

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

October 6, 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

Leadership Training
Saturday, October 26, 2024 8:30 a.m.
Calling all Elders, Deacons, Ministry Leaders and Coordinators join us for the last Leadership Training for the year so we can plan and align our efforts under the vision for Living Word Fellowship Church.
Register at <https://bit.ly/LeadershipOct2024>

LAST LEADERSHIP TRAINING OF 2024
Calling all elders, deacons, ministry leaders, coordinators and staff, join us for the last Leadership Training of 2024. Don’t miss this opportunity to collaborate, learn, grow and get prepared for all activities for the rest of 2024 and plan for 2025. Register at <https://bit.ly/LeadershipOct2024> or for more information, contact Pastor Duane Lawrence at (281)260-7402

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>

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 today, **Oct. 6th**, after service in the foyer. 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
SEPTEMBER 3RD - NOVEMBER 5TH
EVERY TUESDAY
BIBLE STUDY
1ST JOHN & ACTS
12 PM - 1ST JOHN
1 PM - ACTS
VIEW ALL BIBLE STUDY NOTES AT
<https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes>

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

FALL SKATE PARTY
NOVEMBER 2ND
12-3:30 P.M.
FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
SKATE CHAMPIONS ROLLER RINK
5504 Fellowship Ln, Spring, TX 77379
REGISTER ONLINE AT
<https://bit.ly/LEGITSkatingNov2024>
CONTACT Keron Brown AT
Keron.Brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org

SKATING PARTY FOR ALL AGES—11/2/2024
Join the L.E.G.I.T. Young Adults Ministry for a Skating Party for all ages. This Family event will be Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. at Skate Champions Roller Rink at 5504 Fellowship Ln, Spring, TX 77379. For more information contact Keron Brown at Keron.Brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org Register Online at: <https://bit.ly/LEGITSkatingNov2024>

AFTER SCHOOL
7880 W. Meador and Houston, TX 77088
Transportation Provided!
\$75 PER WEEK
(281) 260-7402
Register at <https://bit.ly/LWCAWordRegister>

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

“Bent Not Broken”
2 Corinthians 4:7-10

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

SERMON OUTLINE

Bent Not Broken
2 Corinthians 4:7-10

A. Surpassing Greatness (v. 7):

- 1. We can continuously count on the fact that we possess the exceptional blessing of all the Holy Spirit living in us (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Titus 3:4-6; Ephesians 5:15-18). Therefore we, who once were lost (Ephesians 2:11-19) now become persons who are of exceptional value for God and to each other.
- 2. Our ability to overcome obstacles, resist the attacks of Satan, experience the inner spiritual ability (1 John 4:4) in the face of dangers to walk in the supernatural strength of God is immeasurable. Paul so experienced living in this resurrection power (Philippians 3:10 – the Holy Spirit, Christ inheritance to us, Ephesians 1:13-14) was able to do ‘all things through Christ who continually kept strengthening him.’ (Philippians 4:13). It is the same Paul who says we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37).
- 3. All that we do, when we choose to rely on the inner strength the Lord provides (Ephesians 3:15-19) is energized by the Spirit of God whose permanent presence is the resilient force that leads and guides us no matter the obstacles we may encounter (John 15:5, 7-10).

B. Unbroken (vs. 8):

- 1. Despite all that we are equipped to overcome we are constantly going to experience sufferings that are so intense the pressure of the circumstances are going to press against our spirit (Psalm 34:17-19) doing everything possible to tear us down emotionally.
- 2. Even though we will experience suffering in every way we continually will not feel we are in a narrow room hemmed (a depressive state) because our circumstances are very painful. This is because of the ability the Lord provides within us to overcome obstacles (Hebrews 12:4 – powerful word, Philippians 4:4-8 – prayer, Hebrews 1:14 – angels who guard us).
- 3. There are times we repeatedly become doubtful, unsure of how to proceed when we encounter difficult circumstances. We do not need to continually feel like we are at utter loss and destitute because we have the treasure of the Holy Spirit powerfully living in us. It is He who is our peace if we remain determined to set our minds on the activity of God (Philippians 4:8-9).
- 4. Our commitment to live out our faith can cause others, as it was in the case of Paul, to intensely focus on aggressively remaining hostile and oppressive towards us (2 Corinthians 11:23-29). Even though this can be the case with the power that is of God, the continual presence of the Holy Spirit will provide us peace, because trials teach us perseverance (James 1:2-4) and bless us to win the ‘Crown of Life’ (James 1:12). We will never be forgotten because the Holy Spirit lives in us, Christ is at the right hand of God making intercession for us and is committed to keep His angels around us (Psalm 34:7; Hebrews 1:14), and as Paul stated, ‘nothing separates us from his love.’ (Romans 8:38-39)
- 5. There are times when life will continuously hit us hard even causing us bodily injury or emotional pain (2 Corinthians 11:22-29). Even though these incidents may be continuous, God's power will preserve us and protect our well-being so that it is impossible for us to come to ruin (Matthew 10:26-29).
- 6. Because we may all go through, due to our commitment to Christ incidents that cause physical pain, we can constantly carry about the same physical wounds that Christ bore. Paul was constantly being exposed to death.
- 7. This is the point of focus of our suffering. The more we are committed to obey Christ the more we die to ourselves (John 12:23-26), and sometimes the greater our suffering. The more we suffer while committing our lives to Christ the greater our transformation to like Christ; “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” (Colossians 3:1-4; NASU)
- 8. The life of Christ would become a vivid reality to all those around us so that we can say like Paul; “have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” (Galatians 2:20; NASU)



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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 CALL
Monday, October 7, 2024 7 p.m.

JOIN US FOR A CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER CALL

ZOOM MEETING ID: 776-2097-8265
Password: PRAY!

For More Information, Contact Tomitra Wiley at tomitraw@sbcglobal.net



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, 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, Annie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Vivian Phillips, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Janie Buchanan, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terence Ford and Robert Edwards.



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NOT BROKEN

2 Corinthians 4:7-10

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