

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

January 21, 2024

The Promise

There are times in our lives when we may experience moments of doubt (this is a major issue because of James 1:6-8). Times when sickness persists, financial pressures are overwhelming, the political climate of our country is polarizing, job environments unchanging, and marriages highly emotional and challenging. Many times, we have prayed and done our best to submit to the will of God, and nothing changed for years. We find ourselves constantly pushing back doubt, doing our best to resist apathy in worship and our Christian walk each day. For anyone who may be here, I feel you! I understand how the persistent pressures of life may cause us to drift. This is why the writer of Hebrews writes, *"We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away."* (Hebrews 2:1; NIV) *These individuals had to be warned of the dangers of drifting away; "You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved."* (Hebrews 10:36-39; NIV)

We may agree with all of the above verses, but the question remains, 'How do we humanly accomplish finding strength while our enthusiasm disintegrates?' We may ask Paul how our weaknesses become strengths (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). First, accept that no matter how strong we may feel, we are weak, always susceptible to satan's attacks (Revelation 12:10). Remember, *"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall."* (1 Co 10:12; NASU) *We need to constantly depend on God's wisdom (James 1:5-9), inner strength (Ephesians 3:16-21; 1 John 4:4), and protection (Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 34:7-9). Secondly, as believers, we need to depend on other believers' spiritual gifts (1 Peter 7:7-10; this is why we must not gossip). Thirdly, we must become prayer warriors, whether it is like the woman with an unjust judge or Daniel, who, with all his overwhelming difficulties, was determined to trust God's Word (Daniel 1:8) and persistently prayed without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Psalm 28). James would say, "....The effective prayer of the righteous man can accomplish much."* (James 5:16). *Fourthly, remain conscious of your blessings (Philippians 4:8-9). This keeps our worship energized (Deuteronomy 28:47-48). It also exposes our love and trust in God. Fifth, don't neglect church gatherings (Hebrews 10:23-25; This is written right before Hebrews 10:32-39). Don't quench the Spirit of God by becoming disobedient to His Word (Philippians 2:12-13; Ephesians 3:16-21). Sixth, we must humble ourselves and be committed to confessing sin (1 John 1:5-9).*

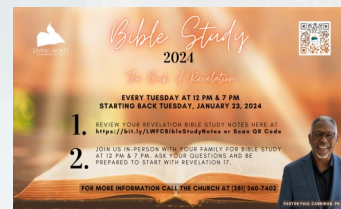
"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in **His** mighty power. Put on the full armor of God**Take YOUR Stand** against the devil's schemes." (Ephesians 6:10-11; NIV)



UPCOMING Events



SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY TODAY!
Join us for a celebration of life by wearing purple and visiting the A.N.E.W. table in the foyer for additional resources and awareness on Sunday January 21, 2024. For more information on the A.N.E.W ministry and its initiatives, contact Siobhan Johnson at lwfcnew@gmail.com



REVELATION BIBLE STUDY- TUES., JAN. 23RD
Start your 2024 with consistent spiritual growth! Join us for Revelation Bible Studies every Tuesday at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m. Next Tuesday, January 23, 2024 we will take a deep dive into Revelation 17. Review your Revelation Bible Study notes here at <https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes> See you there!
For more information call the church at (281) 260-7402



MARRIAGE MINISTRY PRAYER BREAKFAST
Join us for the Covenant Keepers Marriage Ministry Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, January 27, 2024 from 9:00am – 11:00am in Legacy Sanctuary. We will kick off the year covering families in prayer and filling our bellies with food for the soul. The cost: \$5 per person. Online Registration is required. Register at <https://bit.ly/MarriageBreakfast2024>
For more information contact Sherri or Terry Randle at lwfcmarriagemin@gmail.com



VOLLEYBALL SATURDAYS
Ladies, it's a New Year and ladies only volleyball is back every 1st Saturday for some fitness and fellowship. Every third Saturday all are welcome for co-ed volleyball. Ages 12 and up please. For more information, contact Allison Pryor at aepryor1@gmail.com



BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
ABC Word Academy/LWCA has a dynamic, Christian-based before and after school program that includes arts and crafts, karate, music, sports play, culinary arts, and robotics. Register today for only \$89 per week! For more information call (281) 260-7402 or register at <https://bit.ly/LWCARegister>



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

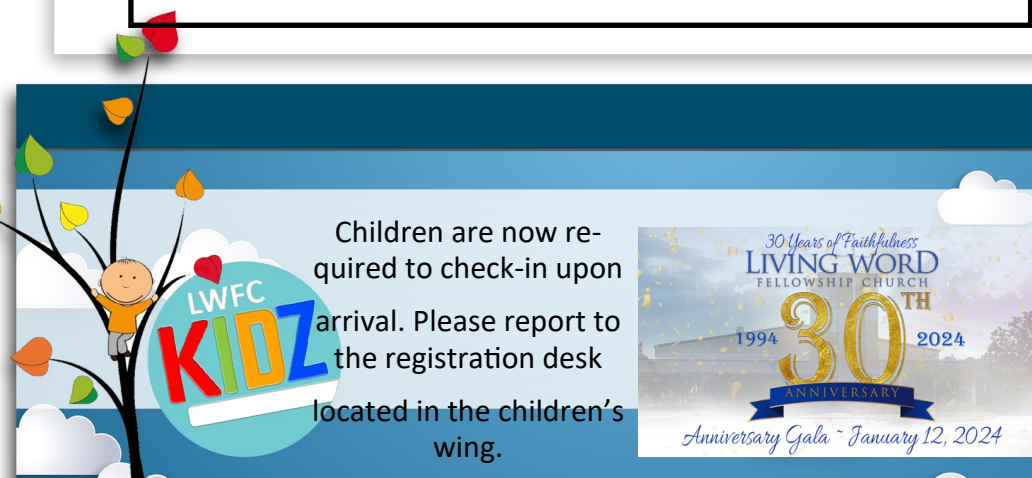
Special Music

"God Sees You "
Exodus 2:16-22

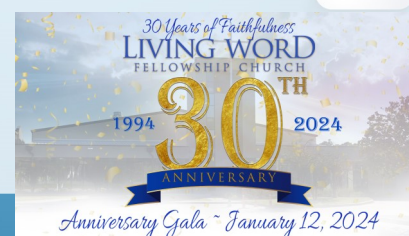
Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

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.



God Sees You
Exodus 2:16-22

A. When No One Else Does (v. 16):

- 1. The daughters of the Priest of Midian regularly came to the same well to draw water.
- 2. Even though Moses was there, no one seemed to pay attention until he engaged.
- 3. Getting the water from this water hole was no easy task because it was a deep hole.

B. When You Stand Alone (v. 17):

- 1. The shepherds also regularly went to the same water hole to get water.
- 2. The shepherds consistently came to the same water hole and would always aggressively drive the daughter of the Priest of Midian away. They would continuously be treated harshly.
- 3. Moses had no intention of removing himself from this situation until it was completely resolved. He single-handedly fought off (he led an army to victory in Egypt) and did it so effectively that there was no way they would ever interfere with the ladies again.
- 4. Moses physically, persistently, using his military fighting experience, drove these men away so that these ladies forever would be harmed no more by these men who continually, aggressively sought to harm them.

C. He Makes A Way For You (vs. 18-22):

- 1. After such a powerful deliverance, the daughters of Reuel came directly to their father to report what had taken place. They had no intention of stopping this process until it was completed.
- 2. Never before have Reuel’s daughters come home with such energy and urgency, ultimately fulfilling their expectations. Moses quickly took care of the shepherds who aggressively attacked these women.
- 3. Moses made every effort to completely remove the threat of the shepherds from them. They would be bothered no more.
- 4. The shepherds constantly used their strength to dominate the feeding of sheep at the water hole. They had complete control over the water hole, but not anymore.
- 5. The water hole was apparently very deep and, therefore, hard to access. However, it did not matter how physically challenging this job was; Moses willingly accomplished it after decisively defeating these women’s aggressors.
- 6. Reuel, the young lady’s father, wanted to know how they could completely abandon Moses and not permit him to come after he did such a good deed.
- 7. Moses yielded to Reuel’s offer and willingly decisively decided to remain with the family indefinitely.
- 8. Moses agreed to remain with Reuel and his family permanently and found a new home when needed.
- 9. Reuel generously committed to Moses that his daughter would permanently be his wife.
- 10. It seems like a short while passed, and God opened Zipporah’s womb and delivered a son to Moses and his wife. This represents God’s favor upon Moses and his wife. God is repeatedly portrayed as the One who opens wombs (Genesis 20:17-18).
- 11. Wherever Moses traveled, he had no rights and no place to call home; he was a foreigner on a constant pilgrimage. This invitation, marriage, and family gave him a place to rest, have a home, and no longer feel like a stranger with no place to go.
 - a) God had waited long and been silent, but he had never forgotten nor abandoned his people. He heard ... remembered ... looked, and *knew their condition* (RSV) (Pfeiffer, C. F. (1962). *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: Old Testament* (Ex 2:23). Moody Press).



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: The family of Eric Picket, Lorraine Tigner & family, the family of Betty Goode, Tony Hall & family, Mignette Dorsey & family, the family of Neemon Holcomb, and Brandon Miller & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Cici Sharpe, Margaret Baptiste, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Birdie Williams, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Jessie Austin, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Dorothy Price, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Joyce Denman, Joann Hayes, and Patrina Johnson.

