

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 12, 2026

Unshaken

Many times when I read the Book of Psalm, I am amazed at how a man whom God granted amazing supernatural accomplishments, including a significant accumulation of wealth, power, and domination of the known world, can have so much pain. Here are some examples: "Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? O my God, my soul is in despair within me;" (Ps. 42:5-6; NASU) "Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to You for help, When I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary." (Ps. 28:2-3; NASU) "I cry aloud with my voice to the Lord; I make supplication with my voice to the Lord. I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare my trouble before Him. When my spirit was overwhelmed within me," (Ps. 142:1-3; NASU)

When I read the Book of Psalms, I notice several recurring themes and phrases: "trust in the Lord," "hope in the Lord," "the Lord is my refuge, my fortress, my present help, my rock, my strength; my soul trusts in Him" (Ps. 18:2, 62:7-8; 91:2). Of course, there is also the beloved affirmation of Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd." All of his experiences so deepened his relationship and reliance on God; God was not simply a shepherd in an abstract sense; He became David's personal Shepherd—"my Shepherd."

Paul often spoke openly about his pain and suffering. In fact, he was forewarned that his ministry would involve hardship (Acts 9:16). For example, he wrote: "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body" (2 Cor. 4:8-10; 2 Cor. 11:21-29; NASU).

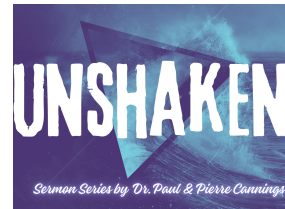
After reviewing many of these scriptures, I reflected on how someone like Paul, under house arrest with Jewish leaders' intent on having him executed and facing the possibility of imminent death (Phil. 1:21), could write such words: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ... The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:4-9; NASU)

Even Christ, in the Garden of Gethsemane, experienced agony, "to the point of death" (Matthew 26:36-46), yet He placed His trust in God's will. This trust did not remove His pain – in fact, it only increased. Nevertheless, Christ was determined to trust God's Word and the promise of resurrection, not matter what.

No matter how deep their pain, those who persevered became fully surrendered to God, so that all that mattered was Christ and Christ alone. This was their victory (Romans 8:37-39) - not whether their outward circumstances were resolved (John 12:23-26; Hebrews 11-12:3).



UPCOMING Events



UNSHAKEN—NEW SERMON SERIES
Trust and seek Him first in everything, so that no matter what we encounter; fears, uncertainty, or anxiety, our lives become anchored in His Word and guided by His Spirit.

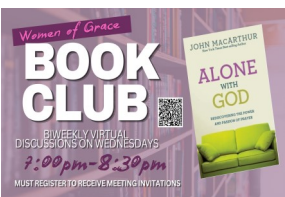
New series starts today!



2026 IGNITE DANCE WORKSHOP
LWFC Worship Ministry hosts the inaugural Ignite Christian Dance Workshop feat. special guest and choreographer, Jasmine Moseley will Cost starts at \$10 per person and vendor opportunities are available for \$25. Register today, as slots are limited.



2026 NATIONAL PASTOR & LEADERS
Power Walk Ministries is hosting the 2026 National Pastors and Leaders Conference April 23-25. Enjoy small groups and over 60 classes designed to help grow your ministry and leadership skills. Purchase your tickets today for \$90 on powerwalkministries.org



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB
The Women of Grace Ministry has a book club! Register to join the ladies as they take a deep dive into John MacArthur's 'Alone with God.' The Women's ministry will meet bi-weekly on Wednesdays. Please register online to receive virtual meeting invitations.



ABC WORD ACADEMY SUMMER CAMP—
Summer Camp enrollment is now open! Register your student today by calling (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
"Tried & True"
Luke 4:23-30
Dr. Paul Cannings

Sermon notes available online at lwfellowshipchurch.org Under the "Resources" tab 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
2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY
6:30 PM

Tried & True

1Luke 4:23-30

Dr. Paul Cannings

A. Truth in Plain Clothes (vs. 23-34a)

B. Tested and Transformed (vs. 25-30)

Scan To View Full Notes



LWFC HOUSTON WORSHIP MINISTRY PRESENTS

IGNITE

5.23.26
7350 TC JESTER
HOUSTON, TX 77088

Panel Workshop

DOORS OPEN
AT 9AM

REGISTER ONLINE AT [BIT.LY/4BPSRVZ](https://bit.ly/4BPSRVZ)

SPECIAL GUEST & CHOREOGRAPHER
JASMINE MOSLEY



UNSHAKEN

Sermon Series by Dr. Paul & Pierre Cannings

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Robbyn Pope & family, Phillip Brown & family, Theresa Washington & family, Taylor Washington & family, the family of Derrick Murphy, Valarie Miller & family, Robert and Donald Edwards and their families, and Janice Bourne & 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, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Patsy Gatterson, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Ruth Cranford, Walter Banks, Arnie Glover, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, Shinell Clark, Eugene Reese, Donna Ross, Sylvia Edwards, and Leo Banks.

TRIED & TRUE

Luke 4:23-30