

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

Feburary 25, 2024

Trusting the Unseen

Satan is a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:9), so he tends to make a lot of noise. This tends to create anxiety and frustration, and sometimes, we may even feel that the Lord is silent, so He must not care. This can cause our trust in God to vacillate. Not so with many circumstances we may encounter. We believe in many things because we can see them. Here are some examples: We may go on a cruise, but the size of the ship, the lack of a storm, and the comfort we may experience may cause us to relax and sleep all night. When we fly on a plane, the lack of recent plane crashes may cause us to relax or even take a nap. We may believe that we have a stable job, so as a result, we get into debt, even long-term debt for cars, houses, etc. All these actions are because we have learned to trust what is happening around us.

The common thread is that we can see everything we place our trust in, without realizing there are many things we cannot see. A storm can rise at sea, a door can blow out on a plane, and the stock market can crash. While we are driving someone can hit us. So, the things we can see have many variables that we cannot see.

There are many things we can see that God provides us. Here are some examples: We walk on His earth that He sustains in space; we eat His food and gain gas, tires, wood for houses because of His provisions. We know that He is always good, because these provisions are provided every day whether we earn it or not (even when circumstances are bad; Romans 8:28). We know He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18) because we see His Word come true (Hebrews 1:1-3). We know He loves us because He forgives us and protects us each day. This is a short list of all we can see that He does each day (Colossians 1:15-18).

What keeps us trusting many times is that we are engaged in the journey on the cruise, working to do an excellent job at work and driving to get where we are going. Because we are on the journey, we end up believing in what we cannot see.

God does not have to shout loud because He has already spoken through His Word (2 Peter 1:3-4) that He knows is powerful (Hebrews 12:4), will not return void (Isaiah 55:11) and the Holy Spirit will illuminate (1 Corinthians 2:10-15) for us so that He can guide us into all truth (John 16:13). Just like we do for everything else we need to focus on the journey because there is no way He can fail us.

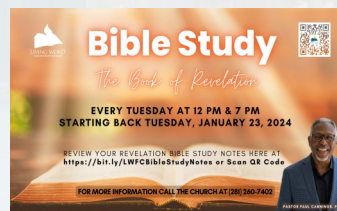
When satan is loud, instead of focusing on his roar, we must turn our hearts to He who is within us (1 John 4:4).



UPCOMING Events



COLLEGE STUDENT RETREAT—3/1-3/3 2024
Attention College Students, a special 3 day retreat for you is coming up March 1-3, 2024. The cost is \$40. We will meet at the church on Friday, March 1st at 2:00 p.m. and drive together to the retreat space. Register on the events page of the website and for more information contact **Keron Brown** at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



REVELATION BIBLE STUDY— EVERY TUESDAY
Join us for Revelation Bible Studies every Tuesday at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Review your Revelation Bible Study notes at <https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes>

See you there to continue our deep dive into the book of Revelation. For more information call the church at **(281) 260-7402**.



WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY
BRIDGING THE GAP PART II—3/2/24 9 AM
Ladies, join us for the second part of the Bridging the Gap Event on **Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 9 a.m.—11 a.m.** Refreshments will be served and childcare provided for this exciting opportunity to connect with the ladies of Living Word and continue to Bridge the Gap. Register on the events page of the website and for more information email wog77088@gmail.com



VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE
ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, 3/5/24 7 AM - 7 PM
Living Word Family don't forget to vote on **Election Day, Tuesday March 5, 2024**. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Early Vote Centers will be open from Tuesday, February 20th - Friday, March 1st Mon. - Sat. (7 a.m. - 7 p.m.) & Sun. 12 noon - 7 p.m. We congratulate and support our very own **Michelle Bonten** on her run for Senate. To find your voting location or for more information visit www.harrisvotes.com



JOIN OUR FELLOWSHIP EVENTS TEAM
Join our Fellowship Events Team. We have several events coming up throughout the year and we need your help! No experience necessary, but you will learn how to pull off a dynamic event with a team. Register on the events page of our website and for more information contact Michelle Lewis.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Daily Bread”

Exodus 16:4; John 6:35

Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Visitor’s Welcome

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



Daily Bread
Exodus 16:4; John 6:35

A. His Word Supplies Bread (Exodus 16:4):

- 1. The power of God is essential for everyone's sustenance because they are in the wilderness with no food. They are utterly dependent upon God. Without abiding in God, we can accomplish nothing (John 15:5). Their presence in the wilderness, depending on God, is a vivid example of our everyday dependence on God.
- 2. Before they enter a land flowing with milk and honey, gain houses and land, no longer needing manna from heaven, God wants them to know that He is and must always be viewed as their provider (Deuteronomy 8:3). This is critical because if they get caught up in riches rather than God, they will neglect Him (Matthew 6:24). This is precisely what happened.
- 3. Going forward to pick up manna was the step of faith demanded daily. The same is true for us, as Christ would explain to the disciples in John 15:1-5. We must willfully every day commit to remaining in His Word and His Word only. This mindset allows us to come to know Him (1 John 2:3-6).
- 4. Having food only for one day and then doing this every day was God's way, allowing them to experience adversity and see if they would continuously obey Him without grumbling (Luke 12:22-32).
- 5. God wanted to see whether Israel would continuously make this their way of life. The same is true for us when we experience daily adversity. Will we continually press towards the mark (Philippians 4:12-17) as the Lord refines our lives (1 Peter 1:3-11).
- 6. The regulations that the Lord provided were specific. Their response would demonstrate a personal interaction with the Lord, so they experience God's commitment to His will (Exodus 16:17-21).

B. His Word is Life (John 6:35):

- 1. With the crowds gathered before Christ after He fed them bread, Christ uses their experience of Him to once and for all teach them that this bread (in Jewish culture where bread is historical and is evidence of God's faithfulness to sustain their families) represents the Word (John 1:1-4), is a "light unto their path, and a lamp unto their feet" (Psalm 119:105) for everything they experience each day (1 John 1:5-7)
- 2. The Lord, who is the bread (the Word of God), needs no one or thing to empower Him to be what He always has been (Hebrews 1:1-3). Christ will always be what He always is, with no dependence on any one or anything. This is why His Word is everlasting (1 Peter 1:22-25), unchanging and powerful (Hebrews 12:4).
- 3. Each person if they continue to obey God's instruction, no matter the difficulties involved, will be rewarded for their faithfulness through the transforming, strengthening work of the Holy Spirit (John 10:10), and with a heavenly reward at the Beamer Seat judgment (James 1:12; Revelation 20:12). God's Word is not just a sermon it is a way of life (sell everything and buy the field; Matthew 13:44). It is a treasure that a pastor-teacher must bring out – old and new (Matthew 13:52).
- 4. The believer who makes it a habit to continually deny themselves in obedience to the Word of God (Luke 14:26-27; John 15:1-11) draws near, through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, so that they eventually experience the work of Christ in them (Matthew 11:28-30; Philippians 2:12-13). This believer eventually 'no longer lives' influenced by their flesh or a worldly mindset because their life is completely surrendered to Christ (Galatians 2:20; Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:1-4).
- 5. Just like their obedience to the Lord's command, to pick up food only for a day provided them food every day, their obedience to seek the Lord first would also provide them all they need each day spiritual, physically (Luke 12:29-32), and emotionally (Galatians 5:22-25). There would be no need to try to figure out what to do, creating anxiety, stress, and feeling overwhelmed about all the decisions we need to make. This would all be handled by God's Word, which He provides for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3-4).
- 6. The person determined to have a deep, unreserved commitment to obey God's Word, no matter the obstacles they may experience, will never lack spiritual nourishment in a dry and thirsty land. They will find strength when they are weak (2 Corinthians 12:7-12), wisdom when they are perplexed (2 Corinthians 4:7-12), and light in darkness (1 John 1:5-7).
- 7. WATER SEEMS TO BE TIED TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD - A person who has a steadfast commitment to obey Christ would not lack righteousness or the benefits that come from experiencing eternal life (the Work of the Holy Spirit becoming a powerful force would become a living experience; Ephesians 3:16-21). The more they developed a lifestyle of obedience, the more in the Spirit they would live. As a result, they do not thirst for God because they become drunk with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-18). Samaritan woman – Christ talked about water and thirst like He did Nicodemus.
- 8. Because we are living in a world dominated by the multiplicity of information and now Artificial Intelligence, we must, with much determination and commitment renew our minds (Romans 12:2), deny ourselves (Luke 14:26-27), not lean to our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6) in order to, by the will of God, experience the Spirit of God guiding us each day (John 14:26; 16:13).

Leadership Training

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024 AT 8:30 AM

EMPOWER LEAD CHANGE INSPIRE
SHARE VISION

breakfast will be served



REGISTER AT
<https://bit.ly/42LqsCm>



VOTE

ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024 7 AM - 7 PM

Early Vote Centers will be open from
Tuesday, February 20th - Friday, March 1st
Mon. - Sat. (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.) & Sun. 12 noon – 7 p.m.

We Congratulate and Support our
very own Michelle Bonton
on her run for Senate!

Find Your Voting Center at:
<https://www.harrisvotes.com>



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Mignette Dorsey & family, Neemon Holcomb & family, the family of Bernadette Pickney, Lucretia Lewis & family, Oralee Fields / Mary Ngwazini and their families, the family of Dorothy Price, Jenny Dangerfield & family, Janie Buchanan & family, Kathleen Franklin 7 family, and Athena Hall & family.

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

DAILY

BREAD

Exodus 16:4; John 6:35