

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

July 28, 2024

The Good Fight



Before the West Indies Baptist Conference began this past week, a category four hurricane impacted some of the islands and a category one for us in the Houston area. Added to that was a worldwide cyber attack that made airline travel a horrendous experience; then came the rain. You ask yourself why the Lord would allow so much to occur when we intensely seek to execute His kingdom plan.

Sarah could have asked such a question, especially since everyone else around her was allowed to have a child. I can't imagine how she may have felt when Hagar became pregnant. Moses could ask this question, especially when he didn't even ask for the job he was given. Job, who was called a righteous man by God, struggled with this question. Daniel was an obedient servant of the Lord, only to go through one trial after another.

There are times when God's dreams take us to dry wells and slave markets, and even when we do not do wrong, they take us to prison, like in the case of Joseph. What we must learn is that God's providence is at work in the midst of Satan's attacks (Ephesians 6:10-13; Revelation 12:10), and God only rewards faith (Hebrews 11:6). Everyone in the 'Hall of Faith' was not spared trouble; they kept the faith. Because they choose to obey God rather than their feelings, fears, and anxieties, it worked out for His good and their blessings (Romans 8:28). The good is not just earthly benefits but also the perfecting of their character (James 1:2-4), so that no matter what Satan's schemes may be nothing deterred them from accomplishing God's plan for their lives and His glory (2 Corinthians 2:11; 4:7-12; 11:21-29;). For these reasons and more, it is critical that we keep growing spiritually (1 John 4:4) and continually mature in Christ so that His strength in us keeps our armor on (Ephesians 6:13-18).

The hardest thing in raising a child is to trust our direction when all they know and feel influences them to believe we don't know what we are doing. When they choose to listen and allow an excellent parent to shape their lives, they thank us and call us their heroes. The 'Hall of Faith' are God's heroes who praised Him for their earthly blessings and His reward for them in heaven forever (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10).

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith; in the future, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing." (2 Timothy 4:6-8; NASU)

UPCOMING Events

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

WORSHIP MINISTRY TRAINING
AUGUST 17, 2024 8:30 AM—11 AM
All Worship Ministries please register for a special training on Saturday, August 17, 2024 8:30 a.m.—11 a.m. Worship ministries include Praise Teams, Choirs, the Band, Mime ministry, Praise Dance Ministries, the Production Teams, Audio Teams, Communion Team and the Drama Ministry. We hope to see all of you there so we can grow spiritually, serve others well, and execute God's vision in the lives of our church. Register at <https://bit.ly/LWFCWorshipTraining>

YOUTH MONTH—AUGUST 2024
Join us every Sunday in August for Youth Month. Come and encourage our LWFC Kidz and Legacy Youth as they minister as Ushers & Greeters, as the Welcome Team, and perform as singers, dancers, with the drill team, and more. For more information on LWFC Kidz, contact **Mrs. Sylvia Edwards** or for information on Legacy Youth contact **Jordan Washington**.

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH—DONATE BACKPACKS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES & HAIR ACCESSORIES
Living Word Family, it's almost time for the Back To School Bash on August 10th. Please donate **Backpacks, School Supplies And Girls Hair Accessories**. Bins are located in the foyer and the Children's Wing. For more information, visit the Events Page of the Website or call the Church at **(281) 260-7402**.

SUMMER TECH SERIES – CANVA WORKSHOP
AUGUST 24TH 10 AM—2 PM
Our FREE Summer Tech Series has been amazing. We have had HTML Certification, Google Suite Training and next up is our Canva Workshop. On **Saturday, August 24, 2024 from 10 am—2 pm**. Learn how to use Canva to create graphics, flyers, invitations, videos and more! Register at or on the events page of the website. For more information on our **TECH SERIES** contact **Shani Smothers**.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Through the Pain”
Job 42:1-6

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

LEGACY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY
6:30 PM

Through the Pain
Job 42:1-6

A. In His Strength (vs 1-2; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10):

- 1. Job is careful not to say God but Lord, meaning he is continuously committed to giving the Lord God complete respect for His power and authority to rule over everything.
- 2. Job's experiences in his relationship with the Lord completely convinced him that the Lord has the ability to overcome whatever obstacles he encounters and that he will continuously prevail.
- 3. The Lord has the ability to powerfully execute all of His well-thought-out, strategically designed plans to achieve His divine intent.
- 4. Nothing or no one can diminish, interrupt, redirect, or destroy His plans.

B. My Wisdom Must Not Displace His Knowledge (v. 3; 1 Corinthians 1:21, 25):

- 1. After God reveals who He is to Job, Job accepts that he made an unconscious error, based on a hidden fault, that he did not carefully consider all that the Lord is when dealing with all that he was going through.
- 2. Job admits that he lacks the technical understanding to discern God's divine plans. This leads him to question why God allowed the evil that took place against him.
- 3. Many times, we can become angry at God, sometimes bitter towards God "Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men;, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (1 Corinthians 1:25; 1 Corinthians 2:8-10; NIV) Also, "the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "He is the one who catches the wise in their craftiness." (1 Corinthians 3:19)."
- 4. In light of all God has said to Job, Job reveals that he lacks the ability to make the distinctions necessary to differentiate between good and evil.
- 5. What the Lord is doing is beyond Job's ability or that of any other human being to accomplish. It is astonishing because it is a supernatural act, and as a result, it is extraordinary.
- 6. Job said all that has taken place and all that God revealed Himself to be, has caused him to learn that he lacks this superior ability to distinguish good from evil in the manner in which God can.

C. Once Blind, Now I See (v. 4):

- 1. Sometimes, we speak before we reckon with what the Lord is doing or saying (Ecclesiastes 5:1-2). The issue is when we learn what we need to learn from God, are we willing to change our focus and, with the circumstances still the same, trust God's response?
- 2. Job literally continuously begs God, in respect of recognizing the superiority of God's knowledge, wisdom, and understanding, to instruct him so that he comes to a vivid sense of how the Word of God works in and through his daily life.
- 3. Knowledge alone can leave us puffed up (1 Corinthians 8:1-2); practicing God's Word grows us to know good and evil (Hebrews 5:11-14) and to gain wisdom and discernment (Colossians 1:9-12) so that we are powerful in this world. The Word of God, even though power (Hebrews 12:4), not returning void (Isaiah 55:11), is designed as a Word of life (1 John 1:4) so that it becomes 'a lamp un to our feet and a light unto our path.' (Psalm 119:105).
- 4. It is one thing to know intellectually what the Word of means, but it is another thing to come to wisdom and discernment once we know what it is saying (1 John 2:2-6). The only way is when we abide in His Word and remain committed to it when the circumstances of life are overwhelming. Those who keep loving Him will bear fruit (John 15:1-4), experience His love (John 15:7-10), gain a friendship with Him (John 15:13), and be blessed (Romans 8:28).
- 5. When we learn and grow spiritually, we move forward in our spiritual maturity and walk with God when we develop a spirit of disdain for who we are (Colossians 1:9-12).
- 6. Job, because he, with disdain, despises what he said, changes his heart, his mind, and his conduct towards the Lord God. It brought him deep, uncontrollable sorrow when he thought of how he approached the Lord God.
- 7. When we learn more about our Lord and see what we have done, our determination to walk with Him must come from our heart, from a true desire to have a sincere, genuine relationship with Him.

BACK TO SCHOOL

DROP OFF DONATIONS

FOR THE BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

NOW - AUG. 9TH

PLEASE DONATE BACKPACKS, GIRLS' HAIR ACCESSORIES, SCHOOL SUPPLIES, CLOTHES, AND MORE

BINS ARE LOCATED IN THE CHILDREN'S WING, MAIN FOYER

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE CHURCH AT (281)260-7402





WORSHIP MINISTRY TRAINING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2024

BREAKFAST SERVED

All Worship Ministry members come out for this special training session. Worship Ministries include Musicians, Dancers, Praise Teams, Choirs, Production teams, Audio team, Ushers & Greeters, and the IT team. Worship is the spindle in the wheel that drives everyone to the execution of God's vision in their lives and our church life. So come out for this training to help us grow spiritually to serve others well!

Register at <https://bit.ly/LWFCWorshipTraining>

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: The family of Lee White, and Gloria Franklin & family and Willie Marie Perry & family..

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Cici Sharpe, Margaret Baptiste, 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, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, and Diana Doyle.

THROUGH THE PAIN

JOB 42:1-6

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