

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

October 29, 2023

## Divine Protection



There are certain ingredients that if anyone told us not to put them into our bodies, we would immediately say, “FOR SURE!” To list a couple of them, rat poison and cyanide. Your immediate response would be; REPULSIVE! And that tells the story. Satan’s influence on our lives should have the same response. You say I am saved, and with all my heart, I pray you are correct (1 John 3:4-10). This does not mean satan will not seek to influence us. He tries every day to influence God’s decisions in heaven (Revelation 12:10), so why not us? If he could not influence us, why would he ask God for permission, and then our Lord says, “He will not give us more than we can bear” (1 Corinthians 10:13). If we were able to ask Ananias and Sapphira, they would say; “yep this can happen.” (Acts 5:1-11) Peter would say the same, “Yep, that is true.” (Matthew 16:21-23). Please note if satan would seek to influence Christ (Luke 4:1-13), why not us? Please note the last verse in this passage, “... he left Him until an opportune time.”

Satan is described in the scriptures by the various names that define his nature. Here are a view and their meanings:

1. Satan – Described as our adversary (Revelation 12:10), constantly seeking ways to come against us.
2. Devil – He seeks to slander and deceive (Revelation 20:10). He is called the devil when he takes Christ out to the desert to tempt Him (Matthew 4:1-11). Slandering God while trying to deceive Christ. As long as Christ was fully human as well, he believed he had a chance.
3. Evil one – Seeks to stimulate evil through world leaders and people around the world (1 John 5:19).
4. Beelzebub – The prince of demons (Matthew 12:24). He directs all the evil that takes place through the earth.
5. Temper – (1 Thessalonians 3:5).
6. Dragon – Fierce and powerful (Revelation 12:3,7).
7. Prince of the air – (Ephesians 2:2).
8. Deceiver – (Revelation 12:9).
9. Belial – (2 Corinthians 6:15) – He is the personification of wickedness and lawlessness.
10. Prince of the world – (John 12:31) directs all evil on earth.

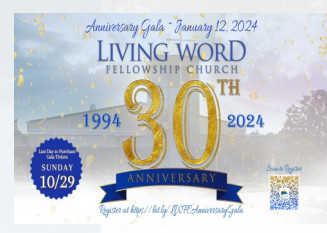
When the scriptures seek to encourage us to find protection by being in church, not just at church (Ephesians 3:10; Colossians 1:17-18) and encourage us to put on the armor (Ephesians 6:10-18) and seek only the things above (Colossians 3:1-14) so that we can hide in Christ, He is not trying to make life difficult. His focus as our Father (our Daddy; Romans 8:15-17 – this is why He says have child-like faith; Matthew 18:3) is to protect His children and bring us to the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25).

BE INTENTIONAL AND STAY FOCUSED!!

## UPCOMING Events



**DEACON FAMILY FELLOWSHIP CHILI COOK-OFF TODAY**  
Living Word Family, join us after service today for our Annual Church Picnic and Deacon Family Fellowship. Wear your favorite Game Day attire and come ready for amazing praise and worship followed by free food, fun, and fellowship! For more information contact Rashaud Hudson or Keron Brown at [keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org)



**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. **Final Installment Payment DUE TODAY Sunday October 29th. Tickets and Tables available until sold out!** Visit [bit.ly/LWFCAnniversaryGala](http://bit.ly/LWFCAnniversaryGala) to purchase your tickets today. For more information, contact the church at **(281) 260-7402**.



**FREE HARVEST FEST 2023**  
It’s almost that time Living Word Family for HARVEST FEST. Join us on Tuesday, October 31st at 6:00 p.m. at Living Word Christian Academy **6601 Antoine Drive Houston, TX 77091** for **FREE** fun, food, games, bouncers, slanted house, an arcade room, and much much more! We can’t wait to see you there!



**LEADERSHIP TRAINING—11/4 8:00 A.M.**  
Calling all elders, deacons, ministry leaders and coordinators. Leadership training is Saturday **November 4th at 8:00 a.m.** in the Legacy Sanctuary. Attendance is mandatory so we can plan and lead in excellence for the rest of 2023 and start 2024 off with 30 Years of God’s Faithfulness! Register at <https://tinyurl.com/36sx3ka5>



**FAITH VOTES!**  
Living Word Family we have an incredible responsibility to get out and vote. **Your Voice Matters And Your Vote Counts.** Early voting is happening now. Visit [www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com) for your assigned polling place to vote early. Election Day is coming up very soon on Tuesday, November 7, 2023! Faith Votes so let’s show our faith and get out and vote!



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses


Special Music

“Resist”  
1 Peter 5:6-11

Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

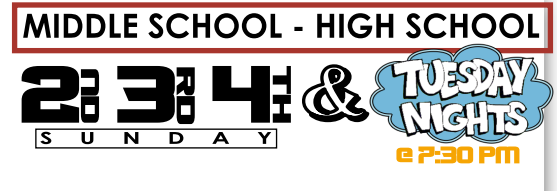
Call to Discipleship  
Please remain seated at this time

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**





Resist  
1 Peter 5:6-11

A. Depend on His Love (v. 6; Romans 8:38-39):

1. When Peter heard that God had revealed that Jesus is the Christ, he became puffed up (Matthew 16:13-23). Peter teaches us he had to learn to bring himself under the will of God no matter what.
2. Peter felt he could tell Christ what was going to happen. Christ had to remind Peter of Satan's activity to destroy him (Luke 22:28-34).
3. Peter thought to argue about who would be on the right and left of Christ's kingdom rather than trust Christ for the time He will establish His kingdom to preach at Pentecost (Matthew 19:27-30).
4. Peter wanted to establish God's kingdom when Christ was popular (coming into Jerusalem on a donkey), but Christ had to teach Peter it was not the proper time.
5. We, once and for all, must not wait for the right moment to decisively hurl our troubles to Christ.
6. If Satan can get us to think that God does not care, we will become like Peter and take things into our own hands, even thinking we need to fight for Christ in ways He has never ordained (Peter cut the soldier's ear off).

B. Be Vigilant (vs. 8-9a):

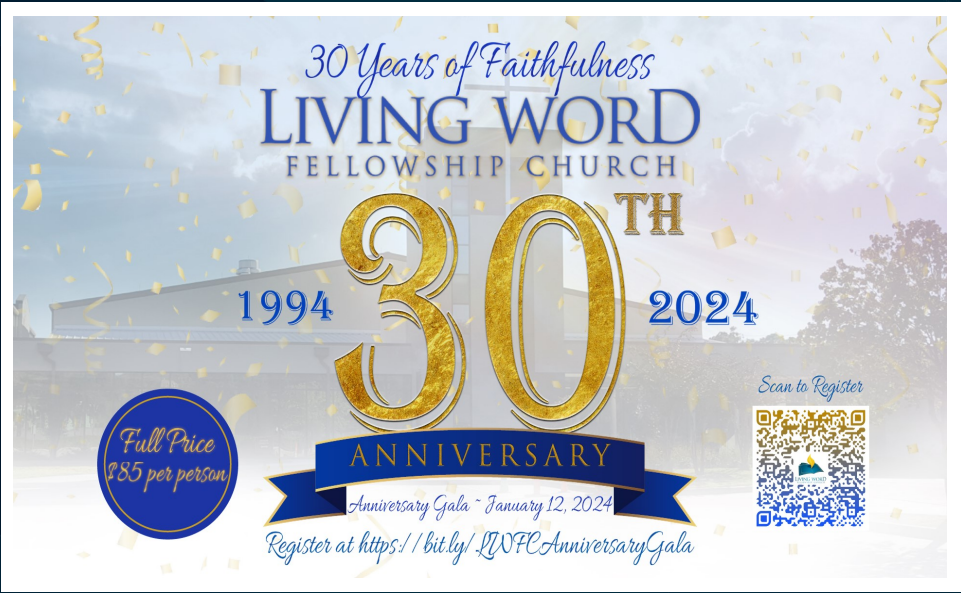
1. Believers must not allow themselves to become drunk with worry (Luke 8:14), fear, or pride (like Peter), but remain humble under the will of God. He is always in control (1:13; 4:7).
2. Peter commands believers to remain vigilant and watchful, not confident in their own abilities (Peter sleeping rather than praying with Christ; Matthew 26:36-46).
3. Satan is malicious, insidiously a persistent hostile enemy that constantly seeks to bring false charges against us. We are the subject of his attention (Luke 22:28-34).
4. The devil continuously roams around (Job; 1:7 – 1:10 – 'every side') with no intent to stop seeking ways to destroy us (John 10:10).
5. Satan is a fierce beast constantly seeking to intimidate and dominate us with fear.
6. Satan is not trying to take little bites out of our lives; he wants to swallow us up with pride, anxiety, and distress, so that we consider killing ourselves.
7. Peter commands us with a sense of urgency to oppose, to fight back (as Paul says, the only fight we have is the fight of faith; 1 Timothy 6:12) against the attacks of the devil.
8. A believer must hold to their orders from God like a heavy-armed infantry formed in rank and file.
9. Our confident, complete trust and steadfast commitment must be in our deep conviction that His Word is accurate and will last forever (1 Peter 1:22-25). Our intense trust in Christ is our complete surrender.

C. Take Comfort; You are Not Alone (vs. 9b-10):

1. We must keep the faith because we know that the Lord has "granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness;" (2 Peter 1:3-4); we do not lack anything.
2. These believers were experiencing pain deep inside them.
3. What Peter is challenging these believers today has completely been fulfilled perfectly by other believers who live in the same circumstances as they did (1 John 5:19).
4. What we are going through is ultimately what all those who have a sincere faith in Christ experience. These believers developed a deep love for one another; there is a brotherhood, a sisterhood.

D. This Mindset Empowers Us (v. 10):

1. Because the Lord views trials as necessary (1:6), this painful experience of persecution will come to an end.
2. Peter would know about Christ's favor because Christ is the One who asks Peter if he still loves Him (John 21:15-17).
3. We have a divine invitation to separate ourselves (2:21-25) from the rest of the world and participate in His sufferings while experiencing His grace (Philippians 3:7-11).
4. Because Christ focuses on us to experience His divine nature in its full excellence, Christ working in us, will supply us with all we need (like an army stacked with provisions).
5. When God can perfect us through trials, we become so mature in Christ's trials that we find ourselves steadfastly committed to doing what God says no matter what (Peter; Acts 2).
6. When we cast our cares, resist the devil, and endure the sufferings He has instituted for us, we become more capable of dealing with all kinds of difficulties that we may encounter in this life.
7. All of the above shape a believer to mature so that they become as solid as the foundation of a building, immovable.



PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Patricia Deckard & family, Ogneta Polk & family, Mary Ngwazini & Oralee Fields & their families, the family of Ella James, Sheryl Crowe & family, Telisha Brown & family, Elaine Bates & family, and Eleanor Wilson & the family of Calvin Wilson.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Cici Sharpe, Margaret Baptiste, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, 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, Elizabeth Bean, and Patsy Gatterson.

