

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 22, 2024

A Winner's Faith



I remember years ago, while in college, playing in a soccer tournament in Louisiana (the home of the Saints, who showed no respect this past Sunday). We had several games; the last match was in hot, humid weather. Towards the end of the last game, my legs were totally fatigued; I was literally running on fumes. Because we made it to the championship game, I somehow found the strength to keep playing.

Paul teaches us why he endured so much suffering (beatings, imprisonments, shipwrecks, false accusations) was because he saw the prize (He saw the third heavens; 2 Corinthians 12:2) that made him write “For I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (Romans 8:18) He would tell us not to grow weary in well-doing and miss our season (Galatians 6:9-10). As we can see in Revelation, we all have access to the prizes: the white garments (Revelation 3:4-5; 4:4; 6:11, 7:9, 13), share His throne (James 1:12; Revelation 3:11), rule over angels and have access to the holy City of Jerusalem (Revelation 22). The question is, how did he find strength so that he can “do all things through Him who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13).

Every athlete who participated in the Olympics went through rigorous training to develop what was already in their bodies so that they function to the best of their capacity. The scriptures teach us that we have “all spiritual blessings” (Ephesians 1:3-4), we have the Holy Spirit in us (Ephesians 3:16), and Christ dwells in our hearts (Ephesians 3:17). By using everyone’s spiritual gifts in the local church we can all grow up to the fullness of God (Ephesians 4:12-13) and comprehend all the Lord is teaching us (Ephesians 3:18-19). This is why we can work out our salvation because of He who lives in us (Philippians 2:12-13) because Christ richly lives powerfully in us, blessing us to overcome the sinful influences of the flesh (Romans 8:9-17; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 5:15-18). So, we all have the capacity to win the prizes God has in store for us because we can all become just like Christ (Colossians 3:1-4; 1 Peter 2:21-25). It all depends on whether we are willing to discipline ourselves, like Olympic athletes, because we, at the point of salvation, have the Holy Spirit fully in us to transform us so that we can even overcome the attacks of the devil (1 John 4:4) even if these attacks are like fiery darts (Ephesians 6:10-18).

When life’s trials seem overwhelming, and you feel like you are running on fumes, remember that when we accept these trials, God’s perfecting work (James 1:2-4) blesses us to keep on pressing towards the mark. It is in our weakness that we find our true strength, for as Paul said, “in our weakness, we will become strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

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



REGISTER TO VOTE BY OCT. 7, 2024
1 million registered voters have been unregistered. Please check your registration status and register to vote by the deadline of Oct. 7, 2024. Register in-person at Living Word **Sept. 22nd, 29th & Oct. 6th**. Check your status <https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do> Mail-in Ballot Application deadline is **Oct. 25th**. Early voting is **Oct. 21st—Nov. 1st**. **ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 5, 2024.**



DRAFT DAY MINISTRY FAIR—SEPT. 29TH
DEACON FAMILY CHURCH PICNIC
ONE SERVICE AT 9:30 AM
Join us and Invite a friend for our ONE SERVICE at 9:30 a.m. followed by our Draft Day Ministry Fair and Church Deacon Family Picnic. Bring your family and invite a friend to spend the day with us and learn more about Living Word. For more information, contact Jeffrey Allen at jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org



CONTEXT MATTERS — OCT. 5TH
Join the Fellowship Ministry as we dive deep into the Word of God and the importance of using scripture in its proper context. For more information contact Keron Brown or Rashaud Hudson at Keron.Brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org Register Online at: <https://bit.ly/ContextMattersMusic>



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


“Finding Strength”
Philippians 3:10-12

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**

Finding Strength
Philippians 3:10-12

A. Be Conformed (vs. 10-11):

1. Paul’s commitment to obey the Lord cost him everything, and the only reason he decided to continue to live by faith is so that once and for all he could gain a complete understanding, because on the influence of the Holy Spirit, of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Forsaking everything to gain complete knowledge of Christ can inspire us to live as a result of the illumination of the Word of God (by the power of the Holy Spirit; renewing our minds leads to consistently obeying God), so that we gain wisdom to implement what we now clearly understand (1 Corinthians 2:10-15; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-12), experiencing His strength and being enabled to live by faith every day consistently.
3. Paul viewed the flesh as weak and sinful (Galatians 5:16-21). The less we rely on the flesh (Christ said to deny ourselves; Luke 14:26-27) and the more we trust God’s Word (powerful all by itself, Hebrews 12:4; and it does not return void, Isaiah 55:11), commit to obey it, is the more the power of the Holy Spirit influences us to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh so that in our weakness we become strong (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). It is when we function in this manner we can overcome the wages of sin (leads to death; Romans 6:23) and the destructive nature of our struggles (because He who is in us; 1 John 4:4), and live as overcomers (Romans 8:37-39).
4. Because we commit to practice the Word of God so that we mature to comprehend the will of God (Ephesians 3:14-21) and therefore live in the power of the Holy Spirit, we intentionally set aside our own interest and desires (Philippians 2:1-6), engage in an active partnership (Galatians 2:21) with Christ which transforms us (become saints, set aside to God) causing us to become susceptible to similar persecution Christ experienced (2 Corinthians 4:7-12; 1 Peter 4:13). This is why what Christ went through was an example for us to follow (1 Peter 2:21-25).
5. The kind of focus just described directs a person’s life to take on the likeness of Christ life on earth (Philippians 1:21) so that they consistently have to become a living sacrifice each day (Romans 12:1).
6. The purpose of us all developing spiritual understanding, living in the power of the Holy Spirit, finding strength amid opposition or personal struggles is a lifetime goal to overcome the power of our sinful nature and live blessed eternally when we pass.

B. It’s Attainable (v. 12):

1. Paul admits that even though this is his goal (verses 8-11), he has not, once and for all, achieved the ability to live sinless (1 John 1:8).
2. Despite knowing that living in the power of the resurrection does not provide the ability to live without sin’s influences, we must remain resolute to energetically pursue righteousness that comes by faith (verse 9). We must own this attitude so that the power of the resurrection is a powerful daily experience.
3. We can “lay hold by Christ” once by faith, we experience the righteous work of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we grow in our knowledge of Christ; through the illumination of the Holy Spirit, obstacles strengthen us (2 Corinthians 12:7-12) shaping us to live more in the nature of Christ than by the influences of sin that once corrupted us.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

DEACON
FAMILY
FELLOWSHIP

ONE SERVICE AT 9:30AM

FOLLOWED BY THE MINISTRY FAIR & DEACON FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

WEAR YOUR FAMILY REUNION TSHIRTS

REGISTER TO VOTE
BY OCTOBER 7TH

REGISTER ONSITE AT LIVING WORD

Sunday, September 22, 2024 @ 10 am & 1 pm
Sunday, September 29, 2024 @ 12 pm
Sunday, October 6, 2024 @ 10 am & 1 pm

CHECK YOUR VOTING STATUS

<https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do>

REGISTER TO VOTE NOW

<https://vrapp.sos.state.tx.us/index.asp>

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Melita Washington & family, Launette Chan & family, Patsy Moore & family, and Elaine Bates & 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, Yolanda Barnes, and Robert Edwards.

Finding Strength

PHILIPPIANS 3:10-12

WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG | @lwfchouston |

7350 TC JESTER BOULEVARD HOUSTON, TEXAS 77088 281-260-7402