

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 31, 2025

Locked In



It is easier to go along to get along because there is less tension, the potential for broken relationships is minimized, and with all that is upon each person every day, less stress to deal with. The Bible does say, “When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise.” (Proverbs 10:19; NASU) It also says; “If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man’s religion is worthless.” (James 1:26) So because the Bible instructs us to manage the tongue since it can be a deadly poison (James 3:8), and to season it with salt (Colossians 4:6), we tend to be silent or avoid those moments than can be stressful. This disposition is not intended. The words in reference to the tongue are never about us being speechless; they are in the vein of ‘restrain,’ ‘bridle,’ or ‘manage’ because it can be constructive if used incorrectly (James 3:1-12).

There are passages such as 1 Peter 3:10-17 when we are experiencing difficulties that would teach us to, “....sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.” We are **the** salt and light to the world (Matthew 5:13-16). When the demon-possessed man was healed, and the Pharisees called Christ Beelzebul, Christ took on their accusation and responded (Matthew 12:22-29); the same is true in many passages, including Matthew 23 and Mark 7:6-13. This is because we represent the only hope for sin to be restrained (Proverbs 14:34; 2 Thessalonians 2:7).

Throughout the scriptures, those who resisted creating their own peace for their own self-preservation are the ones who played a significant role in implementing the Lord’s agenda as change agents. In the midst of the prophets of Baals is Elijah who refused to go along to get along. Amidst the other youths in Babylon, it was the commitment of Danel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to the Lord’s Word (Daniel 1:8) that changed a nation. This commitment certainly did not remove tension or stress; it made their lives worse. Peter refused to be quiet, no matter how intimidating the circumstances surrounding him were, which impacted on his well-being (Acts 2). Paul refused to be silent, even when he had no lawyer, and stood in his own defense, speaking for the Word of God, knowing the consequences would be his death (Acts 22-28). Even when he stood for Christ it did not mean he would not be shipwrecked and bitten by a venomous snake. Christ spoke up when brought to trial (Matthew 27:11-26; John 23).

We are at war, strap up (Ephesians 6:11-18), and lock in (Hebrews 12:1-3).

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.



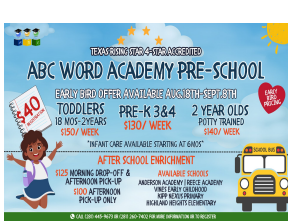
YOUTH CHOIR
Youth, do you have a passion for singing and music? Rehearsals are every Thursday at 6PM. Sign up online or contact Chris Kinsey or Melita Washington at melita.washington@lwfellowshipchurch.org.



PRISON MINISTRY INTEREST MEETING
Are you interested in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with those incarcerated. Come to our Prison Ministry Interest Meeting on September 6th from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at The Reach at 4333 W. Little York Rd. For more information contact Pastor Allen Boutte at (713) 683-0847



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 .



ABC WORD ACADEMY PRESCHOOL EARLY BIRD FALL SPECIAL
The Texas Rising Star 4-Star Accredited ABC Word Academy is having a Fall Pres-School special until September 8th. \$40 Registration Fee
Toddlers Ages 18 mos—2 yrs.—\$150/week
Potty-Trained 2-Year-Olds —\$140/week
Pre-K Ages 3-4 yrs. —\$130/week
For more information, call (281)-445-9673



ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Song
- Communion
- Praise & Worship
- Visitor’s Welcome
- Worship In Giving
Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses
- Special Music
- The Word of God
“*Locked In*”
2 Kings 23:1-3
Dr. Paul Cannings, Senior Pastor

Sermon notes available online at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org
Click on the “Media” tab and click “Sermon Outline”

- Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time
- Benediction & Closing Song

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.

Infants—6th grade

LEGACY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2 3 4 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY e 7:30 PM

Locked In

2 Kings 23:1-3

A. Rise Up (vs. 1-2a):

1. Josiah, on his own initiative, endlessly engulfed himself in making sure every place throughout his kingdom received this message from him.
2. Our obedience to the Lord should come from such a surrendered heart that we don't depend on others or the right circumstances to do what He places upon us to get done.
3. Josiah gathers the elders to serve a specified purpose.
4. Josiah was determined to engage all the people to gather before God. This does not mean that their hearts were for God. It was more about what the Lord instructed him to do than what people desired to do.
5. To be a change agent, we must come with a heart committed to know and to grow (1 Peter 2:9-10). It begins in the Lord's house.
6. We must respect God's Word so deeply that when we hear it read, we listen with a heart ready to obey. (Ezra 8:1-8).
7. We must respect God's Word as the authority for life, or there will be no change for the betterment of a country, a family, or a church.
8. God's Word is not a buffet line. All of it is important (2 Peter 1:3-4).
9. The book of the law was found as the result of a purposeful search.
10. To walk in the light, we must have a heart for God's Word (2 Timothy 3:17; 2 Peter 1:3-11; 1 John 1:5-7).

B. Committed (vs. 3):


1. Take your place at school – whether as a student body president or in another leadership role – and commit to consistently standing for God's principles. This makes you a change agent, not just a complainer. You can do this as a student, and no one can stop you.
2. The king acted first. His efforts were continuous, demonstrating his determination and passion to accomplish God's purposes.
3. In the presence of God and His people, the covenant was ratified. Josiah committed to:
 - a) Josiah committed that the Word of God would continually direct his lifestyle. His commitment was to live a righteous life in the sight of God.
 - b) Josiah's lifestyle was going to be directed by the Word of the Lord because he views the Lord as the One who has all authority and power and is in control of everything.
 - c) Because "keep" can be challenging and sometimes highly emotional, we must make every effort, like in the case of Christ, to be about the Lord's business (David – Psalm 119:9-11).
 - Testimony - This word refers to the Ten Commandments as a solemn divine charge or duty – refers to the entire law of God. It is most frequently connected with the tabernacle (James 1:10). It is not good to hold onto verses that we like, but rather to accept all that the Lord provides for us.
 - Statutes – It is a specific reference to God's law, denoting the law of a particular festival or ritual - Refers to enacting a decree. Josiah is committed to celebrating God.
 - With all his heart – By saying heart, Josiah has committed his life to fulfill commandments, testimonies, and His statutes. The commitment the leader makes is one that those led make as they follow the example.
 - Soul – He will maintain his commitment to God with every breath.
 - Word – Our commitment to obey the Lord must only be to what is in the Bible that the Lord has seen fit to preserve for centuries. Not visions, people spewing prophecies, and podcasting grand statements.
4. The people were committed to obeying God with the same determination that was in the heart of Josiah.
5. One person's determination and commitment to 'Lock In' changes a nation's commitment to God - the same with Joseph, Daniel, Elijah, and Paul.
6. It doesn't matter what the obstacle may be; people who may seek to challenge us, it is about surrendering to the Lord's Word, a commitment to obey Him, and a willingness to trust in His ability, not ours.




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TEXAS RISING STAR 4-STAR ACCREDITED

ABC WORD ACADEMY PRE-SCHOOL


EARLY BIRD OFFER AVAILABLE AUG. 18TH-SEPT. 8TH


 <p>\$40 REGISTRATION</p>	<p>TODDLERS 18 MOS-2 YEARS \$150/ WEEK</p>	<p>PRE-K 3&4 \$130/ WEEK</p>	<p>2 YEAR OLDS POTTY TRAINED \$140/ WEEK</p>
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INFANT CARE AVAILABLE STARTING AT 6 MOS

AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

<p>\$125 MORNING DROP-OFF & AFTERNOON PICK-UP</p> <p>\$100 AFTERNOON PICK-UP ONLY</p>	<p>AVAILABLE SCHOOLS</p> <p>ANDERSON ACADEMY REECE ACADEMY VINES EARLY CHILDHOOD KIPP NEXUS PRIMARY HIGHLAND HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY</p>
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Center for Christian Living

Every Tuesday in September | September 2-September 30

September 2nd

12:00PM Noon Discussion
How Heaven Can Strengthen Our Spiritual Walk
by Pastor Allen Boutte

7:00PM Discussions
Dealing with Family Members Who Believe They Are LGBTIA+
by Jordan Washington
Legacy Sanctuary

Overcoming Strongholds
by Pastor Allen Boutte
Classroom One

Sex: Let's Talk About It
by Pierre & Monica Cannings
Classroom Two

September 9th

12:00PM Noon Discussion
Never Forsaken: Trusting God to See Us Through Our Trials
by Pastor Duane Lawrence

7:00PM Discussion
Financial Seminar
Part I
by Tarea Doty
Legacy Sanctuary

September 23rd

12:00PM Noon Discussion
Addressing Carnality In a Believer
by Dr. Clarence Bunch

7:00PM Discussions
Undone: How Lust Kills
by Jeffrey Allen
Legacy Sanctuary

Overcoming Strongholds
by Pastor Allen Boutte
Classroom One

Atmospheric: The Blueprint for a Godly Home
by Rashaud Hudson
Classroom Two

September 30th

12:00PM Noon Discussion
Building Relationships We Have Broken
by Pastor Rene Manago

7:00PM Discussions
Panel Discussion
Legacy Sanctuary



September 16th

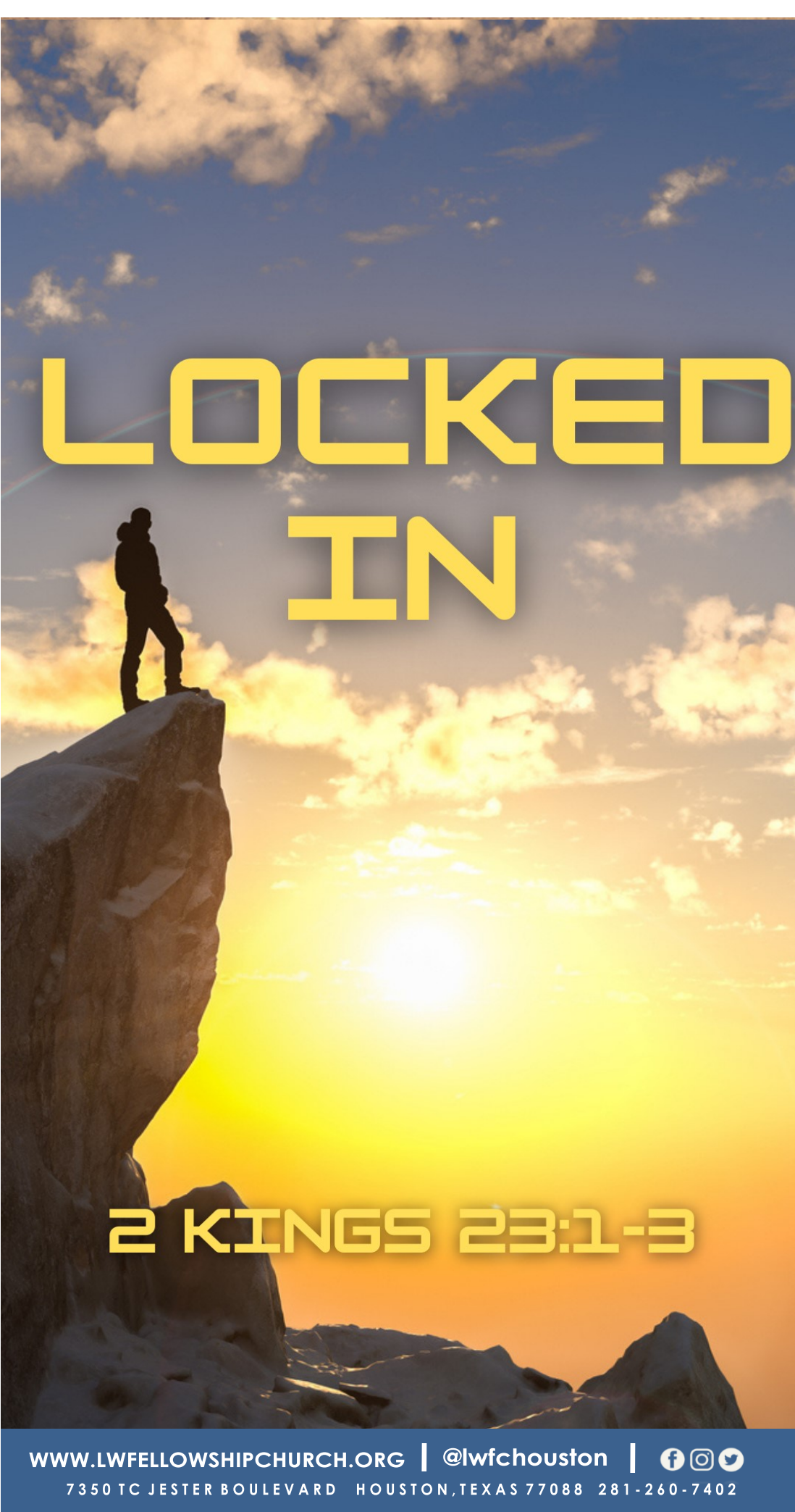
12:00PM Noon Discussion
The True Meaning of our Salvation
by Dr. Aaron Lavender

7:00PM Discussion
Financial Seminar
Part II
by Tarea Doty
Legacy Sanctuary

Contact Keron Brown for more details.

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.

A full-page background image featuring a person standing on the edge of a rocky cliff, silhouetted against a vibrant sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds. A faint rainbow is visible in the upper left. The text 'LOCKED IN' is prominently displayed in large, bold, yellow capital letters across the upper half. Below it, '2 KINGS 23:1-3' is written in a similar but slightly smaller yellow font. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the church's website, social media handles, and address in white text.

LOCKED IN

2 KINGS 23:1-3

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