

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

July 27, 2025

Spirit In Us



It is very easy for us to rely on past experiences, whether good or bad, essential concepts learned from books we have read or classes we have taken. Sometimes, it is none of the above; it is how we were taught that church is supposed to be or how experiencing God can be. These desires can lead us to a point where we become more committed to a search for God than to anything else. Everything described above, and more, is dependent on our knowledge base, which is built on our experiences. It is not a reliance on the deposit of the Holy Spirit in us. The Holy Spirit has made our bodies His dwelling place (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Titus 3:4-8).

It is one thing to know about His presence, and it is a whole different mindset to focus on making His presence a living reality each day (1 John 4:4). It is not that the Spirit does not know we want to live by the flesh (Romans 8:5-12). He understands that a battle is going on (Galatians 5:16-19). It is essential to acknowledge that He utilizes this to His advantage in shaping our lives to experience God daily. Here is how this works:

1. When we are paralyzed by fear or anxiety He reminds us of His Word (John 14:26) so that we can develop the discipline to overcome our fears as He illuminates the Word, in order to understand how it works (2 Timothy 1:6-7; 1 Corinthians 2:10-15; David when confronting Goliath believed God for His Word while the others allowed their fears to cause them to neglect God’s Word – David saved a nation).
2. Sometimes we come to church and think that the pastor is a fly on the wall, preaching specifically to us, or we turn on the radio and the preacher is talking directly to us. This is the Holy Spirit guiding us to the truth (John 16:13) and reminding us of the Word. The Spirit leading us to the truth is crucial for experiencing the power, joy, and blessings of Christ’s life within us, so that we can become Christ’s friends (John 15:13; it is for this reason that He died).
3. When we demonstrate that we are leaning towards the flesh, the Spirit convicts us (John 16:7-11) to turn us towards God.
4. Our growth enables us to understand God’s Word more deeply because we are now practicing His Word more frequently (Philippians 1:9-11). As we practice God’s Word, our appetite for it grows, and the more it grows, the more the Spirit works in and through us (Ephesians 3:14-21).

The Spirit of God’s influence is what moves us from spiritual infancy to maturity. When we are mature, we no longer live according to the desires of the flesh, because we have learned to deny ourselves and follow Christ with all our hearts (Galatians 2:20).

UPCOMING Events



YOUTH GOSPEL COMPETITION
We’re encouraging our youth & children to pick up a different skill this summer! If you know a child or teen that is passionate about a career or future in music or dance this youth month is for you! While partnering with different foundations in the Houston area, Living Word hopes to sow into the lives of our children in a major way. Register at bit.ly/GospelCompetition



DESPERATE FOR JESUS 2025—
Join the Women of Grace, Saturday, August 2nd for a Watch Party! Experience the Desperate for Jesus Conference together via livestream in the Legacy Sanctuary. Event cost is \$10 and registration is required! **For more information on this event and how you can become a part of the Women’s Ministry please email wog77088@gmail.com.**



BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE
We are now accepting school supplies and backpacks for back-to-school. This year we are partnering to give 50 backpacks to 3 schools in our community; Highland Heights Elementary, Garcia Middle School, and Eisenhower High School. For more information please contact Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING — JULY 2025
Join us every Tuesday throughout the month of July for CFCL. Noon Classes will focus on Spiritual Struggles, while 7PM Classes will tackle a wide variety of topics including Spiritual Growth & Formation and much more. This is an awesome time for you to gain wisdom and ask tough questions. **Contact Keron Brown for more information.**



Families, join us September 19-20 for Restore Us, LWFC’S first family conference. The cost of the conference is \$30 per adult. There will be small group break-out for the entire family sessions, and general sessions presented by Rev. Jordan Washington, Ikki Soma, Pierre Cannings, Ph.D., and many more phenomenal speakers. **For more information contact Jeffrey Allen.**



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
- “Be Strong”
- Hebrews 5:11-14

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

2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS

SUNDAY e 7:30 PM

Be Strong
Hebrews 5:11-14

A. We Must Not Become Dull of Hearing (vs. 11-13):

1. These believers, who were once growing and maturing in Christ, have stagnated in their growth, making it continuously difficult for the writer, who struggles to verbalize what he needs to teach them.
2. It is difficult to explain what was once easier to explain, because these believers have become lazy or sluggish in applying themselves to hearing and obeying God's Word.
3. Possibly two years have passed, and these believers are still consumed with their struggles. The writer wants these believers to understand that they are obligated (13:7-9), even indebted to the Lord, to be continuously engaged in shaping the will of those who had turned their lives over to the Lord that were attending the church (10:23-26).
4. Because their trials have continuously made them apathetic and even want to give up (10:35-39). The only power they have is the Word of God; it has become absolutely necessary for someone who is a skilled master teacher to dedicate themselves to expounding the divine will of God to all of them.
5. They have digressed (back to when they first got saved) in their spiritual walk, thus increasing the intensity of the trials, because He who is in them (1 John 4:4) was not operating at full mass. This causes them to want to give up (10:35-39), turning away from the Lord and creating the potential for them being in a state of apostasy (Hebrews 6:1-8).
6. 'Solid food' pertains to a person possessing all the Word it takes to remain firm in their faith, steadfast no matter the circumstances they may experience; their trials definitely mature them rather than defeat them
7. A believer who consistently, habitually puts themselves in a position, whether mentally or by choice of preachers, to only receive a liquid diet of God's Word will not develop a life of faith (without faith there is no reward; 11:6). This is because the person does not have the substance to sustain them in trials, and the Lord uses trials to mature them (James 1:2-4).
8. A person who has committed themselves to only milk is unskilled in the application of God's Word because they lack the true knowledge of the deeper meanings of the Word. When they encounter various circumstances, they lack the inner capacity to conform to the movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives because it is only through the application of God's Word that our senses become trained (5:14). Instead of living out their faith, leading to righteousness, they respond in the flesh.
9. In chapter 4:12, the Word is what is powerful. Milky believers do not engage the Word or do not know how to apply it skillfully.

B. Eat Well and Exercise Continuously (vs. 14; Romans 12:1):

1. Solid food is for the mature because it represents a believer who remains steadfast in living out their faith, no matter what they encounter. This is a person who keeps the faith in an effort to accomplish all the goals God has set for their life, whether that is within their family, church family, their workplace or community. They are committed, like those in chapter 11 of this book, to "fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:6-8). Christ would say "I must be about My Father's business.
2. This is the entire purpose for challenging these believers in their faith. They must not allow their trials to sidetrack them so that they go back to Judaism in order to protect themselves from those who were attacking them (10:35-39) or forsake coming to church (10:25) because they have lost 'confidence' in the faith (10:19), are no longer 'sincere' about their faith (milky; 10:22), because they are wavering in their convictions (10:23) while refusing to encourage those who need to be 'loved' and do 'good deeds.' (10:24) If they were to continue in this manner they would lack the capacity to skillfully (wisdom. Col. 1:9-12) apply God's Word each day.
3. These believers, for the sake of maturing in Christ, are purposeful in daily exercising their faith by applying the Word to everything they encounter each day.
4. These believers who are committed to maturing in Christ are determinatively engaged in discipling their mind and their body to vigorously, based on the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, keep the faith no matter the circumstances with a view to godliness (Hebrews 12:4-12; 1 Tim. 4:7). "but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified." (1 Cor. 9:27; NASU)
5. A believer who is accustomed to the word of righteousness desires solid food because they are determined to discipline their mind and body to determinatively apply God's Word to every encounter so that they are "careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil." (Eph 5:15-16; NASU) They are more filled with the Spirit than controlled by the flesh.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Michelle Stewart & family, Maryland Flax & family, and Reginald Mitchell & 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, 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, Jessie Austin, Evelyn Harvey, Shinell Clark, Elsie Starks, Sandra Phillips, Ruth Cranford, Eugene Reese, Donna Ross, and Sylvia Edwards.

