

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

JUNE 23, 2024

Losses & Gains



Have you ever felt you are losing when God keeps saying you are winning (Romans 8:37; Philippians 4:13)? Sometimes it sounds unreasonable, like “be anxious for nothing.....”(Philippians 4:6); Ahhhhh..., nothing? Have you ever felt that the more you obey God, the more your trials intensify (Psalm 34:19)? This is not unusual (there are numerous examples of this in the scripture), and it is just not very encouraging.

We are most times not as excited for the Lord to build our faith (James 1:2-4; Hebrews 12:4-11) because our hearts are more set on being rewarded for our faith (Hebrews 11:6). It is interesting that after Hebrews 11 verse 6 states that the ‘Hall of Faith’ listed only those who, because they remained faithful, their faith in the midst of trials was rewarded.

We celebrate when our team wins the Super Bowl. Still, we often forget how long each player played, including how long they were in numerous practices, sometimes battling multiple injuries, and innumerable hits to every part of their body to obey a playbook and please a coaching staff. To be taken off the field on a stretcher, go to the hospital, remain awhile, and still come back and play, demonstrates an incredible love for the game, not fame, or money.

When obeying God, whether because we are Christians or go to church, building our faith can seem laborious, especially amid numerous trials. When in the midst of enduring trials, if we remain determined to trust God (for example, Daniel; Daniel 1:8), demonstrated by our commitment to hold to His Word, we expose our love for God, which in turn, causes our faith to deepen. “If you love Me, you will keep my commandment.” (John 14:15). Paul’s numerous intense trials grew him. He, who once battled the flesh (Romans 7:14-20), says, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Christ's commitment to His Father led to suffering, but it also exposed His faith, empowered His prayer life, and demonstrated His love for His Father. Our trials do make it seem like we are losing. We only lose ourselves as we gain Christ (John 12: 23-26), which only happens because of our love for Him (1 John 2:3-6). This improves our faith and exposes the power of the Holy Spirit, who is greater (1 John 4:4), so we become conquerors.

UPCOMING Events

**WIDOWS MINISTRY BALLOON RELEASE TODAY**  
Losing your partner is never an easy thing and this International Widows’ Day, Living Word Fellowship Church is taking a stand to create awareness about the situation of widows across the world. We will have a brief ceremony with a balloon release today at 10:15 am, in the front parking lot. If you are a widow and would like to participate, please contact **Maxine Thomas, Pamela Farris or Mary Wheatley.**

**FAMILY FUN DAY—TODAY AT 2:30 PM**  
Join us for Basketball, Football and Fellowship today at 2:30 p.m. at Living Word Christian Academy at 6601 Antoine Drive Houston, TX 77091. Contact **Le’Quinton Lockhart at (832) 310-6893 or Allison Pryor (832) 350-4190** for more details.

**CONNECTION SUNDAYS IN JUNE**  
This June Connect with us as we continue to celebrate 30 Years of God’s Faithfulness. We are going old school to the 1990s and beyond.  
  
**Sunday, June 23rd** — Come dressed “Sharp As A Tack” in your old school church hats and outfits  
  
**Sunday, June 30th** — **ONE SERVICE at 9:30 am**  
Wear Your Family Reunion T-Shirts and Enjoy Deacon Family Fellowship Family Reunion Style

**CPR TRAINING—AUGUST 24TH 9AM—12 PM**  
Have you ever wanted to be CPR certified? Well we have a CPR certification course coming up August 24, 2024 from 9 am to 12 p.m. Must register by August 11, 2024. Cost is \$65 per person. Receive CPR, AED, and First Aid Certification hosted by The American Heart Association. To register, contact **Lulu Hayes** for more information on Sundays after service or at **luluhayes1@gmail.com**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Thriving Not Surviving”  
1 Samuel 23:1-14;25-29

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**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**  
**2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
**SUNDAY 6:30 PM**



Thriving Not Surviving  
1 Samuel 23:1-14;25-29

A. Do the Right Things (v. 6):

- 1. After consulting with God and getting God’s approval to fight the Philistines, David is now confronted with another issue. He did what was expected of him as a commander and, therefore, protector of God’s people, only to encounter Saul, whose only purpose is to kill him rather than compliment him for doing a good job.
- 2. After Saul uses Doeg the Edomite to kill all the priests, Abiathar runs rapidly to David, who responds with care because Saul killed the priests because they helped David.
- 3. Abiathar ran down with an ephod, blessing David with the opportunity to seek the divine will of God, which David did repeatedly, unlike Saul.

B. Present Danger (vs. 7-8):

- 1. When we obey God's will to serve the needs of His people, it does not mean that we will be spared from those who hate us. Our success may upset them more.
- 2. It is interesting how sin can so darken our minds that even when we know we are doing wrong, we can convince ourselves that God blesses us when our circumstances seem favor able. Interestingly, we can close the Bible and lean to our own understanding. (1 Samuel 24:3-5).
- 3. When Satan desires to come against us, he musters up as much force as he can because he knows the battle belongs to the Lord. We “don’t wrestle with flesh and blood...” (Ephesians 6:12). It is never one dart that is going to be “flaming arrows” (Ephesians 6:16). Look at the crowd seeking to kill Jesus.

C. Ever Present (vs. 9-12):

- 1. David, amid danger, continuously sought the Lord. God was ahead of David because He allowed David to meet with the priest prior to Saul and then spared Abiathar so that David could gain the spiritual help he needed.
- 2. David reveres God in the midst of overwhelming circumstances by calling the Lord by His personal name, recognizing His faithfulness to maintain His covenant with David, and humbling himself before Him as his slave.
- 3. No matter how powerful our life circumstances may seem, the Lord does not forsake His covenant. He is always in control and sovereignly protects those who humbly trust Him.
- 4. David intensely, urgently, but respectfully asks the Lord God for direction and to expose the circumstances around him.
- 5. Knowing God’s will before we act is our salvation. Remaining humbly praying to God and remaining in His will is our deliverance from all our troubles.

D. In Control (v.. 14):

- 1. David continuously obeyed God (His heart was never to turn away from the will of God; Psalm 119) and then waited on God for his victory over evil (Isaiah 40:27-31).
- 2. God hid David from Saul, but that did not deter Saul. Instead of focusing on running a nation, his entire attention was on finding where David was hiding and killing. “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour..... After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.” (1 Peter 5:8-10; NASU)
- 3. No matter how thorough Saul’s efforts were, God was utterly committed to care for David by generously preserving his life.
- 4. We can now understand why David said, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.....” (Psalm 23). Because God preserved David while in the wilderness, David would be glad to bring His ark into the city so that ‘he will dwell in the temple forever.’



END DEPENDENCE  
VETERAN CAREER & RESOURCE FAIR

VETERAN/MILITARY  
FAMILY REGISTRATION

Please scan QR code or visit  
veteransfaithinitiative.org/events

Email inquiries to info@veteareansfaithinitiative.org





Living Word Fellowship Church

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2024

7350 TC Jester Blvd  
Houston, TX 77088



The goal for this event is to plant foundational seeds to help Veterans overcome (perceived or real) barriers to independence through employment and community resources.












Workforce Solutions is an equal opportunity employer/ program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. (Please request reasonable accommodations 48 hours in advance.)  
Texas Relay Number: 1.800.735. 2989 (TDD) & 1.800.735.2988 (Voice)  
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JULY 12TH	YOUTH /ADULT	AGES 16+
6:30 PM-8:30 PM	HTML WEB DESIGN CERTIFICATION	
JULY 13TH	YOUTH /ADULT	AGES 16+
9:00 AM-3:00 PM	HTML WEB DESIGN CERTIFICATION	
JULY 27TH	GOOGLE SUITE & LWFC FORMS	ALL AGES
10:00 AM-2:00 PM		
AUGUST 24TH	YOUTH CODING CAMP	AGES 12-18
9:00AM-3:00 PM		
AUGUST 24TH	CANVA WORKSHOP	ALL AGES
10:00 AM-2:00 PM		

REGISTER ON THE EVENTS PAGE OF THE WEBSITE & FOR INFORMATION ON TECH WORKSHOPS AND MARKETING CONTACT MARKETING@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG

PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Mary Ngwazini & family, Orelee Fields & family, Hazel and Dee Davis & family, Betty Hopson & family, Bailey Mier-Nava & family, Nikisha Doyle & family, Nathan Harvey & family, Mignette Dorsey & family, Deidra McCoy & family, and the family of Joeann Hayes.

**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, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Walter Banks, Patrina Johnson, Elvis Anderson, Cheryl Walker, Carolyn Hadnot, Angelique Hudson, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, and Diana Doyle.

THRIVING  
not  
SURVIVING

1 Samuel 23:1-14; 25-29