

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

November 12, 2023

Be Fervent

Many times, some 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 effortless 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

MENSGIVING NOV. 18TH 12 PM
Brothers join the Kingdom Builders Men’s Ministry for the first annual Mensgiving Fellowship on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 12 p.m. It’s a Potluck, so bring a dish, dessert or a snack. For more information contact Ian Moore at ianmooresr@gmail.com

THANKSGIVING GARAGE SALE—11/18 9 AM
Living Word Family Join us for a special Thanksgiving Garage Sale during the Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway at The Reach at 4333 W. Little York Rd. Houston, TX 77091 next Saturday, November 18, 2023 9 am - 12 pm. Help us by signing up to volunteer on the day from 8:15 am - 12:30 p.m. and spread the word about the Garage Sale. For more information call Pastor Allen Boutte at The Reach (713) 683-0847

FREE THANKSGIVING FEAST
Join us for One Service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday November 19th at Living Word Fellowship Church at 7350 W. TC Jester Blvd. Houston, TX 77008 followed by a FREE Thanksgiving Feast like no other in our Legacy Sanctuary! Register on the events page of the website, so we have an accurate count for food. For More information, contact Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org

DEACON FAMILY SIGN UP FOR THANKSGIVING BASKET GIVEAWAY
Please sign up with your Deacon to contribute items for our annual Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway that will take place on Saturday, November 18th and Sunday, November 19th. Also Register to Volunteer for the Basket Giveaway, the Garage Sale, and The Thanksgiving Feast. All forms are located on the events page of the website, so sign up to **Volunteer Today!**

L.E.G.I.T. YOUNG ADULTS FRIENDSGIVING
Young Adults Ages 18-35 Join L.E.G.I.T. Saturday, Nov 18th at 5:00 p.m. for Free Food, Fun, an Open Mic, And Fellowship. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/LEGITFriendsgiving2023> to bring food items and to confirm the song or poem you want to perform during the Open Mic. Registration Is Required In Order To Perform. For More Information Contact Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Beware”
2 Samuel 24:1-7

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
6:30 PM

Beware
2 Samuel 24:1-7

A. Susceptible (V. 1):

- 1. What is being said by the Holy Spirit is totally not hidden and it is so continuously being communicated there is no possibility it can be misinterpreted. The Spirit is the Spirit of truth (John 14:16-17).
- 2. Christ, in Matthew 24 verses 9-14 warns that as circumstances become worse, more false prophets rise, many believers will either depart, become enemies or hold to false doctrine (2 Timothy 4:1-5). Paul warns the leaders in Ephesus to be aware of false (Acts 20:28-30)
- 3. Those who depart they do so because they no longer have a deep conviction in what the Bible is teaching. Their confidence in the scripture, because trails them shaken, they are no longer willing to trust the Word as they make decisions.
- 4. These believers who depart from surrendering their lives to the obedience of God’s Word no longer pay attention to the movement of the Holy Spirit, convicting, reminding them of the scriptures, influencing them to search the scriptures for answers; they become religious.

B. Guard your Mind (VS. 1B-3A):

- 1. When we decide to remove ourselves from surrendering to the movement of the Holy Spirit we immediately engage in false doctrine because as human beings we have to believe in something to make decisions (James 3:13-15). So the question will always be what is driving our decision making?
- 2. When a person gives attention to a worldly philosophy, they open themselves to what is contrary to God’s Word which allows satan or his demons to deceive that person (Matthew 27:63;2 Jn 7).
- 3. Satan is not trying to just show us there is another way to live or to think. He is trying to establish his preachers (2 Corinthians 11:12-15), his philosophers, some very smart well educated individuals to purport a dogma that convinces some believers they need in order to survive or be successful.
- 4. The persons who teach worldly dogmas they will pretend (like the Pharisees and Sadducees) to be wholeheartedly committed to God but like play actors they are only play-acting so they can deceive the hearts of the ‘unsuspecting’ (Romans 16:17-18).
- 5. Demons by their very nature (John 8:44) propagate falsehoods. They cannot teach us anything else. So they influence influential people to lead astray even believers to accept lies with conviction.
- 6. There is absolutely no conviction that would ever drive these individuals to stop being hypocrites and liars because it is their consciences that are completely insensitive (guiltless) to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

C. Hold Fast (V. 3C):

- 1. The fact that God has created food for everyone (we are not creators so without Him we can starve) we should all, when provided food, respond to Him with a joyous worshipful heart.
- 2. Those who do not find what the false teachers are teaching to be reliable, these individuals steadfastly trust in the Lord, joyously be thankful for what the Lord provides.
- 3. The believers who joyously appreciate what the Lord has created for them, and steadfastly maintain their trust in God ‘know full well’ what the divine will of God is. Because they clearly recognize the Lord’s will they totally trust it and therefore dismiss what the false teachers are saying.
- 4. Once the will of God is clearly understood, because we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into what the Word truly means we must be determined to turn away from all those who willfully teach false doctrine no matter how powerful or influential they may seem.

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THANKSGIVING
GARAGE
SALE



Saturday, November 18, 2023 9:00 Am - 12 PM

4333 W. LITTLE YORK RD. HOUSTON, TX 77091

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER AT
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/THANKSGIVINGVOLUNTEERS2023](https://tinyurl.com/thanksgivingvolunteers2023)
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT PASTOR ALLEN BOUTTE AT (713) 683-0847

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: The family of Ella James, Sheryl Crowe & family, Telisha Brown & family, Eleanor Wilson & family, Pamela Farris & family, Terri Kuvach & family, Donnie Emerson & family, Rudy Mazin & family, Ruth Cranford & family, Michelle Lee & family, and Deidra McKoy & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Cici Sharpe, Margaret Baptiste, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Jon Heard, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Betty Goode, Rutha Patrick, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey, Lori Lee, Jessie Austin, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Grace Edwards, Clara Williams, Betty Cunningham, Wanda Turk, Dorothy Price, Beverly Austin, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, and Patrina Johnson.

BEWARE

1 Timothy 4:1 – 3

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