

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

November 30, 2025

Faith Under Fire



I must admit, I have often wondered, “How can God instruct a person to always give thanks?” After all, He tells us that we will face trials (James 1:2–4), tribulation (John 16:33), fiery ordeals (1 Peter 1:6–7), and spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:12). Yet in the midst of these, He not only instructs us to give thanks, but He also commands us to rejoice (Philippians 4:4; 1 Peter 1:6). He even takes it further—He tells us to “be anxious for nothing” (Philippians 4:6). Just in case we missed it, He said nothing.

So how can God expect us to give thanks when He Himself allows these challenges?

This is the same kind of question Job might have asked. Despite living a righteous life, Job endured unimaginable suffering. But rather than answering Job’s “why,” God asked Job His own questions:

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, Who set its measurements? ... Have you entered into the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? ... Have you understood the expanse of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this.” (Job 38:4–5, 16–18)

And again, Then the Lord said to Job, “Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it.” (Job 40:1–2)

The heart of these questions points back to trust. The answer to how we can give thanks lies in what we believe about God.

Do we believe that the Lord reigns and is always in control? (Psalm 93:1)  
Do we believe that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him and obey His purposes? (Romans 8:28)  
Do we believe that nothing can separate us from His love? (Romans 8:38–39)  
Do we believe that, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us? (Romans 8:37)  
If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)  
Do we believe that He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world? (1 John 4:4)  
Do we trust that, even in spiritual warfare, He equips us with His armor? (Ephesians 6:12–17)  
And do we believe that He will never allow us to face more than we can bear, but will always provide a way of escape? (1 Corinthians 10:13)

When we believe these truths—truly believe them—our hearts begin to find gratitude even in difficulty. This mindset empowers us to be thankful in the midst of a chaotic world (Philippians 2:14–16).

“The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; Let the many islands be glad.” (Psalm 97:1, NASB)

And as Paul reminds us:

“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things... and the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 4:8–9, NASB)

UPCOMING Events



**SILVER STARS’ CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**  
Silver Stars’ annual Christmas celebration will be Sunday, Dec. 7th at 1:30PM. Enjoy an amazing night of fellowship and laughter as special guests Pastor Leon Brooks III presents “Praise and Comedy.” Tickets are \$40 each and can be purchased until Nov. 23rd after 8sm service.



**DECEMBER CONNECTION SUNDAYS**  
Fellowship every Sunday in December! Each Sunday participate in a theme and be picture ready at church. All month long we will be accepting decorated Christmas Reefs to display in the main foyer!**Contact Keron Brown at Keron.Brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org for more information.**



**SLEIGH THE COURT—SINGLES MINISTRY**  
Kick off the holiday season with fellowship, fun, and a little friendly competition! Join Devoted Singles Ministry for Sleigh the Court, our holiday dodgeball event designed to bring singles together for laughter, connection, and unforgettable moments. Come for the game. Stay for the vibes. Leave with new connections



**FREE COLON CANCER SCREENING**  
Until December 31st, call and schedule your free colon screening test pick-up with participating neighborhood clinics. For more information please call or email (713)704-2968 or cancerscreeningevent@memorialhermann.org Monday-Friday 9am-4pm.



**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  
“Always”  
1 Thess. 5:16-18  
Dr. Pierre Cannings, Ph.D.

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**

**LWFC KIDZ**

**LEGACY**  
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW  
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**  
**2 3 4 &**  
**TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
**SUNDAY**  
**7:30 PM**



Always

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Dr. Pierre Cannings

A. Always Rejoice (v. 16)

B. Always Pray (v. 17)

C. Always Give Thanks (v. 1)

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**CRAZY ABOUT CHRISTMAS**  
December Connection Sundays

| 7 <sup>TH</sup>                                                                                      | 14 <sup>TH</sup>                                                                                 | 21 <sup>ST</sup>                                                                      | 28 <sup>TH</sup>                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CRAZY CHRISTMAS HATS</b><br><small>WEAR YOUR ELF EARS, SANTA HATS, REINDEER ANTILERS ETC.</small> | <b>CRAZY CHRISTMAS OUTFIT</b><br><small>WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS COLORS &amp; FESTIVE OUTFITS</small> | <b>CRAZY CHRISTMAS SWEATER</b><br><small>WEAR YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SWEATER</small> | <b>CRAZY CHRISTMAS REEFS</b><br><small>*LAST DAY TO VOTE ON REEFS*</small> |

DECORATE AND SUBMIT YOUR CHRISTMAS REEFS ALL THROUGHTOUT DECEMBER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A GIFT CARD. VOTE EACH WEEK ON YOUR FAVORITE REEF IN THE MAIN FOYER!

LIFE APPLICATION & URBAN MISSIONS TEAM

**PACKS of LOVE**

ACCEPTING DONATIONS STARTING NOW THROUGH  
**DECEMBER 21ST**  
UMT AMBASSADORS WILL BE AVAILABLE  
FOR DONATION DROP OFFS AFTER LIFE APPLICATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR DEACON FAMILY OR NATIVIDAD SMITH FOR MORE DETAILS

PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Pastor Duane Lawrence & family, the family of Elsie Starks, Kathy Williamson & family, and Margaret Baptiste & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, 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, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, Evelyn Harvey, Shinell Clark, Ruth Cranford, Eugene Reese, Donna Ross, Sylvia Edwards, and Leo Banks.

Always

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18