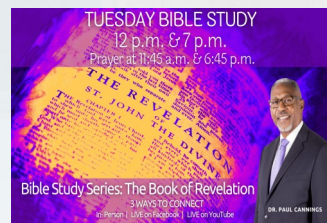
1. He can influence us when we allow sinful anger to linger (Ephesians 4:26-27; 31-32). When we harbor this anger, the scripture teaches he gets a foothold in our lives that can lead to murder.
2. When we are not committed to growing spiritually, satan can use the flesh against us. He entices us from our lust so that when it conceives, it gives birth to spiritual death (James 1:13-15).
3. Satan can use worry and stress to devour us. He does this by letting worry inhibit our spiritual growth (Luke 8:14). Once this is done, Peter says this is one of his methods that can devour us (1 Peter 5:6-10).

We must be intentional by being committed to keeping our minds set on being fervent to learn God’s Word, to apply it, and to serve each other. This leads to a healthy, spiritually growing church that blesses us all (Ephesians 4:12-13, 16).

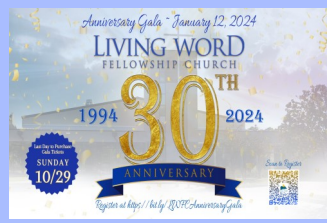
## UPCOMING Events



**A.N.E.W. MEET & GREET—10/21 AT 10 A.M.**  
Join the A.N.E.W. Ministry Saturday, Oct. 21st at 10 a.m. for a Meet & Greet. Come fellowship in a safe space community of love and support for women dealing with complex issues surrounding pregnancy, struggling with guilt or shame over the loss of a child or, abortion consideration. **For more information contact Siobhan Johnson at lwfcaneu@gmail.com**



**REVELATION BIBLE STUDY—TUESDAYS**  
Living Word Family join us for Revelation Bible Study Tuesdays at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m. 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) 260-7402**.



**CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS**  
Join us January 12, 2024 for our 30th Anniversary Gala. This is a formal event including mocktails, entertainment, fellowship, and more! Tickets are selling out fast for \$85. Visit [bit.ly/LWFCAnniversaryGala](http://bit.ly/LWFCAnniversaryGala) to purchase your tickets today. **Last day to purchase tickets is Oct. 29th.** For more information, contact the church at **(281) 260-7402**.



**MARRIAGE MINISTRY MEET & GREET 10/21 AT 1 P.M.**  
All dating, married, or engaged couples, join the Covenant Keepers Marriage Ministry Saturday Oct. 21st at 1 p.m. for food and fellowship. Please register. For more information, contact Terry or Sherri Randle at [lwfcmarriagemin@gmail.com](mailto:lwfcmarriagemin@gmail.com)



**LEADERSHIP TRAINING SAT. 11/4 8:30 A.M.**  
Calling all elders, deacons, ministry leaders and coordinators. Leadership training is Saturday November 4th at 8:30 a.m. in the Legacy Sanctuary. Register on the events page of the website. Attendance is mandatory so we can plan and lead in excellence for the rest of 2023 and start 2024 off with a 30 Years of Faithfulness!



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*


Special Music

“Day & Night”  
Luke 22:28-34

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**





Day and Night  
Luke 22:28-34

A. He Strengthens Us (vs. 28-30):

- 1. Christ recognized the disciples for their complete commitment to remain with Him permanently. They had committed to follow Him to His death (John 11:16 – Thomas committed to die with Christ; Peter cut the soldier's ear and followed Christ until He arrived at the trial).
- 2. The disciples were completely resolved to remain with Him.
- 3. Christ has, once and for all, decided to appoint His disciples to share in the rule of His kingdom specifically as it relates to Israel (Philippians 2:6-11).
- 4. The disciples, unlike the 58 (Luke 10:1-24; John 6:53-71) who forsook Christ, will have an exclusive relationship with Christ in His kingdom.

B. He Protects (vs. 31-32):

- 1. Jesus Christ calls out to Peter to give Him his undivided attention and to make special note of what He was about to tell him.
- 2. Satan, a Christian’s adversary, the prince of demons (Revelation 12:10), who opposes God’s agenda for mankind, is in heaven before God to gain access to Peter. Notice this is a nominative meaning this is the main reason Christ addresses His disciples. It is a warning to Peter.
- 3. Peter is going to preach at Pentecost (Acts 2:14-36) and be a key leader in the establishment of the church (Acts 2-7, 10-15) so his prince of demons comes after him.
- 4. Satan was before God requesting permission (can include begging) to have access to Peter. It seems like he wanted to influence Peter with fear and doubt.
- 5. Satan wants to ‘winnow you like a farmer who separates the wheat from the chaff.’ This could mean he wants to bring out the bad in Peter while separating him from the good that Christ developed in him.
- 6. We are blessed to have Christ at the right hand of God (Matthew 26:64) as our High Priest (Hebrews 8:1-2), and the Holy Spirit praying the groans of our hearts (Romans 8:26). This intercession takes place with the hope that God will not allow us to experience more than we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13). Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:38-39). This is why Paul says that we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37). As a result, ‘What then shall we say to those things? If God is for us, who is against us?’ (Romans 8:31).
- 7. Christ intercedes because He does not want Peter’s steadfast confidence, intense trust, and full surrender to Him to change because satan attacks his life.
- 8. Christ depends on Peter upon his restoration (John 21:15-17) to make sure every one of the other disciples (his brothers) are re-established in their faith and are committed once again (here Christ admits they have been faithful to Him; vs. 28-29) to continue to follow Christ as faithfully as they presently are.

C. Be Aware (vs. 33-34):

- 1. Even though Peter disagrees with Christ, Peter recognizes that Christ has all authority and power and is in control of all that is going to take place each and every day.
- 2. How little do we know what we are ready for when it relates to the spiritual world? This is why we must totally trust God when He seeks to teach us what is going on. Paul approaches this by saying, “in his weakness, he is made strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:10)
- 3. Peter is going to, once and for all, emphatically reject ever having any association with Christ. He is going to be very forceful when he does this.
- 4. When satan can influence us (in the case of Peter, he uses fear), like he did so many others including Eve, to no longer trust in what God promises to do. His influence can be that powerful. We must learn to trust God’s Word no matter how convinced we may be that we are right.

LIVING WORD  
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH



Ushers & Greeters Ministry  
WE SERVE IN EXCELLENCE & WITH LOVE  
EVERY 3RD SATURDAY AT 10 A.M.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT LULA HAYS AT  
LULAHAYS1@YAHOO.COM

LIVING THE WORD - CHANGING LIVES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023 AT 6:00 PM

FREE  
Food  
Candy  
Arcade Game Room  
Slaunted House  
Bouncers  
Pumpkin Bowling  
& Much More

HARVEST  
FEST

6601 Antoine Drive  
Houston, TX 77091



LIVING WORD  
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** The family of Erik Hailey, Jessie Austin & family, Susie Farley & family. Derek Boykins & family, Patricia Deckard & family, Ogneta Polk & family, and Mary Ngwazini / Oralee Fields and their families.

**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, Patsy Gatterson, Carrie Marshall, Curtis Johnson, Jr., Kim Carter, and Min. John Black.

DAY & NIGHT

LUKE 22:28-34

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