

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

February 4, 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. This is not the case 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, and 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 in what is happening around us.

The common thread is that we can see everything we place our trust in without realizing that 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 may not 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, and 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 much of 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 a good 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 it (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).



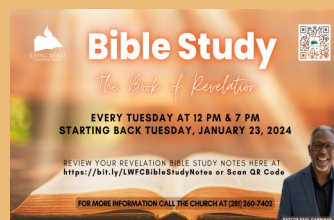
UPCOMING Events



BASKETBALL TODAY AT 2:30 AT LWCA
Join us today at 2:30 p.m. at Living Word Christian Academy for Wild Card Sunday Basketball. Ages 12 and up are welcomed. Let's get fit, have fun and fellowship with our church family. For more information, contact, Le'Quinton Lockhart at demondlockhart@gmail.com



IS IT ON THE LIST? FRIDAY FEB. 9 AT 7PM
Join the Devoted Singles Ministry for the sequel to Cuffing Season. Married couples and singles are welcome to attend. You don't want to miss this thought-provoking open discussion on dating, marriage, and relationships. Register today and for more information contact **Keron Brown** or **Rashaud Hudson** at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



REVELATION BIBLE STUDY— EVERY TUESDAY
Start your 2024 with consistent spiritual growth! Join us for Revelation Bible Studies every Tuesday at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m. Review your Revelation Bible Study notes here 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**



ABC/LWCA LOVE EVENT
Calling all fathers and daughters, mothers and sons, join us for the Free ABC/LWCA Love event Friday, February 16, 2024 from 6:00—8:00 p.m. Register on the events page of our website and get ready to have some fun and fellowship with your amazing children. For more information contact **Sylvia Edwards** at sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org



SILVER STARS BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION
Living Word family, all are welcome to join us for the Silver Stars Ministry annual Black History Celebration on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Come learn, have fun, fellowship, and honor those that have come before us. For more information contact **Jacqueline Jordan** at jacjordan@att.net



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"No Match"
Exodus 7:1-7

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



No Match
Exodus 7:1-7

A. Face Off (vs. 1-2):

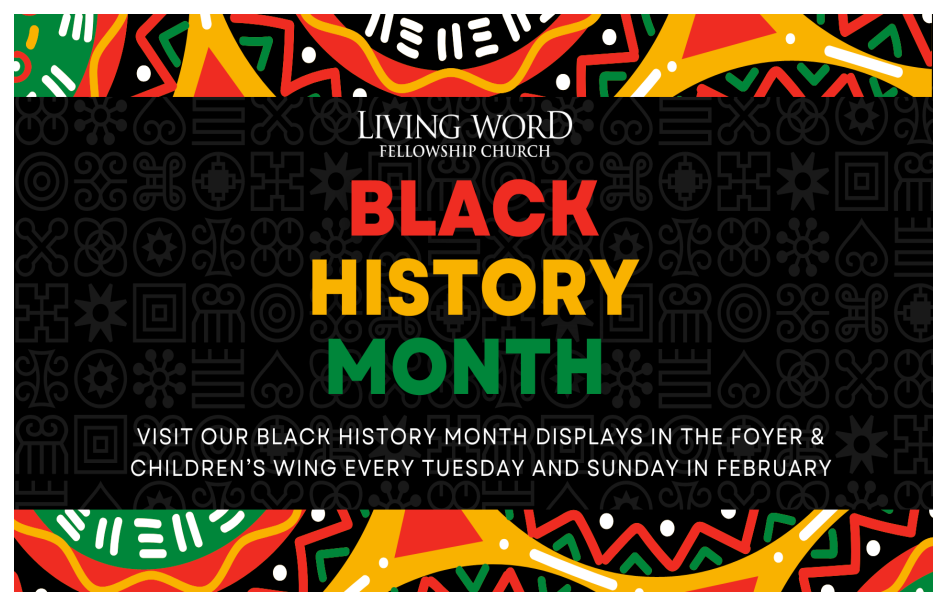
- 1. The Lord has positioned Himself from Mount Sinai for this moment as He who has all authority and power (3:10-22; 4:21-31). He has presented Himself as the One in charge of all that needs to be said and done to deliver His people from their pain, distress, and abusive experiences (3:7-9; 5; 6:5-7) that Pharaoh has executed upon them.
- 2. God will generously, permanently, and completely set Moses as His representative before Pharaoh as if Moses is God to Pharaoh.
- 3. What God is saying to Moses are firm orders that Moses is required to submit himself to implement continuously.
- 4. God’s powerful miracles, which God will execute, are guaranteed to change Pharaoh’s heart completely. This is the anticipated result.

B. His Battle (vs. 3-4):

- 1. The Lord will continuously cause Pharaoh to become stiff-necked and unyielding in his responses to Moses and Aaron. This means that the Lord will not seek to take over Pharaoh’s mind and force him to do what the Lord demands. This concept is clearly delineated in Ephesians 4:17-19.
- 2. According to Ephesians 4:17-19, God will not interfere with anything Pharaoh chooses to do willfully based on his own reasoning and understanding.
- 3. The signs and wonders would be so distinctively supernatural that there is no way anyone, including Pharaoh, would not recognize the supremacy of God's might.
- 4. Even though Pharaoh will come to an intelligent and complete understanding of what Moses communicates to him through Aaron, and based on what God super naturally displays, he will still decisively not do what Moses requests.
- 5. Pharaoh may not decide to submit to what Moses is saying, but when God takes complete possession of all of Egypt, therefore conquering Egypt, Pharaoh would have to listen to the King of all Kings.
- 6. The signs and wonders are God’s war against Pharaoh to deliver His people.
- 7. All that was done against Egypt was not just to deliver God’s people; it was also to punish Egypt for all the evil they did to God’s people.

C. Our Deliverance (v. 6):

- 1. God's powerful supernatural works will impact all of Egypt, and the Egyptians will fully experience that the Lord is the great and mighty God who reigns over all.
- 2. All Egypt will come to a full knowledge that the God of Israel is absolutely powerful. He does not need an army to be powerful; God, all by Himself, independent from all things, can powerfully liberate His people from the evil that reigns down on them from Pharaoh.
- 3. The Lord's statement that He will stretch out His hands means God is being very purposeful when He exercises all His strength and authority to execute judgment on Egypt.
- 4. Despite their age (80 and 83 years old, respectively), Moses and Aaron committed themselves to communicate precisely what the Lord told them to do verbally. Nothing would prevent them from completing the task.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Tony Hall & family, Brandon Miller & family, Mignette Dorsey & family, Melba Robinson & family, Neemon Holcomb & family, the family of Bernadette Pickney, Lucretia Lewis and family, and Oralee Fields / Mary Ngwazini and their families.

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, Dorothy Price, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Elvis Anderson, Joann Hayes, Randy Hadnot, and Patrina Johnson.

