

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 17, 2025

Deeply Rooted

Pouring concrete is tough, demanding work. Before anything else, a strong, stable foundation must be carefully prepared. Once the concrete is poured, it must be shaped quickly and precisely — because once it is set, changes can only be made by breaking apart what's already there. But when it's done right, the result is lasting—a solid footing that can endure far beyond the lifetime of the one who poured it. Done poorly, however, the flaws soon show crumbling surfaces, cracks in the structure, shifting walls and floors. Raising children is much the same.

Before a baby arrives, parents should lay a strong foundation—rooted in a healthy marriage and a shared readiness for the responsibilities of parenthood. Once the child is born, those early years are like wet concrete. Parents must be fully present, offering their time and attention more than material things. It's in the small, daily choices—the thousands of repeated actions and gentle corrections, the steady prayers, and the faithful instruction in God's truth—that we help shape a life. And if the mold is set with care and love, the result can last not just a lifetime, but into eternity.

Consider these timeless principles as you nurture your child (author unknown):

- If a child lives with constant criticism, they learn to condemn.
- If a child lives with hostility, they learn to fight.
- If a child lives with fear, they learn to be anxious.
- If a child lives with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.
- If a child lives with jealousy, they learn to feel guilty.
- If a child lives with encouragement, they learn confidence.
- If a child lives with tolerance, they learn patience.
- If a child lives with praise, they learn to appreciate.
- If a child lives with acceptance, they learn to love
- If a child lives with approval, they learn self-respect.
- If a child lives with recognition, they learn to have ambition.
- If a child lives with fairness, they learn justice.
- If a child lives with honesty, they learn the truth.
- If a child lives with sincerity, they learn to trust.
- If a child lives with love, they learn that the world is a beautiful place.

Children are a gift from God to us.  
How we raise them—that is our gift back to Him.



UPCOMING Events



**YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MONTH — AUGUST 2025**  
August is Youth Month. Encourage your youth to get involved in the Youth Praise Team, Urban Missions Team, Puppet Ministry, Drill Team and other Youth Ministries. Contact Brandon Crenshaw or Ms. Sylvia Edwards for details on Children's & Youth Month.



**YOUTH CHOIR—**  
Youth, do you have a passion for singing and music? Rehearsals are every Thursday at 6PM. Sign up online or contact Chris Kinsey or Melita Washington at [melita.washington@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:melita.washington@lwfellowshipchurch.org).



**GOSPEL TALENT SHOW—AUGUST 30TH**  
Do you know a child between the ages of 8-18 that loves to sing, dance, or plays an instrument? This opportunity is perfect for them! Sign up for the 2025 Unplugged & Unashamed Gospel Talent Show. The deadline to register has been extended until spaces are filled. Cash Prizes will be given away! Sign up at [bit.ly/GospelCompetition](https://bit.ly/GospelCompetition) and contact Ms. Sylvia or Kathy Williamson for more details.



**SHORT FILM BY NEHEMIAH JOHNSON— SAT. AUGUST 30TH**  
Join us at 1:00 PM on Saturday August 30th for the premiere of Nehemiah Johnson's Short Film, Dreams of Nothing. A gripping film about a young ladies chase to find her purpose while staying true to her faith. We hope to see you there!



**Deacon Family Fellowship & Ministry Fair —**  
Lets end Youth Month 2025 with a bang on Sunday, August 31st. We'll have our next Deacon Family Fellowship and Ministry Fair! Join us for one service at 9:30AM and then fellowship, eat, and learn about a new ministry at Living Word. Contact your Deacon family for information on how to serve and .



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


"Make Up Your Mind"  
**Joshua 24:2-7; 14-18**

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 4:15 & TUESDAY NIGHTS**

SUNDAY e 7:30 PM



Make Up Your Mind  
Joshua 24:2-7; 14–18

I. The Fear of the Lord is the Foundation for Faithfulness (v. 14)

A. Fear is the First Step

1. Fear Leads to Deeper Faith

*Fear* - An awe and respect that acknowledges God’s unmatched authority and your absolute dependence.

2. Worship God Wholeheartedly

*Sincerity* - blameless, undivided loyalty

*Truth*- means faithfulness to God’s revealed will

a. Worship must be both *pure* in motive and *right* in method.

b. Our lifestyle must match God’s revealed standards, not just what we feel is right.

c. 4 areas to monitor the fear of the Lord in your life:

i. **Trust** – God’s Word over my feelings.

ii. **Service** – God’s glory over my comfort.

iii. **Obedience** – God’s will over my wants.

iv. **Worship** – God’s greatness over my busyness

3. Your History is Not Your Destiny, Break the Cycle

*Idol*- Anything you refuse to surrender in our pursuit of God; An idol is anything you have to check with before you say “yes” to God.

a. Identify and eliminate any old “family idols” generational patterns, priorities, or pursuits you’ve inherited that keep you from God.

4. Without Fear We Will Be Unfaithful to God

*Disagreeable*- considered worthless, undesirable, or not worth the effort in the eyes of the hearer.

a. Guard Your Heart of Against 2 Temptations

i. **They Lost Sight of God** – When you stop looking at Him, you start drifting from Him.

ii. **They Valued Idols More Than God** – Whatever you prize above Him will eventually replace Him.

5. Commit with certainty

a. Choose with a sense of urgency

b. Follow your convictions not the consensus

c. Commitment isn’t built on convenience; it’s built on conviction.

II. God’s Track Record Demands My Total Commitment (vs. 17-18)

A. Remember Who Brought You Out (v.17a)

*Deliverance* - God brought them out of Egypt and out of slavery.

1. When God brings you out, He’s not just changing your location, He’s changing your identity.

2. If you forget who brought you out, you’ll drift back into what He brought you from.

3. God delivers you from something for something.

B. Recognize His Power and Protection (v.17b)

*Preservation* - He performed great signs and kept them through the journey.

1. God’s power isn’t just what got you started it’s what keeps you going.

2. You don’t even know the number of attacks God has blocked on your behalf.

C. Rejoice in His Victory (v.18a)

*Victory* - He drove out nations before them, including the Amorites.

1. *Every enemy that fell was proof that God’s promise stands taller than any obstacle than any obstacle.*

D. Set Your Heart on Service (v.18b)

*Devotion*- “We will serve the LORD, for He is our God.”

1. When you truly know Him, service isn’t a duty it’s your declaration

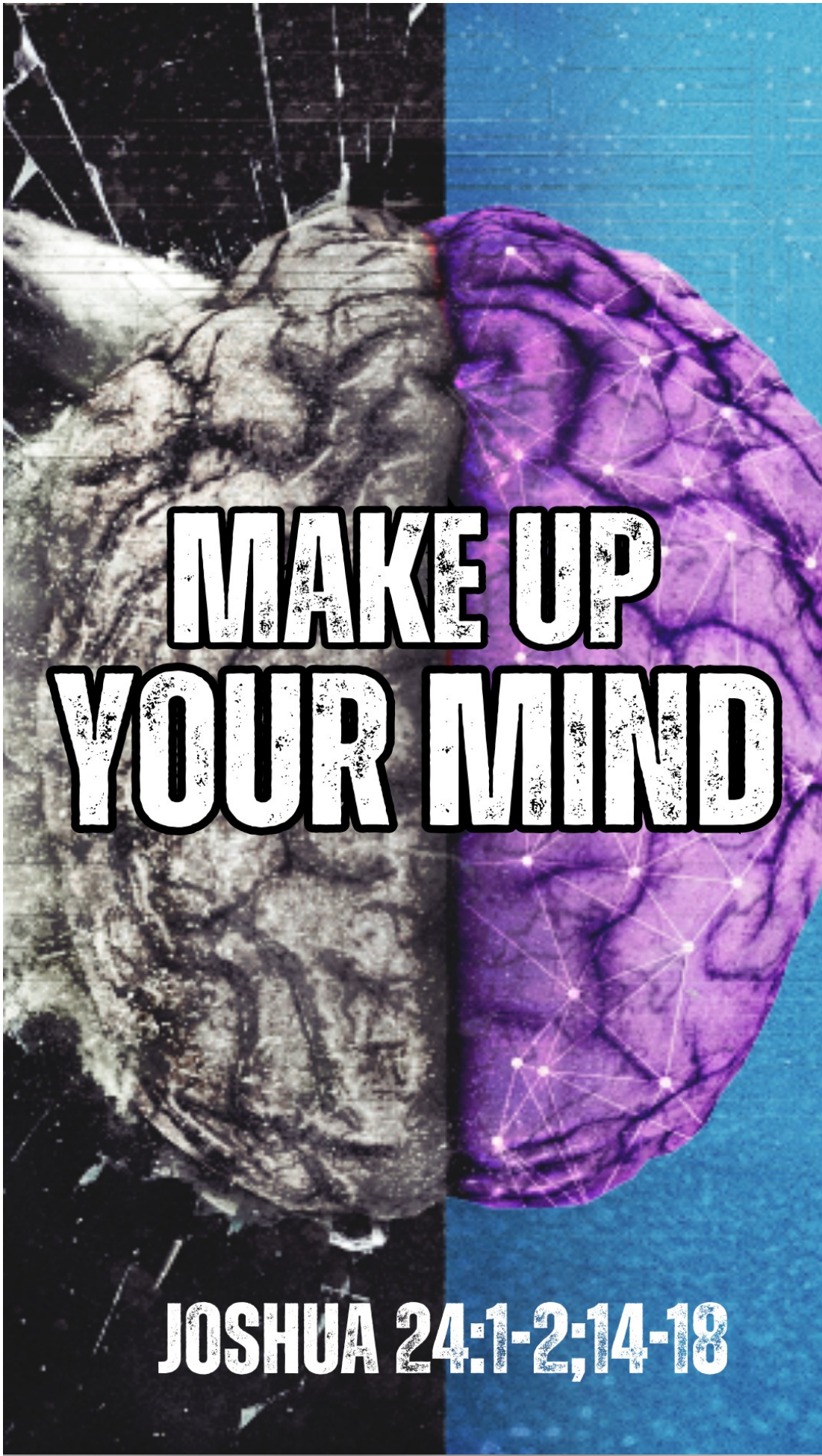
2. Real faith doesn’t just confess God with words it crowns Him with your life.

3. Today is not about emotion it’s about resolution.

PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Carol Dickerson & family, Leo Banks & family, the family of Beverly Shaw, and Natividad Smith & 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, Ruth Cranford, Eugene Reese, Donna Ross, and Sylvia Edwards.



MAKE UP  
YOUR MIND

JOSHUA 24:1-2;14-18