

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

March 31, 2024

## Quantity or Quality?



Many times when we think about enjoying life, the focus seems to be how can we live a life that is blessed and highly-favored. This normally means whatever we set out to do gets blessed, whether it is job related, health, relationships, financial or our well-being. As a result when we think of how God explains gaining the life He died to provide, which is life and life abundantly (John 10:10), it seems hard and sometimes unnecessary.

A person once sat with their doctor and asked, 'what does it take to live a healthy life.' The doctor responded by saying they need to exercise at least three days a week for at least 30 minutes, they need to eat a healthy diet, nothing after 6 pm, get at least eight hours of sleep per night, no smoking, not a lot of alcohol and no drugs. The person's response to the doctor was, "how do I have any fun with that list." The doctor said, "If fun (provided their perspective) is your goal, working a stressful job to make a lot of money, creating bad eating habits, and little exercise, then a healthy life may not become your reality."

Many times we state that we would love to live blessed and the Lord says Amen, Amen! He states that He provides this when we reverence Him with our decision-making and lifestyle (Psalm 112:1-3). When we live a life of wisdom gained through prayer (James 1:5-9) and by His knowledge (Proverbs 24:3-4), He will bless us with riches. We also state that we would love for our families to be filled with peace and love. Christ response is that this can be gained through the growth of the Holy Spirit in our lives (Ephesians 3:14-21), the Holy Spirit that He has faithfully placed in us at the point of salvation (Titus 3:4-8) and He will sustain until the rapture (Ephesians 1:13-14) or our passing (John 14:16-17). However in order for the Spirit to rule our lives we must deny ourselves (Luke 14:26-27), renew our minds (Romans 12:2) and practice the Word of God (Hebrews 5:14). When we walk with God in this manner we become drunk with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-18). This leads to the husband in the home becoming like Christ, the wife, the church, or the single mom sanctifying the home (1 Corinthians 7:14), and therefore protecting the children. These are some of the results of healthy spiritual living. This is why Christ died (John 10:10). God's desire is to bless us with a rich life both on earth and in heaven, but like the doctor's answer do we want quantity or quality? Quantity alone can make us poor in heaven (Revelation 3:15-18), whereas a quality life can make us rich on earth and heaven.

Be blessed by the life for which Christ willingly died to provide. Resurrection day should be celebrated all year.

**Happy Easter/Resurrection Day!!**

## UPCOMING Events

**MEN'S PURITY DISCUSSIONS**  
Living Word Men, join us for our 2024 Purity Discussions. You don't want to miss this opportunity to engage in thought-provoking conversations and walk through *Every Man's Battle* by Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker. Register at <https://bit.ly/MensPurity> or, for more information contact Jeffrey Allen at [jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org).

**Bible Study**  
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.

**SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER**  
Living Word Family, every weekend in April we have a tremendous opportunity for you to volunteer with Acts 2 Houston for Good Neighbor Days. Good Neighbor Days will serve several communities around Houston every weekend in April. Sign up on the events page of the website or visit The Good Neighbor Days website below [www.goodneighboradays.org/houston](http://www.goodneighboradays.org/houston)

**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**.

**LWCA/ABC SUMMER CAMP**  
Living Word Christian Academy and ABC Word Academy have a Christian-based, fun-filled summer camp available for ages 5–12 years-old. The cost is \$90 per week and camp is open from 6:30 am - 6 p.m. The campers will have a dynamic summer with robotics, arts & crafts, cooking classes, karate, Christian character building and much, much more! Register on the events page of the website or call the church (281) 260-7402



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

**"Life for Life"**  
*John 10:16-18*

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**





**Life for Life**  
**John 10:16-18**

**A. Love Sooo Amazing!! (v. 17a):**

1. Those who were far away (Gentiles; Ephesians 2:11-13), whose prayers He did listen to (John 9:31), who were dogs eating crumbs from under the table (Matthew 15:27), now will be able have a personal relationship with Christ; MY voice.
  - a) We are saved by faith (Ephesians 2:8-10) and it comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).  
Not everyone will hear. It depends on if they are thorny bushes, rocky soil or fertile soil (Luke 8:11-14).
2. This is a very personal and intimate experience of God.
  - a) His Spirit now lives in us (John 14:16-17). Our bodies are His temple; dwelling place (1 Corinthians 6:19; Titus 3:4-8).
  - b) His Spirit prays for us (Romans 8:26).
  - c) He convicts us of sin (John 16:7-11).
  - d) His Spirit helps us to come to know His voice (Romans 8:27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-15).
  - e) His Spirit reminds us of His Word (John 14:26).
  - f) The Spirit fills us so that we experience God fully (Ephesians 3:14-19; 5:15-18).
  - g) Because of the Spirit 'nothing can separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:38-39).
3. The love of the Father for the lost sheep (Genesis 12:1-3) is the love of the son.
4. No matter how Christ may seem neglected by all that took place on Calvary's cross God will always be His Father. He is alive so He can pick you up again (John 11:25)
5. He, willingly, not just bears the outer pain, but also the inner intense pain and distress He felt (The Garden of Gethsemane; Matthew 26:36-46).

**B. His Lost, Our Gain (vs. 17b-18):**

1. Because Christ, in His own power, overcame the power of death and got up from the grave, He will never have to experience another Calvary.
2. Christ continuously humbled Himself "On my own initiative" meaning. No one had the power or authority to crucify Christ unless He willfully chose to allow them (Philippians 2:6-11).
3. He repeatedly makes it clear that He willfully and decisively, as displayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, had complete control to decide whatever would take place before, during, and after the cross.
4. Even though Christ gets to make up His own mind, the order came from someone He has a very personal relationship with "MY Father."  
It is still His decision, but it is very difficult to turn down.
5. The love of God is the heart of Christ; we must treasure the gift.
6. When we see everything God and Christ did for us, becoming a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1), or denying ourselves while bearing our cross (Luke 14:26-27; Matthew 11:28-30) – a load that is easier than what the world can do to us) is a transformational, sometimes painful process (Philippians 3:1-11) that comes nowhere close to what Christ did for us. As we may sacrifice for those whom we love and have blessed our lives, we should count what Christ' challenges us to do as joy.

What ..... is

# GOOD NEIGHBOR Days

Every Saturday in the month of April, we are gathering together at serve sites across the city to do good together for our neighborhoods in Houston.

*Acts* HOUSTON  
Every Saturday In April  
April 6th | April 13th | April 20th | April 27th

1. Register Yourself
2. Register Your Ministry
3. Take Photos & Post with #acts2houstan2024
4. #goodneighbordayshouston



[www.goodneighbordays.org/houston](http://www.goodneighbordays.org/houston)

## VOLUNTEER AT THE REACH

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH DATA ENTRY FOR THE FOOD BANK

- ✓ VIRTUAL OR IN PERSON TRAINING AVAILABLE
- ✓ VOLUNTEER AROUND YOUR SCHEDULE
- ✓ ALL AGES ARE WELCOME

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT PASTOR BOUTTE AT [ALLEN.BOUTEE@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:ALLEN.BOUTEE@HOTMAIL.COM)  
OR CLARISSA HENDERSON AT [CLARISSAHENDERSON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CLARISSAHENDERSON@GMAIL.COM)



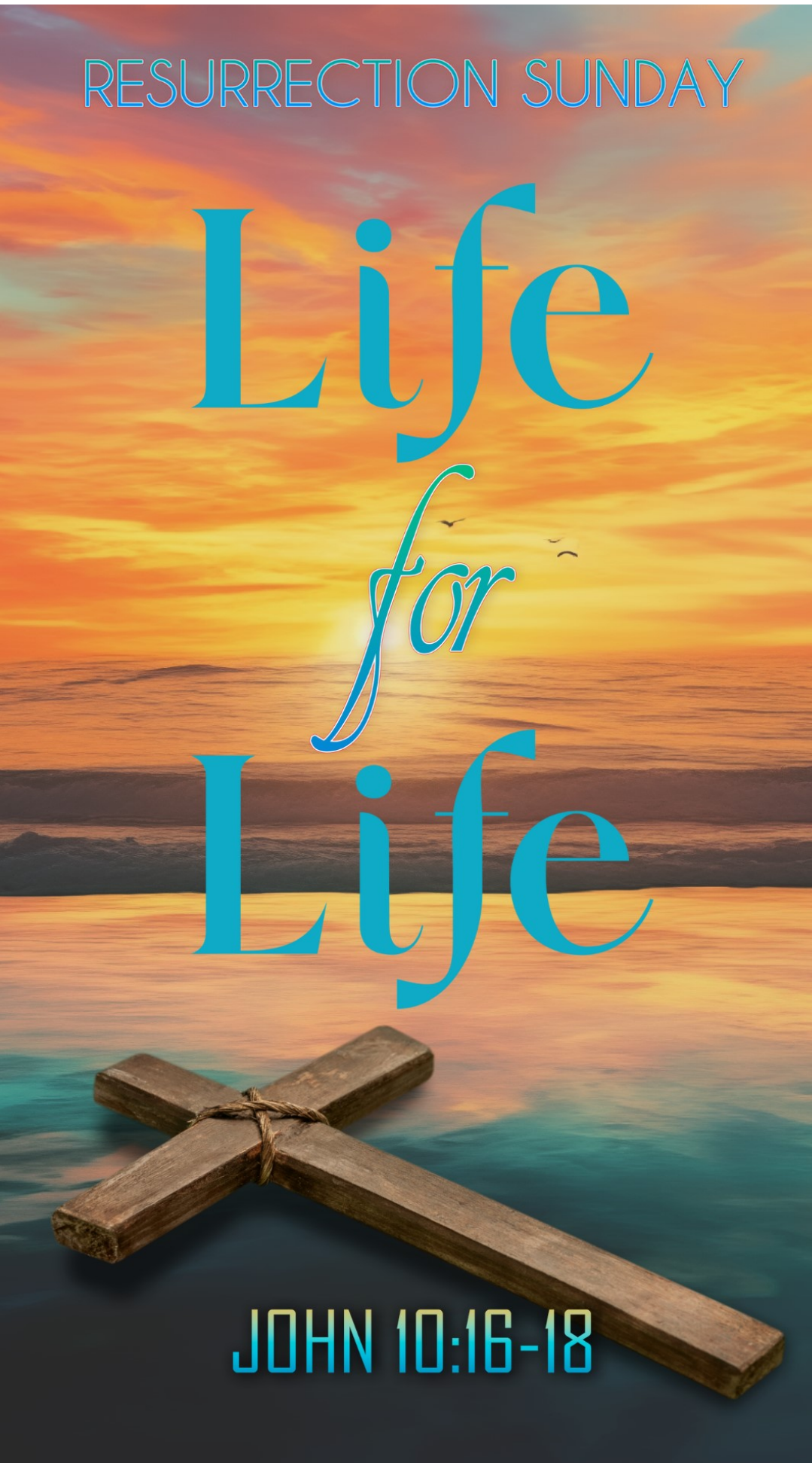
## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Janie Buchanan & family, Kathleen Franklin & family, Andrew Gibson Jr. & family, Mary Bender & family, Cloteil Bolden & family, Mignette Dorsey & family, Eric White & family, and Bevelyn Lane & 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, and Patrina Johnson, Elvis Anderson, H.D. House Jr., Clarence Coleman, Brenda Bonhame, Yvonne Mentore, Willie Hosea, Joann Hayes, Carolyn Hadnot, Walter Banks, Cheryl Walker, and Angelique Hudson.

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

# Life for Life



JOHN 10:16-18

[WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG) | @lwfchouston |   

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