

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

JUNE 9, 2024

Just Gain

From a human standpoint, I have always wondered what it was like to wait 25 years for one child while being promised you (Abraham) would have a nation with inhabitants like sands of the sea shore, something he never saw. How did he not waver in faith (Romans 4:18-21)? He was told to leave a stable life in Haran only to have a nomadic life (moving from place to place, no restroom facilities, no kitchen, etc.), living in a tent throughout Canaan and then to become separated from his cousin Lot. He had to fight a war against the two kings of Sodom and Gomorrah to defend and save his cousin Lot. He had to deal with ‘baby mama drama’ because of issues between Sarah and Hagar. He had to kick Ishmael out of his house, whom he loved. He had to endure a drought only to be forced to go to Egypt with a pretty wife when God knew that Pharaoh loved pretty women. How could this be living in the will of God?



God teaches us that Satan is given much freedom because of mankind’s decision (Adam and Eve) to choose to disobey God. This is because the whole world lies in his power (1 John 5:19). Peter calls him “a roaring lion seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8; anxiety, doubt, trials), and he also goes to heaven day and night seeking, like in the case of Job, to make accusations against us (Revelation 12:10). Abraham experiences are not unique.

Living in the will of God does expose us to adverse situations. Please note that no matter what individuals in the scriptures experienced while obeying God, God’s purposes were accomplished, and each individual became stronger. The circumstances that encompassed them were threatening, but never defeating (2 Corinthians 4:7-12) because the Word of God does not return void (Isaiah 55:11). He promises to protect us (Hebrews 1:14). Christ told the disciples they would have trouble (John 16:33), but He promised never to forsake them (Matthew 28:20). David, with all that he experienced said; “The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them.....; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! O fear the Lord you His saints; for those who fear Him there is no want.” (Psalm 34:7-9).

Satan is going to be Satan. However, God’s love is greater! The more we are tested, the more we grow in our faith, and the more we are exposed to how “Greater love has no one....” (John 15:7-10, 13). In our pain, God faithfully delivers His promises, which includes His protection and power while being refined to become like Him (Galatians 2:20; 1 Peter 1:3-9); no loss, just gain (Philippians 1:21).

UPCOMING Events

FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND EVENTS
Come and Celebrate Fathers the weekend of June 14th-16th. Friday, June 14th all men are welcomed to a Dad's Fish Fry at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 15th don't miss the Laugh With Dad Comedy Night at 4:30 p.m. for \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids. On Sunday join us for Praise and Worship at 8 a.m. and Contemporary Service at 11 a.m. For more information visit the **Events Page** of the website or contact **Keron Brown**.

WIDOWS MINISTRY BALLOON RELEASE
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 on Sunday, June 23, 2024, at 10:15, in the front parking lot. If you are a widow and would like to participate, please register at <https://bit.ly/3QNvhX7> For more information contact **Maxine Thomas, Pamela Farris or Mary Wheatley**.

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 9th** — Bring something that reminds you of the 90s
- Sunday, June 16th** — Wear Your Favorite throw back Sports jersey or attire!
- 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

Deacon Family Fellowship Sunday
It's A Family Reunion
June 30th
JOIN US FOR ONE SERVICE AT 9:30AM
Wear Your Family Reunion T-Shirts

A.N.E.W. BENEFIT FOR BABIES—6/15/24
Join the A.N.E.W. Ministry for fellowship and to donate items for babies on Saturday, June 15, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Boxes are in the foyer, Legacy foyer and the Children's Wing. Help mothers by donating diapers, baby wipes, non-perishable formula, and onsies 0-24 months. For more information, contact **Sioban Johnson at lwfcaneu@gmail.com**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Got Faith?”

1 Samuel 18:12-30 Part II

Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

Call to Discipleship

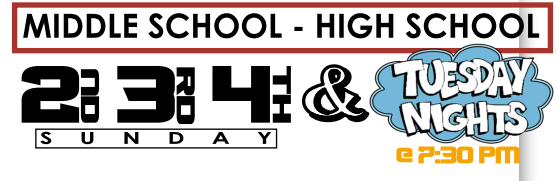
Please remain seated at this time

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



Got Faith?
1 Samuel 18:10-30 Part II

- A. Regardless (vs. 12-13):**
- 1. No matter how much Saul sought to destroy David, David was not afraid of Saul. David’s commitment was to obey God and to live by faith and not by sight; faith conquers fear (Joshua 1:5-9).
 - 2. An evil spirit having full access to Saul to do what he wanted with him is evidence that the Lord no longer covered him. It was only a matter of time before he went from a lot of success (1 Samuel 14) to defeat (1 Samuel 24:1-15; 26, 31). God may allow an evil person to live, but it is only for the full measure of their sins to be accounted for (1 Thessalonians 2:14). Once that is complete, there will be a day of accountability.
 - 3. People may never like us, but our steadfast commitment to the will of God should earn their respect; for this, the Lord will bless us.
 - 4. When we are saved, the Lord’s presence is continually in us because He lives in side us (1 Corinthians 6:19; Titus 3:4-8). When we abide in His Word no matter what external pressures may be, the Lord loves us (John 15:7-10 and disciplines us (Hebrews 12:4-11). Practicing the Word causes us to experience the full movement of the Holy Spirit so that we no longer walk in the flesh but in the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-18). So, no matter what external pressures we may experience, the power within strengthens us so that we can overpower the attacks of the enemy (Ephesians 3:14-21; 1 John 4:4). What David experienced is no longer unique to him.
 - 5. Our good behavior may not only bless us but also attract negative attention. Christ did good every day but was nailed to a cross.
 - 6. It does not matter what evil a person may intend for us to experience; when the Lord decides to bless us, they can do nothing to prevent blessings from being bestowed on us.

- B. Faith Is Victory Guaranteed (vs. 17-18, 28-30; Hebrews 11:6):**
- 1. Satan never backs off. Remember Peter, who Christ said was being sifted like wheat (Luke 22:31). Well because Peter did not remain sober (1 Peter 1:13-16), Satan got to him. This is why Peter says, “Satan is a roaring lion seeking someone to devour.” Notice Peter did not say ‘seeking someone to tell a white lie;’ no devour. Satan had an evil spirit influencing him.
 - 2. Satan’s strategy is to get us to depend on our strength rather than the inner power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 3:16-17; 6:10). Remember what Satan said to Christ when tempting Him: “If You are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here...” (Luke 4:9). The same with Eve. He told her she could be just like God (Genesis 3:1-7).
 - 3. God’s timing (2 Peter 3:8) can seem insensitive to our pain, but it’s a refinement process (James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:3-9) that leads to victory. David became a leader of 400 hundred mighty warriors that dominated the world (2 Samuel 22:2, 25:13; 30:10; 2 Samuel 23:8-39) and loved him dearly (2 Samuel 23:16).
 - 4. It does not matter what traps people set for us; “....greater is He who is in us....” (1 John 4:4). This may infuriate some and cause others to become more sophisticated with their traps against us, but remember: the Lord “*is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us*” (Ephesians 3:20), and “*in all things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*” (Romans 8:37) *Even if they mean it for evil, the Lord can turn it for good (Romans 8:28). “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)*

CELEBRATE
FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND
JUNE 14 - JUNE 16

JUNE 14TH
FISH FRY & FELLOWSHIP
FRIDAY 6PM
Men's Ministry Only Event



JUNE 15TH
COMEDY NIGHT
HOSTED BY LEON BRIDGES
SATURDAY 4:30 PM
\$15 PER PERSON
COMEDY



JUNE 16TH
SUNDAY SERVICES
8AM
11AM
CONTEMPORARY SERVICE



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALL FELLOWSHIP EVENTS CONTACT KERON BROWN OR RASHAUD HUDSON

A . N . E . W . M I N I S T R Y

Now Accepting

D O N A T I O N S
F O R B A B I E S

SCAN TO DONATE



NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS UNTIL JUNE 30TH

BOXES LOCATED IN THE MAIN FOYER, LEGACY FOYER & THE CHILDREN'S WING*

WE ARE ASKING FOR DONATIONS OF DIAPERS, BABY WIPES, NON-PERISHABLE BABY FORMULA, AND ONESIES 0-24 MONTHS

DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON JUNE 15TH AT THE A.N.E.W. BENEFIT FOR BABIES EVENT. ALL DONATIONS TO BENEFIT THE REACH CENTER & AFFILIATE PREGNANCY CENTERS.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT LFWCANEWAG@GMAIL.COM


PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Ashley Gipson & family, Brenda Jones & family, Jo Latham & family, Mary Ngwazini & family, Orelee Fields & family, Dee Davis & family, Betty Hopson & family, Bailey Mier-Nava & family, Nikisha Doyle & 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, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Carolyn Hadnot, Angelique Hudson, Sheryle Crowe, Clarence Coleman, Joyce Denman, Dana Doyle, and Arnie Glover.

GOT FAITH?

1 SAMUEL 18:12-30
PART II

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