

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 29, 2024

Persevere



Have you ever felt tired of always trying to say the right thing or do the right thing? Does it also seem like the more you try to do what God says, the more difficult the challenges seem to be? Maybe this is why God says, “Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary” (Galatians 6:9). It is evident that there is the potential that we can get weary.

This is how the people in the book of Nehemiah felt. They went back as Jeremiah instructed them after 70 years of captivity in Babylon. They were the obedient ones. Nehemiah did not go back; he stayed and enjoyed his wonderful paying, highly respected job. However, many things went wrong when these obedient people returned. They even continued to do right despite these things (walls not restored, kids raped and taken into slavery for taxes, the crop stolen, so they starved during the winter months). They rebuilt the temple and committed to go to it as the law stated. The enemy did not get weaker; instead, they got stronger. They became discouraged, their worship became routine, and the Word of God was not preached or read. Although they had a lot of singers (Nehemiah 7:73), no joy or strength existed. They became easily demoralized and quickly stopped working because they were worn down. The more they did the right thing, the more worn out they became.

David felt the same way and shared this with us, “Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret — it leads only to evil. For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land” (Psalms 37:3-9; NIV).

Not only will God’s people be blessed on the earth; “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him” (James 1:12; NIV).

So, remember, “Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles; they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary” (Isaiah 40:31; NASU).

Remember when we please Him it becomes His joy, which in turn becomes our strength (Nehemiah 10b).

UPCOMING Events

DEACON FAMILY FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

VISIT THE MINISTRY FAIR & JOIN YOUR DEACON FAMILIES FOR FELLOWSHIP

TODAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE | MINISTRY DRAFT FAIR | FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

\*CONTACT YOUR DEACON FAMILY FOR MORE INFO\*

DEACON FAMILY FELLOWSHIP & DRAFT DAY MINISTRY FAIR— TODAY

Join us after service for our Draft Day Ministry Fair and Church Deacon Family Picnic. Sign-up for a new ministry and fellowship with your Deacon Families. For more information, contact Jeffrey Allen at [jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org)

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.

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](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/bible-study-notes)

CONTEXT MATTERS — SATURDAY OCT. 5TH

Join the Fellowship Ministry this coming Saturday 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](mailto:Keron.Brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org) Register Online at: <https://bit.ly/ContextMattersMusic>

AFTER SCHOOL LWCA/ABC

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/LWCAResister> or call (281) 445-9673.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Better Off”  
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

LWFC KIDZ

LEGACY

EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW

youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS

SUNDAY e 7:30 PM

Better Off  
Philippians 3:10-12

A. Finding His Strength (vs. 10-11):

1. 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 consistently living by faith every day.
2. 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).
3. 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).
4. 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).
5. The purpose of developing a spiritual understanding, living in the power of the Holy Spirit, and finding strength amid opposition or personal struggles is a lifetime goal to overcome the power of our sinful nature and live eternally blessed when we pass.
6. Living in surrender to the Word of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, committed to Christ no matter the obstacles, mature us to live as overcomers over the power of our sin nature (Philippians 3:12-16; Romans 6:6-11; 8:12-13).

B. Its Attainable (vs. 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.

DEACON FAMILY FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

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FAMILIES FOR  
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**TODAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE**  
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Women of Grace Ministry

**HEALTHCARE  
RESOURCE EVENT**

Take advantage of the resources and information presented  
by our church ministries to enhance your quality of life

**SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 5TH 9AM-NOON**

For more info contact the Women of Grace Ministry at [wog77088@gmail.com](mailto:wog77088@gmail.com)

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Grieving:** Melita Washington & family, Launette Chan & family, Patsy Moore & family, Elaine Bates & family, Robert James & family, Myrtle Nichols & family, Terrance Ford & family, Margaret Jefferson & family, and Cheryl Beal & 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, Rochelle Carter Brown, and Robert Edwards.

**Better  
Off**

**PHILIPPIANS 3:10-12**

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