

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 1, 2024

New

The issue of obeying God in giving is difficult for some people because their budget is already strained. As a result, giving to God is not the focus; it is more about how God can bless me. Biblically, this creates more significant needs, stress, and expectations from God that often do not produce the desired results. "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38 NIV)



The believers in Macedonia were beyond poverty, but because they came to the realization of what God had done for them, they decided to give out of their poverty. God blessed them for their obedience rather than their sacrifice. "Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints." (2 Corinthians 8:2-4; NIV) The same mindset is seen in the widow in Mark 12:41-44. This is because giving is not about sacrifice, but obedience, which always requires faith and trust in God. The depth of our obedience is identified by what we had to sacrifice to give. This kind of obedience exposes the level of our faith. The Macedonians and the widow chose to obey the Word of God, and by doing so, they demonstrated their willingness to trust God.

A church member was expecting \$300,000 in a will from a family member. The member told the pastor, "If I get the \$300,000, I will give one-third to the church." The pastor said, "How will you give one-third of this amount when you can't give one-tenth of what you now earn?" It's not what we would do if we had much money—it's what we are doing with what we have now! (from Heartwarming Bible Illustrations Copyright © 1998 by AMG International, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." (2 Corinthians 9:10-11; NIV)

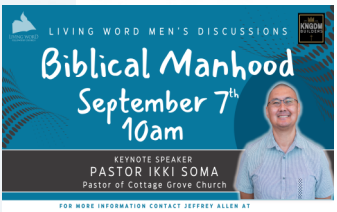
UPCOMING Events



WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE
THE BOOKS OF 1ST JOHN & ACTS
Join us for a new Bible Study Series September 3rd—November 5th on the Books of 1st John and Acts. For more information, call the church at (281) 260-7402. Follow along with Bible Study notes on the website at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/bible-study-notes



WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP
Calling all ladies, the Women of Grace Ministry is having their fellowship and study of "Disciples in the Making" on Saturday, September 7, 2024 in the Legacy Sanctuary. Get ready for fun, food, fellowship, Bible studies, and much more. For more information email Eleanor Wilson at wog77088@gmail.com.



GUEST PASTOR COMING TO LIVING WORD
WELCOME PASTOR IKKI SOMA
Welcome Pastor Ikki Soma for a special Kingdom Builders Men's Ministry Event on "Biblical Manhood" on Sat., Sept. 7th at 10 a.m. Also, Pastor Somas will be our guest preacher for both services on Sunday, September 8, 2024 at 8 am & 11 am. Pastor Soma is visiting from Cottage Grove Church in Des Moines, Iowa. For more information, call the church at (281) 260-7402.



FREE YOUTH CODING CAMP—AGES 12-18
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH 9 AM
Register your youth ages 12-18 for a **FREE Coding Camp** conducted by our very own Sharon Daniels, professor of Computer Science at Prairie View A & M University. Give your youth job skills and a pathway to a career in Computer Science, IT, and Computer Program coding. Register at <https://bit.ly/4bYCJqX> and for more information, call the church at (281) 260-7402.



LWCA/ABC AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
LWCA/ABC has a dynamic after school program available for \$75 per week with a \$55 Registration fee. The program focuses on the four cornerstones of child development: Academic, Physical, Emotional and Spiritual. Activities include robotics, karate, arts and crafts, outside play, academic enrichment, cooking classes, sports & more, Register at <https://bit.ly/LWCARegister> or call (281) 445-9673.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Never Dry"

Proverbs 3:9-10; Proverbs 11:24-25

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 7:30 PM

Never Dry

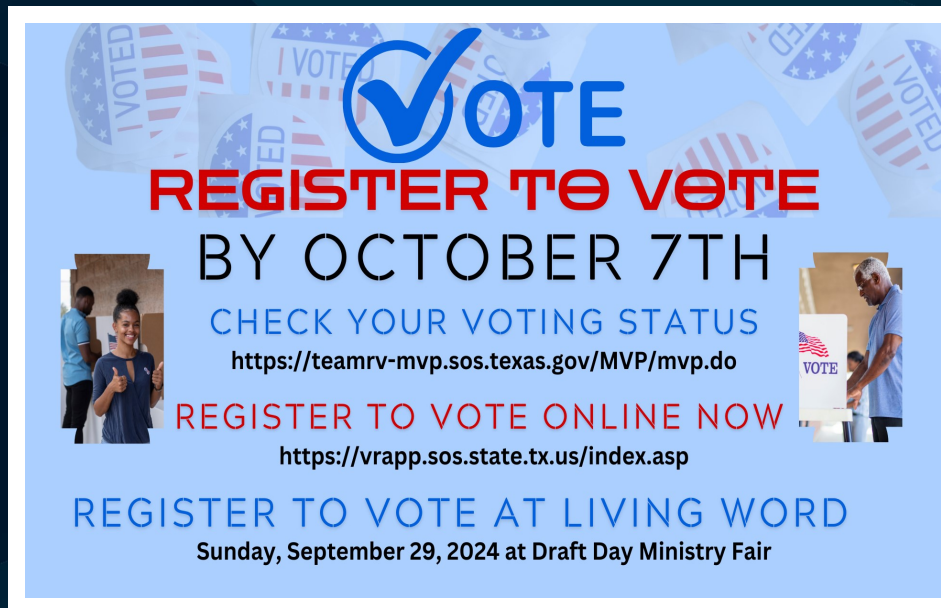
Proverbs 3:9-10; Proverbs 11:24-25

A. Respect (Proverbs 3:9-10):

1. Solomon commands us, as a man who is the richest, to demonstrate our respect for God's faithfulness. When we respond by giving to God, we highlight that we have given attention to His faithfulness. He blessed God when he worshiped Him at the temple's opening (1 Kings 8:62-66). God is respected, so we attract His attention.
2. Anyone hearing the word wealth may immediately disqualify themselves. According to the scriptures, wealth means having substance, so if a person has income that allows them to supply what they need to manage properly, Biblically, they have wealth.
3. Wealth is something the Lord says He supplies; *"Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness."* (Proverbs 8:18, 21; 10:4; NASU) If a person decides to chase wealth, especially while forsaking God, they will be punished (Proverbs 28:20). They act as if they are taking His place.
4. To give based on our wealth is also to give from our abundance (1 Corinthians 16:1; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7a). To hoard our money is to decide to live a stressful life (Proverbs 11:26, 28; 15:16). Even though we may have money, we cannot resolve the struggles we experience and cannot control the results.
5. The Lord is respected even more when we, on our own initiative (set our money aside; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2), sincerely and purposefully give to God first, and by the best of our ability, before we do anything else (Genesis 4:2).
6. These people were farmers so they were commanded to give from the bounty of their crop. God expects us to give from our gross, not our net (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Exodus 35:20-36:7).

B. Never Dry (Proverbs 3:10; 11:24-25):

1. Like the widow of 2 Kings 4 verse 8-37, when we give to the Lord as described in verse 9, He continuously keeps filling up (keeps our needs constantly supplied so that we are never on empty; Psalm 37:35) the empty places (barns) we may have from day-to-day when managing our homes.
2. Like in the case of Luke 6:38 when we give to the Lord in the manner described in verse 8, He responds “pressed down, shaken together and running over.....”. Even though we must initiate the process, the Lord responds bountifully.
3. To scatter is to have a mindset that demonstrates so much trust in the Lord that the person willingly gives of their first fruits, gives cheerfully, and generously even though they know that circumstances (like birds picking up the seeds) can create damage (like Beryl) the Lord is faithful to His promises. They give freely.
4. The Lord takes on the full responsibility to supply our needs and He makes sure there are no holes in our pockets (Haggai 1:1-12). This is why David would say that when the Lord is his Shepherd, he lacks absolutely nothing (Psalm 23) and has never seen the righteous begging bread (Psalm 37:25).
5. A person with free will may decide not to obey the scriptures about giving; God gets that, but this only causes repeated financial struggles, whether it is because of health issues, stressful job experiences, or an unhappy home.
6. The person who does not withhold what is justly due and gives in the manner described above is a generous giver. This is the person the Lord makes rich, meaning this person always has everything. They may have difficult financial experiences, but the Lord supplies their need according to His riches in glory because they sought Him first. (Luke 12:29-34).
7. In a dry climate, and our circumstances are creating more dry times, the Lord, for the generous giver, takes full responsibility to refresh our souls, refresh our losses, take care of our families, and reconstruct anything thrown down.
8. Notice in the text the Lord said, “Will himself be watered.” The person who diligently seeks to obey the Lord in the manner described in these passages is the person the Lord focuses these blessings on. The Lord never forgets who they are and what they have done.



PRAAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Helene Wardlow & family, Karen Carter & family, Marie Perry & family, and Melita Washington & 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, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Vivian Phillips, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Janie Buchanan, and Robert Edwards.

