

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

November 3, 2024

Dependent

Many times, people ask, how can I experience God? It is an interesting question because God is everywhere, all at the same time (omnipresent). It is like asking how can I experience the sun while standing in it. We can learn from several persons, one of whom is Paul because Paul said, "...I no longer live, it is Christ that lives within me..." (Galatians 2:20). Paul would also say he is drunk with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-18). This is not unique to Paul because Christ dwells in us as well (Ephesians 1:3-4; Titus 3:5).

How did Paul get here when he once struggled with sin and wished someone would deliver him from his sinful nature (Romans 7:14-25)? Paul was committed to renewing his mind from the traditional Jewish way of thinking, especially in relation to the law (Romans 12:2; 8:9-17).

This transforming experience caused Paul to depend more on the Spirit than on the flesh (Galatians 5:16-25). In this process, Paul became more conscious of his weaknesses, especially as he encountered numerous trials (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). Amid his trials, Paul's dependency on Christ demonstrated a complete reliance on the nature of Christ and His Word. His dependence on Christ meant Paul was convinced that he could rely on God's promises (2 Timothy 4:6-8) and "all things would work together for His good" (Romans 8:28; 1 Timothy 6:12). Especially since Christ is love and He is Lord, and nothing will separate us from His love so there is no way we would not be more than conquerors (Romans 8:37-39). So what Christ plans to accomplish amid trials is achieved (James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:3-9).

We cannot experience Christ and ourselves at the same time. Experiencing Christ is like jumping into a deep swimming pool. Swimming is required to enjoy the water. This is because of the nature of the water and our nature. When those two natures collide, swimming is demanded. Our nature and His nature are different; we are lost in sin (Luke 19:10, shaped in iniquity (Psalm 51:5), and Christ is holy. We can't come to holiness on our own (Ephesians 2:8-10; works cannot save us). Our only hope is to trust His Word and His love for us and be transformed. The more we do this the more we die to ourselves, mentally and emotionally (overcome fear, anxiety, and doubt), as our dependency on Christ makes us more spiritual. He is a Spirit being, so we experience Christ.

"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 3:2-4; Matthew 6:22-24; 1 John 2:15-17; NASU)



UPCOMING Events



WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE THE BOOKS OF 1ST JOHN & ACTS
Join us for a new Bible Study Series September 3rd—November 19th 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



VETERANS BRUNCH—SAT. NOV. 9TH 10 AM
Attention Living Word Fellowship Veterans! The Veterans Faith Initiative in collaboration with LWFC will host a Veterans Appreciation Brunch in honor of your service to our country. Please join us for food, fun, and fellowship for the purpose of restored camaraderie and creation of new or renewed friendships in service. Please register at <https://bit.ly/VeteransBrunch2024> For more information contact Deacon Reginald Parker at (832) 791-2614



THANKSGIVING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Please sign up to Volunteer for the Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway on November 24, 2024 & The Thanksgiving Feast on Sunday, November 25, 2024 after ONE SERVICE at 9:30 a.m. For More information contact Keron brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



LEGACY YOUTH SENIOR PARENT MEETING
Attention parents of Legacy Youth Seniors in high school, join us for a parent meeting so we can go over all the scheduled events we have for our seniors this year! For more information contact Jordan Washington at legacyyouth@lwfellowshipchurch.org



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

"Tap In"
2 Corinthians 3:4-6

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

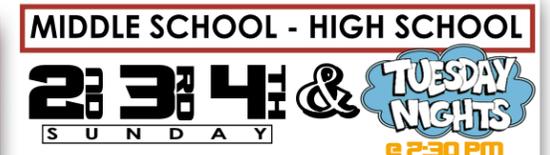
Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

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



Tap In
2 Corinthians 3:4-6

A. His Strength (v. 4):

1. Because Paul's ministry has significantly impacted the hearts of the Corinthians (3:1-4), Paul states that his complete reliance and total dependence resulted from who Christ is for the glory of God (Colossians 3:17).
2. Everything Paul did that bore fruit in the lives of the Corinthians was because of who Christ is. This is what leads them to experience the influence of the power of the supremacy of God in their lives.
3. When considering all that the Lord has done in the hearts of the Corinthians, pleasing God in this manner was not something that Paul could have done by himself.
4. When Paul gave what took place serious contemplation, he acknowledged that nothing took place because of who he is.
5. The ability to function at a high level of sufficiency only occurred because of God's powerful influence in and through Paul's life.

B. Fill Up (v. 6):

1. The powerful influence of God, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit in Paul's life, empowered him to be competent as a minister.
2. Paul describes himself as a slave for the purposes of Christ, who is the Helper of God.
3. To only possess the Law by being well versed in the Law only exposes the sin in our lives (Romans 3:19-20), and the wages of sin is death.
 - a) The legalists, of course, told people that any person could obey the Law and become spiritual. A legalistic ministry has a way of inflating the egos of people. When you emphasize the grace of God, you must tell people that they are lost sinners who cannot save themselves. Paul's testimony was, "But by the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Cor. 15:10). No one is sufficient of himself to minister to the hearts of people. That sufficiency can only come from God (Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 638). Victor Books).
4. Christ came to give life and life abundantly (John 10:10). The Spirit, who is the Helper of Christ (John 14:16-17), works within us 'both to will and do for His good pleasure' (Philippians 2:13). So continually the Holy Spirit, because of the work that God blessed Paul to do in these believer's lives, transforms their lives to experience all that eternal life provides as result of Christ death and resurrection.
 - a) The second stage of renewal is the progressive transformation of believers into the image of Christ as they gaze on and then reflect the glory of the Lord, this whole process being the work of the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18). This is a renewal of the mind (Rom. 12:2) or the attitude of the mind (Eph. 4:23) and corresponds to the strengthening (Eph. 3:16) or renewal (2 Cor. 4:16) of the inner person by the Spirit (Harris, M. J. (2005). *The Second Epistle to the Corinthians: a commentary on the Greek text* (pp. 273-274). W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co.; Paternoster Press).

NOVEMBER 23, 2024 THE REACH

THANKSGIVING
Deacon Family Sign-Up

SIGN UP FOR BASKET ITEMS 

<https://bit.ly/3BCd3Df>

7350 W. TC JESTER BLVD. HOUSTON, TX 77088

Friendsgiving
LEGIT YOUNG ADULTS

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 9TH
STARTING AT 4PM

OPEN MIC | FOOD | FELLOWSHIP | GAMES

Registration Required at <https://bit.ly/LEGITFriendsgiving2024>
For more information contact Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Phillip Baillou & family, Mary Wheatley & family, Ashley Gipson & family, Roderick Williams & family, Sylvia Edwards & family, Curtis Wiley & family, the family of Birdie Williams, and Olivia Hamilton & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, 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, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Be-atrice Williams, Jessie Austin, and Evelyn Harvey.

TAP IN

2 CORINTHIANS 3:4-6

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