

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

June 1, 2025

A Book of Promises

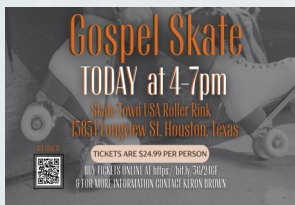
A particular prisoner, most cunning and brutal, was singularly repulsive even compared to others. He had been known for this daring and for the utter absence of all feeling when committing acts of violence. The chaplain had spoken to him several times but had not succeeded even in getting an answer. The man was sullenly set against all instruction. At last, he expressed a desire for a certain book, but as it was not in the library, the chaplain pointed to the Bible, which was placed in his cell, saying, "Did you ever read that Book?" He gave no answer but looked at the good man as if he would kill him. The question was kindly repeated, and he was assured that he would find it well worth reading. "Mister," said the convict, "you would not ask me such a question if you knew who I am. What have I to do with a book of that sort?" The chaplain answered, "I know all about you, and that's why I think the Bible is the book for you." "It would do me no good," he cried. "I am past all feeling." Doubling his fist, he struck the cell's iron door and said, "My heart is as hard as that iron; nothing in any book will ever touch me."

"Well," said the chaplain, "you want a new heart? Did you ever read the covenant of grace?" The man answered sullenly by inquiring what he meant by such talk. His friend replied, "Listen to these words: "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you" (Ezekiel 36:26). The words struck the man with amazement. He asked to have the passage found for him in the Bible. He read the words repeatedly; when the chaplain returned to him the next day, the wild beast was tamed. "Oh, sir," he said, "I never dreamed of such a promise! I never believed it possible that God would speak in such a way to men. If He gives me a new heart, it will be a miracle of mercy, and yet I think He will work that miracle upon me, for the very hope of a new nature is beginning to touch me as I never was touched before." (From Illustrations of Bible Truths Copyright © 1995, 1998 by AMG International, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)


The Psalmist said, "Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end. Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart. Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared. Take away the disgrace I dread, for your laws are good. How I long for your precepts! In your righteousness preserve my life." (Psalm 119:33-40; NIV)




UPCOMING Events




GOSPEL SKATE TONIGHT —4-7PM
Join us tonight at Skate Town USA Roller Rink at 13831 Longview St. Houston, TX for Gospel Skate from 4-7PM. Buy tickets online at bit.ly/3GZ24GF for \$24.99 each (skate rental included). For more information contact Keron Brown at Keron.Brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org.




SPIRITUAL LIFE CONFERENCE—JUNE 3RD-5TH
Join us every night at 6:30PM, June 3rd-5th for Grow & Glow, our Spiritual Life Conference. We have guest speaker, Dr. Wayne Cooper to bless us with the Word. LWFC Kidz will also meet nightly for Family Bible Encounter. Come experience worship with us!



YOUTH & CHILDREN BIBLE ENCOUNTER!
June 3rd-5th will be our Annual Family Bible Encounter. Food will be served each night between 5:30PM-6:20PM (first come, first served) followed by songs, Bible lessons, and arts and crafts. **Registration is imperative at <https://bit.ly/45nujJa> or contact Delicia Parker for more info at deeparker1121@gmail.com**



FUN FRIDAY—JUNE 6TH
Let's end Family Bible Encounter Week with a bang! We'll have a water slide, food, and games outside for children! Adults join us for a panel discussion featuring our Pastors. The fun starts at 5:30PM, remember to bring your towel and dry clothing. **For more information contact Delicia Parker at deeparker1121@gmail.com or 281-260-7402**



NOW HIRING SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS!
Are you a college student, recent college graduate, or looking for a summer job? ABC Academy is looking to hire Summer Camp Counselors. **If you're interested, please contact Mrs. White at (281) 445-9673 or request an interview online.**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Opening Song
- Communion
- Welcome Video
- Praise & Worship
- Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

- Visitor's Welcome
- Special Music
- "Flip the Switch"

Part Two


Ephesians 5:8-14

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

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 e 7:30 PM

Flip the Switch
Part Two
Ephesians 5:8-14

A. Be the Light (vs. 8-10)

1. The believers of Ephesus were continuously steadfastly aligned with the works of evil spirits and the devil because they were in a state of spiritual darkness (Eph. 2:1-2, 2 Cor. 4:4). They desired to remain faithfully engaged with the works of evil forces (John 6:44; Eph. 2:11-12).
2. Presently, those who are saved through faith (Eph. 2:8-10) are provided the ability (Eph. 1:3-4) to understand the proclamation of the gospel, progressively mature to understand the true meaning of God’s Word for the purpose of being transformed to become “sons of light.” (Luke 16:8). The Word of God then becomes a “lamp unto their feet and a light unto their path.” (Psalm 119:105).
3. Because moving from darkness to light is emphasized in this verse, we must make it a habit to develop a lifestyle that ‘displays the influence and direction of the Holy Spirit’ by practicing daily submission to the authority of scripture (Eph. 5:15-18).
4. ‘Fruit represents our spiritual character based on the work of the vinedresser and the vine (Christ) in our lives (John 15:1-13; Eph. 3:16-19). Light describes our spiritual transformation. Once saved from a desire to do evil (Eph. 2:1-2; darkness), the Spirit of God empowers us to understand and apply the Word of God. So, when we demonstrate the fruit of light, it means our character has been transformed into the nature of Christ (2 Peter 1:3-4) based on the influence of the Holy Spirit so that we manifest the fruit of the Spirit and develop a clear understanding of how to apply the Word of God to the day-to-day issues they encounter. It is an outward (light) expression of the inward transformational work of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 2:20).
5. When we develop into the ‘fruit of the light’ the Spirit influences us to look out for the welfare of others (Phil. 2:1-5) as we commit to conform their lives to the divine standards of God. While visibly living out these principles daily, our maturation brings God glory.
6. Being transformed from darkness to light is a brand-new creation; it’s a new life to learn – going from the old man to the new man (Ephesians 4:20-23). The learning process requires a willingness to renew our minds (Romans 12:2) and focus on “presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice.” (Romans 12:1) each day (Romans 6:12-14). This attitude continuously generates a need to reverence the Lord as we live each day. This is a constant transformation from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity so that we “walk in the light as He is in the light.” (1 John 1:5-7)

B. No Secrets (vs. 11-12):

1. When we engage in different efforts of our old friends (1 Cor. 15:33) that are representative of our past, this can corrupt us (Eph. 4:17-20; 26-32), causing us to go back to our old way of living (Eph. 3-6; Paul is talking to believers) rather than being wise which shapes us to become drunk with the Spirit (Eph. 5:15-20).
2. Because we are committed to walking in the light, we must be willing to continuously be open to examining our lives and submit to the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
3. The main point here is that it is unacceptable to continuously verbally communicate any reference to actions that are a part of the sinful life we once lived.
4. It is especially important not to continuously engage in activities that are purposefully structured to be concealed or covered up so that no one knows what took place.
5. Judas secretly operated and brought darkness into his life.

C. Keep All the Lights On (vs. 13):

1. What was done in darkness, God’s divine light, will, in His time, be continuously exposed. This is why there is no point in participating in secret acts we believe we can cover up (Luke 8:17).
2. Everything exposed by divine revelation has absolutely no way of being concealed ever again. This is because the light is unquenchable and based on the righteousness of God (done by the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God), who is omnipresent and omniscient.
3. The message is for all who may have come to the light but are now in a lame, lukewarm walk with the Lord, an insensibility to the Lord’s Word while conforming to the ways of the world. These believers must continuously stop living in a carnal indifferent manner described in Eph. 4:17-5:6. We must speak this with authority.
4. We are commanded to make up our minds and craft the initiative to stop living based on our feelings and our way of thinking, practicing the nature of our old selves, and go back to walking under the influence of the Holy Spirit, who poured into us at the point of salvation (Eph. 1:3-4).
5. When we willfully, habitually decide to stop succumbing to the influences of the flesh, Christ, our anointed High priest, will immediately convict us. The Word of God illuminates us so that it penetrates our hearts (Eph. 4:16-19), continues the workmanship He began (Eph. 2:8-10; Phil. 1:6) and keeps stimulating us to spiritual maturity (Eph. 4:12-13, 16; 5:15-18).



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: The family of Janie Buchanan, Donnie Emerson & family, and Michelle Stewart & 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, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Patsy Gatterson, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Evelyn Harvey, Shinell Clark, Elsie Starks, Sandra Phillips, Ruth Cranford, Eugene Reese, Donna Ross, and Sylvia



FLIP
THE
SWITCH
PART TWO

Ephesians 5:8-14