

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 27, 2025
The Undeniable Truth

I have always wondered how Israel, especially those who are well versed in the scriptures, could see good in Christ every day while needing so much, at the height of the manifestation of His supernatural power (raise Lazarus from the dead after four days), do everything possible to kill Him viciously? You would think that they would appreciate Him so much that they would do everything possible to make Him King, but to the contrary, even Judas, who saw Him first hand sought to betray Him. I also wonder how a blind man, Bartimaeus, when Jesus was leaving Jericho (Mark 11:46-52), cried out with such faith that Jesus, healing the blind man, would say, “Your faith has made you well?” He did not say this to the crowd pressing against Him.

How can the disciples, after the resurrection, hear from many eyewitnesses who reported to them that Jesus was alive and choose not to believe so determinatively that Christ; “Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.” (Mark 16:14; NASU) Jewish leaders did not lack information (John 5:39-40), and the blind man did not have as much information as the disciples, who had the best teacher and information from credible witnesses after His resurrection.

We can be exposed to the Word every day and still remain the same. We can become just as hostile as the Jewish leaders (Romans 8:5-9) or as hard-hearted as the disciples. Surrendering our hearts to Christ is led by the Spirit. He came to guide us to become just like Christ (John 14:16-17; Galatians 2:20). Transformation takes place when we completely trust what we hear and apply it to our day-to-day lives (James 1:21-26); in other words, “faith without works is dead” (James 2:14-26). Common sense, all by itself, can lead us to a sinful lifestyle (Proverbs 3:5-6) which in turn shapes our hearts (Ephesians 4:17-21) to become hard and a mindset that is callous. We have the potential of acting just like the Jewish leaders and the disciples and not like Bartimaeus. He was blind and poor but rich in faith. We can go to church, but are we taking church home with us and applying it to our day-to-day experiences?

We have a lot of help. The Holy Spirit came to guide us to truth (John 16:13), remind us of what we have studied (John 14:26), make what we know understandable (1 Corinthians 2:10-15), convict us when we disobey God (John 16:7-11) when we renew our minds and obey Him, He transforms our hearts (Romans 12:2; Philippians 2:12-13) and when we persist in this manner He provide us wisdom as we become more like Christ (Ephesians 5:15-18).

When we live in the light, we become the light (Matthew 5:13-16; 1 John 1:5-7).



UPCOMING Events



LEGACY YOUTH STAFF & VOLUNTEERS MEETING — TUESDAY APRIL 29TH
Meet us this upcoming Tuesday, April 29th via Zoom or in the Youth Room at 6PM for our monthly meeting. We’ll discuss important updates, upcoming events, and opportunities to serve. For more details contact Angela Holmes at angholmes32@gmail.com



COVENANT KEEPERS MARRIAGE MINISTRY RETREAT — MAY 16TH-18TH, 2025
Join the Marriage Ministry May 16th-18th for a “Weekend to Remember” presented by Family Life at the Houston Marriot in Sugar Land. Register at https://events.familylife.com/eventHouston2025. For more information on the LWFC Marriage Ministry email lwfcmarrigemin@gmail.com.



WOMEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST—MAY 3RD
Join the Women’s Ministry and Prayer Ministry Saturday May 3rd, at 9 a.m. for their annual prayer breakfast. Cost is \$10 for this event. Register online at bit.ly/4ifednZ or on the LWFC Events Page. Email wog77088@gmail.com for more information.



SUMMER ADVENTURE 2025
Calling all young explorers, artists, and scientists! ABC Word Academy and LWCA are bringing learning and unforgettable experiences to life with our action-packed Summer Adventure Program including NASA & STEM Explorations, art classes, performing arts, and outdoor fun. Register your children, ages 4-12 today! Call (281) 445-9673 or register online at http://tinyurl.com/LWFCSummerCamp.



JOIN THE LEGACY YOUTH BAND APP
Legacy Youth parents and youth, join the BAND APP to stay connected throughout the year ahead. Use the link below to join: https://band.us/n/a8adA2G6V4fdO
For more information, contact Angela Holmes at angholmes32@gmail.com



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Diligent”
2 Peter 1:8-11

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 3 4 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY 7:30 PM

Diligent
2 Peter 1:8-11

A. The Race to Run (v. 8)

- 1. Faith, moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.
- 2. When we view the Word of God as sufficient (2 Peter 1:3-4) for every decision, it’s challenging to sort through our godly character continuously superabounds so that we walk more in the Spirit less in the flesh (Ephesians 3:16-21; 5:15-18).
- 3. When believers abound in their spiritual maturity, they position themselves to never become unprofitable or inactive in their Christian faith. They are continuously engaged in the Word of God (does not return void; Isaiah 55:11 and is powerful; Hebrews 12:4), producing unlimited spiritual growth. This person also becomes a greater asset for the kingdom agenda of God. Peter who once denied Christ (did not accept what Christ was teaching) now an apostle, led the development of the New Testament church and is a writer of three books in the Bible and will sit on the twelve thrones of Israel forever (Matthew 19:27-30). This is the direct purpose and result for all believers to reflect on the Word of God for all their decision-making (2 Peter 1:3-4).
- 4. A believer who has genuinely accepted Christ, therefore, has received the Holy Spirit, must willfully, determinatively decide to apply the Word of God to every issue their encounter; whether this includes praying for wisdom (James 1:5-9) or seeking godly advice (Proverbs 11:14). This enables them not to live a carnal Christian life. Their spiritually maturing life continuously produces the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:19-26).
- 5. We develop Christian attributes because we have become bountiful in our spiritual maturity (2 Peter 1:5-7). This occurred because we determinatively decided to apply the Word of God to the day-to-day issues we encounter. This process empowers us to become more and more productive in our spiritual transformation, which causes us to experience a greater understanding of spiritual truths (Ephesians 4:16-21; Romans 12:2; Hebrews 5:14), strengthening our faith. The maturation process provides us with greater intimacy in our walk with the One who has all authority, power, and control over all circumstances. We, therefore, become overcoming conquerors especially since, during this process, nothing separates us from the love of God (Romans 8:37-39).

B. The Mindset to Avoid (v. 9)

- 1. Some believers make absolutely no attempt to apply themselves to the spiritual maturation process described in verse 8. They become lukewarm or dull of hearing like Laodiceans or the believers in the Book of Hebrews. They come to church with no desire to engage in the spiritual developmental processes of the church. If they do try and it does not meet their expectations, they do not engage. They claim to know a lot while demonstrating they are infant Christians (1 Corinthians 3:1-2; Hebrews 5:11-13).
- 2. When believers become unable to discern spiritual things, they continually deteriorate in spiritual maturity. They become continuously more committed to a philosophical (not daily practicing the application of God’s Word) approach to issues they may encounter, which in turn limits them to a short-term approach to resolving issues. They entangle themselves needing immediate gratification rather than how their decisions affect their lives eternally.
- 3. After seeing all that Christ was accomplishing, Peter became short-sighted, telling Christ He would not die (Matthew 16:21-23). Peter also saw Christ’s popularity rise and desire for Christ to establish His kingdom on earth (Mark 10:41-44) and was upset that he had given up everything to follow Christ (Matthew 19:27-30). Peter had to learn to remain sober in God’s Word (1 Peter 1:13-16), not become swallowed up in pride (1 Peter 5:4-5), but remain firm in the faith (1 Peter 5:6-11).

C. Keep Practicing (vs. 10-11)

- 1. Because all believers are susceptible to becoming ‘blind and short sighted as Peter did,’ we must all make haste zealously (2 Timothy 2:20-26) endeavoring each day to search the scriptures so that by practicing the Word, we experience the powerful influence of the life of the Holy Spirit so the sinful nature of the flesh no longer overcomes us (Romans 6-8; Philippians 2:12-13). Even Christ, who is the Word, at the age of twelve, demonstrated passion for the Word of God that impacted His development (Luke 2:42-47; 52) and a zeal for the temple (John 2:17).

- 2. God offered salvation to everyone (John 3:16), but those who accepted Him (John 6:44) intimately experienced His selection into His eternal kingdom (Ephesians 1:3-14). It is such a blessing to be provided eternal life (especially as a Gentile); it should excite every believer to make every effort continuously (this should be our passion) to chase after God (Luke 12:31-34).
- 3. On their own initiative, a believer must determinatively decide to apply God’s Word repetitively every moment of every day. This is the mindset that Christ challenged His disciples to maintain when, before He was crucified. He told them to abide in His Word because this allows them to experience His objective, a friendship (John 15:1-17), and “life and life abundantly.”
- 4. God’s Word, all by itself, never returns void (Isaiah 55:11); it’s true (John 14:16-17; Hebrews 6:18), powerful (Hebrews 4:12), and enduring (1 Peter 1:24-25). Therefore, those who willfully decide to abide in it can never have disastrous lives or not be able to work out their salvation because it becomes impossible to fall short of achieving God’s standards and, therefore, sin.
- 5. When a believer is purposeful about their spiritual growth, as described above so that they experience “life and life abundantly” (John 10:10) and are friends of Christ (John 15:13), on the day these believers arrive before the Lord God, they will be a tremendous

Scan For Full Notes





WOMEN OF GRACE

COMMUNITY SERVICE
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH H.O.P.E. 432

JUNE 7th | 9AM-1PM

Bread of Life
2019 Crawford St.
Houston, TX 77002

LAST DAY TO REGISTER ONLINE IS 4/30

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT WOG77088@GMAIL.COM
AND REGISTER AT <https://bit.ly/3GhH6m7>



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Joyce Newsome & family, Alton Smith & family, Evelyn Harvey & family, Latricia White & family, Beverly Shaw & family, Leon Brooks & family, Jeffrey Allen & family, Cloteil Bolden, Mary Ngwazini, Orelee Fields, and Vivian Jackson & 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, Elsie Starks, Elaine Merchant, Beverly Woods, Doris Blocker, Pat Deckard, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Janie Buchanan, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, Evelyn Harvey, Shinell Clark, Elsie Starks, Sandra Phillips, Ruth Cranford, and Eugene Reese.

