

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 14, 2024

## Truth & Lies



A minister walking along a road saw a crowd of boys surrounding a dog. "What are you doing with the dog?" asked the kindly minister. "Whoever tells the biggest lie wins the dog." "Oh, my, my, my," exclaimed the minister, "When I was a little boy like you here, I never told a lie." There was a moment's silence. "Here," said one of the little fellows, "you win the dog." Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations: Signs of the Times.

We live in a world where lies are becoming normal; truth is for the naïve who are sometimes perceived as lying while telling the truth. It is no longer about truth but how someone can win or get over another. In this supportive new world where morality is flimsy, families are becoming an endangered species, winning a deal is more important than honesty, and animals are treated more humanely than humans (called the last days; Romans 1). Bad company is no longer what people may call friends. It has constantly bombarded the world surrounding us, primarily through social media. This explicit message seems to imply that all of this is new and therefore unaddressed by scripture; however, satan is the agent, and he just rebranded the same schemes as in the case of old cereal in a new box.

Christ came when the Romans ruled to fulfill Daniel's words (Daniel 2-7). Even those who claim to worship God were defined by Christ as hypocrites (Matthew 23), "brood of vipers" (Matthew 12:33-37), etc. This did not change Christ; it only exposed His true nature. What Christ experienced is an example for us to follow (1 Peter 2:21-25). It is evident in scripture that we will suffer (Luke 12:4-12). The Psalmist says in Psalm 34:19, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all." Living for the Lord in a decaying world is a challenge that should mature and bless us (James 1:2-4, 12; 1 Peter 3:13-17)

Like Christ, we must be determined to live for God so that instead of the world corrupting us, our faith directs and refines us (1 Peter 1:3-9; 13-16), which in turn empowers us to be salt and light to a dark world (Matthew 5:13-16). The more the Apostle Paul suffered, the more like Christ He became (Philippians 3:9-10; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-4). Some people may view this approach as being soft; maybe this is why David says, "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. Cease from anger and forsake wrath; Do not fret; it leads only to evildoing." (Psalm 37:7-8; NASU) Remain focused so that we can become less influenced while becoming change agents.

## UPCOMING Events

<p><b>CONTEXT MATTERS</b> Food - Fellowship - Discussions April 27th at 6PM Register Online at: <a href="https://bit.ly/LWFCContextMatters">https://bit.ly/LWFCContextMatters</a></p>	<p><b>CONTEXT MATTERS</b> Have you heard Bible verses used and thought what does it mean for me, or should I use this scripture in my current circumstance? Join us Saturday, April 27th at 6 p.m. in the Legacy Sanctuary for our Fellowship event, Context Matters. We will have food, entertainment, games, and discussions centered around the Word of God and using it in its proper context. Register on the events page of the website and for more information, contact Keron Brown or Rashaud Hudson.</p>
<p><b>Bible Study</b> The Book of Revelation EVERY TUESDAY AT 12 PM &amp; 7 PM STARTING BACK TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024 REVIEW YOUR REVELATION BIBLE STUDY NOTES HERE AT: <a href="https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes">https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes</a></p>	<p><b>REVELATION BIBLE STUDY— EVERY TUESDAY</b> Join us for Revelation Bible Studies every Tuesday at 12 p.m. &amp; 7 p.m. Review your Revelation Bible Study notes at <a href="https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes">https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes</a> See you there to continue our deep dive into the Book of Revelation. For more information call the church at (281) 260-7402.</p>
<p><b>SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER</b> GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS</p>	<p><b>GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS</b> 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 <a href="http://www.goodneighboradays.org/houston">www.goodneighboradays.org/houston</a></p>
<p><b>OLD SCHOOL FAMILY GAME NIGHT</b> SAT. APRIL 20TH 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM LIVING WORD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY GET ANYONE DR. FOR MORE INFO CONTACT <a href="mailto:JEFFREY.ALLEN@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG">JEFFREY.ALLEN@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG</a></p>	<p><b>OLD SCHOOL FAMILY GAME NIGHT</b> Come out and enjoy an Old School Family Game Night with the Family Ministries. Saturday, April 20th at 5 p.m. at Living Word Christian Academy. All ages are welcome. Enjoy Old Fashioned Games &amp; Fun! For more information contact Jeffrey Allen at <a href="mailto:jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org">jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org</a></p>
<p><b>LWCA/ABC SUMMER CAMP</b> LIVING WORD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY AND ABC WORD ACADEMY LWCA/ABC SUMMER CAMP</p>	<p><b>LWCA/ABC SUMMER CAMP</b> Living Word Christian Academy and ABC Word Academy have a Christian-based, fun-filled summer camp available for ages 5–12. The cost is \$90 per week, and the camp is open from 6:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. The campers will have a dynamic summer with robotics, arts &amp; crafts, cooking classes, karate, Christian character building and much more! Register on the events page of the website or call the church (281) 260-7402</p>



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

"Never Fails!"

Psalm 37:3-9

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**





**Never Fails!**  
**Psalm 37:3-9**

**A. Cultivate Faithfulness (vs. 3-5):**

1. Because God is faithful, we can live with confident expectations rather than constant anxiety.
2. He promises that no one can snatch us out of His or God's hands (John 10:27-30).
3. Put a lot of effort into doing things that benefit your life and those around you.
4. The Lord commands us to value where He plants us and not quickly look for greener pastures. Tough times are growth experiences (James 1:2-4).
5. Care about what you have and remain steadfast in developing it.
6. When we are in the midst of pain or discouragement, we demonstrate our trust in the Lord by worshipping Him and serving Him with gladness (Psalm 34).
7. We can celebrate Christ because we can live expecting God to respond to our petitions – GOD IS FAITHFUL!! (Psalm 34:1-4, 7-9).
8. Amid wickedness, we demonstrate our trust in God when surrendering our lives to Him without reservation, willing and ready to do whatever He says.
9. We are commanded not to let our emotions stop us from relying on God's Word, which does not return void (Isaiah 55:11).

**B. He Has Your Back (vs. 5b-7a):**

1. If necessary, God will create a way out of no way to protect and bless us (Romans 8:26-39).
2. God will testify that He is with you by the way He blesses you.
3. Your committed lifestyle will provide life and happiness (Psalm 112).
4. God will demonstrate before everyone that our causes fit within His Word.
5. In the midst of adversity, be still; don't fight for yourself (Romans 8:31) because He is Lord, He is just, and His lovingkindness is new every morning, and great is His faithfulness (Lamentations 3:21-26).
6. Remain faithful while maintaining confident hope in God. (Isaiah 40:27-31).

**C. Do Not Fret...He Never Fails (vs. 7b-9):**

1. We must not allow what people do to ignite sinful anger in us.
2. Don't allow what people do to cause us to lose sleep because we constantly rehearse the issues in our minds.
3. David, who killed Goliath, commands us not to allow these wicked individuals to stress us out so that we become highly emotional and even quick-tempered.
4. We are commanded to put aside all emotions that drive us to physical altercations.
5. Do not continuously punish our hearts with anxiety or stressful thoughts.
6. Those who have devised evil schemes will continuously be destroyed by God. This is a promise from God.
7. Those believers who steadfastly endure because they willfully choose to have confident hope in the promises of God will experience the blessings that God has in store for them. These blessings are established generation after generation (Psalm 112:1-3).



COVENANT KEEPERS - MEN'S MINISTRY -  
WOMEN'S MINISTRY - A.N.E.W

**OLD SCHOOL**  
**FAMILY GAME NIGHT**

**SAT. APRIL 20TH** | **5:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

**LIVING WORD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**  
**6601 ANTOINE DR.**

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT  
[LWFCMARRIAGEMIN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LWFCMARRIAGEMIN@GMAIL.COM)



I DECLARE AND DECREE IN THE NAME OF JESUS FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU SAYS THE LORD!

**CONTEXT MATTERS**

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME.

**Food - Fellowship - Discussions**

Join us as we deep dive into the Word of God and the importance of using scripture in its proper context

**April 27th at 6PM**

Register Online at:  
<https://bit.ly/LWFCContextMatters>

For more information contact Keron Brown at [Keron.Brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:Keron.Brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org) or Rashaud Hudson at [Rashaud.Hudson@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:Rashaud.Hudson@lwfellowshipchurch.org)

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Grieving:** Mignette Dorsey & family, Bevelyn Lane & family. Eric White & family, Hermon Selassie & family, and Donnie Emmerson & 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, Patrina Johnson, Elvis Anderson, H.D. House JR. Cheryl Walker, Carolyn Hadnot, Joann Hayes, Clarence Coleman, Walter Banks, and Angelique Hudson.



**NEVER FAILS!**

PSALM 37:3-9