

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 21, 2025

Worship In Giving

Talking about giving to God is rarely a popular subject—and I’ve often wondered why. The heart of the issue comes down to a single question: **How can people who rely completely on God for everything not want to thank Him—for sustaining them, protecting them, and granting them eternal life?**

J. Oswald Sanders put it well when he said, “The basic question is not how much of our money we should give to God, but how much of God’s money we should keep for ourselves.” This leads to another question I’ve often pondered: **What can we actually give to God?**

The truth is, we can’t give God anything He doesn’t already own. As James 1:17 reminds us, “Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.” Everything we have is already His.

So what does our giving really mean? Our offering is simply our way of saying **thank You**—thank You for providing, for blessing, and for allowing us to keep the other ninety percent. 2 Corinthians 9:10–15 shows us that our generosity reflects our gratitude, not our obligation.

As one anonymous quote puts it, “We need to get God off the charity list and put Him on the payroll.” Or more pointedly, “A lot of people are willing to give God credit, but not many are willing to give Him cash.”

R.T. Kendall, former minister of Westminster Chapel in London, shared a powerful personal story. Not long after he and his wife were married, they found themselves deep in debt. Tithing felt out of reach. Some of the debt was unavoidable; some was due to poor choices. At the time, Kendall was working in a secular job. One particularly discouraging day, he came home and collapsed in despair.

On the dining room table lay a large white Bible—a gift from his grandmother. He opened it at random and read the convicting words: “Will a man rob God?” (Malachi 3:8). Uncomfortable with what he read, he closed the Bible and turned on the television—which he still hadn’t finished paying for.

He knew what God was asking him to do: start tithing. But he delayed, and things only got worse. “Even though my wife and I were both working,” he said, “paying our bills felt like dipping a cup into an ocean of debt.”

Eventually, they made a choice: to give God the first ten percent—right off the top. Tithing became their first priority. With the remaining ninety percent, they paid their bills. It didn’t solve everything overnight, but within two years, they were completely debt-free. “And those days,” Kendall wrote, “became the happiest we have known.”

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:9–10)



UPCOMING Events



DATE NIGHT WITH THE MARRIAGE MINISTRY
Join the Marriage Ministry in Kemah for date night this Saturday, Sept. 27th. We'll have dinner at Landry's Seafood and then take a stroll on the boardwalk. All married or seriously dating couples are welcomed. Wear matching colors for fun! Register online or in-person after service. Contact Terry or Sherri Randle at lwfcmarragemin@gmail.com



YOUTH CHOIR TODAY
Parents join us at 10AM in the youth Room for a music interest meeting if your child has a passion for singing, producing, or music in general. Please contact Melita Washington or Brandon Crenshaw for more information.



WOMEN OF GRACE STEP CHALLENGE
Download the Step Up App, Join the Women of Grace Group, and get ready for September 28th as we kick off the Women's step challenge, from Sept. 28th-Nov.1st. Contact the women's ministry at wog77088@gmail.com for more information.



SILVER STARS
55+ seniors, join the Silver Stars for a general meeting this Saturday September 27th at 11AM. For more details and information on the Silver Stars Ministry, contact Jacquelyn Jordan at jacqjordan@att.net.



ABC WORD ACADEMY PRESCHOOL FALL SPECIAL
The Texas Rising Star 4-Star Accredited ABC Word Academy is having a Fall Pres-School Special starting now with a \$60 Registration Fee, discounts are available for siblings and LWFC members. 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
“Communal Communion”
1 Corinthians 11:17-35
Pastor Ikki Soma

Sermon notes available online at 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



MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2 3 4 &

TUESDAY NIGHTS

SUNDAY 7:30 PM

Communal Communion

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

- I. At the communion table, there should be no divisions (vs. 17-22)
- II. Why? Communion preaches that Jesus has set us free from sin (vs. 23-26)
- III. So repent of and confess your sin, especially the sin of division (vs. 27-32)
 - Ask the Spirit to examine you
 - Believe that Christ has forgiven you
 - Confess your sins to God and people
- IV. Repentance leads to a change of behavior (vs.33-34)

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Center for Christian Living

Every Tuesday in September | September 2-September 30

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	7:00PM Discussions Atmospheric: The Blueprint for a Godly Home by Rashaud Hudson Classroom Two
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Contact Keron Brown for more details.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Donnie Emerson & family, Leatrice Sam & family, the family of Clarence Coleman, Gloria Franklin & family, and Marcia Anderson & family.

Health and Healing: MarKeith Hicks and family, Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, 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, Patriona Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, 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.

COMMUNAL COMMUNION

1 Corin. 11:17-34