

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

January 23, 2022

I am always taken a back by this contrast. Peter stepping out of the boat (started out faithful), while in a massive storm, and sinking into the lake needing to be rescued by Christ. Compared to Daniel understanding the consequence, praying, and when placed in a lion's den, he did not panic, and because of his faith he made it out alive. You may say that one person had faith and the other didn't. I believe they both had faith.



Peter had faith because he asked Christ to step out of the boat and when Christ gave the word (faith comes by hearing; Romans 10:17) Peter trusted Christ and placed his feet on the water. Peter's faith only took him as far as getting on the water. Once he was on the water, he still had to deal with the storm. Christ did not quiet the storm until Peter, the fisherman, was back in his comfort zone with Christ physically present. On the water, the storm may have seemed more fierce than in the boat. On the water, Christ said nothing because even though Peter trusted Christ's words he needed to trust Christ's heart. He still needed to believe that Christ cared that as a human being he could not walk on water and in a storm with powerful waves going by Peter could have easily died. Would Christ tell Peter to come out on the water and then leave him unprotected? Daniel had no word that God would bring him out of the lion's den (no verse or prophesy), he only knew of God powerfully working through one trial after another, even for his friends. He had committed only to do what God said (Daniel 1:8). As a result he was not going to sin and do what the king was demanding. He understood because of what took place when Israel disobeyed God how devastating being out of the will of God can be. So Daniel's complete, steadfast trust in God saved not just Daniel, but all those around him. Faith is always tested because it takes us to places where we cannot control the outcome and God does not always explain the results, He only promises to reward us (Hebrews 11:6).

With all that is going on in our country and around the world we are on the water or some of us may be in a lion's den at work or at home. When our faith is tested, do we sink and then beg God to rescue us or do we remain faithfully, prayerfully obedient and save ourselves and those around us?

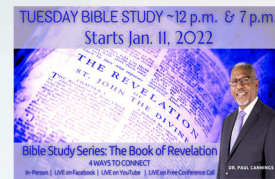
A lit candle emits light and heat. If you put out the candle both the light and the heat are gone. "You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected." (James 2:22)

How is your faith working in these times?

UPCOMING Events



Covenant Marriage Ministry Prayer Breakfast
Sat. Jan. 29th 8:30—11:00 a.m.
Reconnect, Refresh and Re-Energize your Covenant Marriage! Covenant Keepers is pressing forward into the 2022 New Year with an Inspirational Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, January 29th. Come and partake of food for the body and the soul of Marriage in fellowship with the Spirit and other couples. Pastor Terrance O'Neil of Smyrna Baptist Church, Houston, TX, will be our guest speaker. Contact Terri and Sherri Randle for more information at LWFCMarriageMin@gmail.com Register today at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events



Tuesday Bible Study - The Book of Revelation
12 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Join Dr. Paul Cannings in this new Bible Study Series as he journeys through the Book of Revelation. There are 4 Ways to Connect: 1. IN-PERSON 2. LIVE on Facebook 3. LIVE on YouTube 4. LIVE on FREE Conference Call Start 2022 with a commitment to Study the Word of God each Week in Bible Study!



Faith In Fitness Ministry
21 Day Challenge
It's estimated that it takes people 21-28 days to form a new habit. This 21-Day Challenge is a commitment to making physical health a priority by moving your body for 30 minutes each day for the 21 days in efforts to form a new healthy habit. Join the Faith in Fitness Ministry. Join the Facebook Group to stay connected at www.facebook.com/faithinfitness or contact Dean'na Mitchell at dkmitchell87@gmail.com



Women's Ministry 2022 Kick Off
Calling all Living Word Fellowship ladies, get ready with a mind to reset, refocus and rebuild" (Nehemiah 4:6). Join us for the 2022 Women's Ministry Kickoff Saturday, February 5th, 2022 in the Legacy Sanctuary from 9-11 am. Our theme is "A Divine Reset to refocus and rebuild Nehemiah 4:6" Highlights of ministry areas and opportunities to sign up to serve will be available. Ladies let's jumpstart our 2022! Register today at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events



Power Walk Ministries is Hiring
Part-Time Secretary
Power Walk Ministries led by Dr. Paul Cannings is seeking a part-time secretary. Must have good secretarial and computer skills. Must be available to come into the church office to conduct inventory, fulfill resource orders, prepare proper resources for conferences and provide monthly reports using Microsoft Excel. All interested candidates, please submit resumes to goneal@lwfellowshipchurch.org

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.
Ages 2—6th grade



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

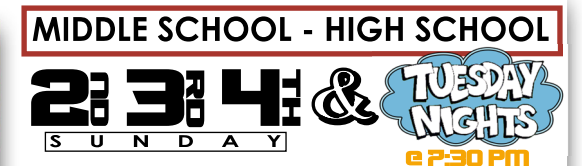
"Grow for Impact"

Click on the "Resources" tab and click "Sermon Notes"

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Grow for Impact

Acts 16:1-5

A. Grow (v. 1):

1. Paul purposefully attained his goal of arriving in Derbe and Lystra.
2. Timothy was dedicated to being a student of the Word of God (this led him to become a teacher along with Paul; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15) and a sincere follower of Christ because he was committed to practice what he was learning. Timothy was a disciple not just a church attender.
3. Timothy proved to be a godly young man who was dependable, reliable, and faithful with whatever was entrusted to him.
4. Everyone who witnessed Timothy's character and faithful work, confirmed it by providing a good report.
5. The persons who spoke well of Timothy were those saved believers who were a part of the church community and therefore witnessed Timothy's service and benefited from the service he provided.

B. Forge Ahead (vs. 3-4):

1. Paul took the initiative, after discipling Timothy and hearing of his good reputation, to have faith in Timothy. Paul took Timothy with him wherever he was going.
2. Paul circumcised Timothy, most likely because of the Jews who were continuously living in these areas.
3. All the Jews would have a complete knowledge of Timothy's Greek heritage.
4. Despite these obstacles Paul and Timothy with no plan to ever stop, continuously kept handing over all the Biblical dogma that was agreed upon by the apostles (Acts 15).
5. What Paul and Timothy was handing over to the people that they were serving was the doctrinal principles that were agreed upon by the apostles and elders. These rules and regulations were put in place by the Lord and instituted by the apostles and elders.
6. These principles must repeatedly be so noteworthy that those who hear them must continually guard against them ever being polluted.

C. Be the Difference (v. 5):

1. This message was only delivered to those who are called out for the purposes of God.
2. To be strengthened here means that Paul and Timothy were establishing a strong doctrinal position in each church so that the churches were solid doctrinally.
3. Paul and Timothy's purpose for going to each of the churches was directly related to deepening these believers' conviction so that they remain steadfastly, intensely trusting the Word of God in the midst of a proliferation of religions.
4. Paul and Timothy's work in these churches led to an exceedingly great number of people joining the church. This is a fulfillment of what Christ said that "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (Luke 10:35-38).
5. We are a part of the increase because despite these circumstances these men grew for impact (Paul was just approved after 14 years of ministry and training; Acts 15).



African-American Museum Day Out
Sat. Feb. 26th
9:15 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Come join the L.E.G.I.T. Young Adults Ministry for an exploration of over six decades of cultural artwork, good food, and great conversation!

For more information, contact Keron Brown at kern.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org or Moniqua Gasper at 832.977.9674

Register Here at <https://bit.ly/3GIldGS>

African American Artists in Texas Selections from the John L. Nau Collection of Texas Art at:

The African American Library at The Gregory School
1300 Victor Street
Houston, TX 77019

Meet at the church at 9:15 a.m. to pray and connect for carpool



A LWFC KIDZ & LEGIT MINISTRY COLLABORATION

FRIDAY, FEB. 18TH
6:00-10:00 P.M.

MOVIE NIGHT PARENTS NIGHT OUT LEGACY SANCTUARY GAMES

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL SYLVIA EDWARDS AT SEDWARDS@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Lula Walker & family, Carlton Lopes & family, Carolyn Hadnot & family, Alexander Cranford & family, Bobby Lawrence & family, Pam Collier & family and Craig Crowe & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, Anthony Davis, Kathleen Franklin, and Thurston Love & family.

Greetings to my Living Word Fellowship Family. On behalf of myself and the Johnson family, we would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, condolences, phone calls, text and cards that have been received during the loss of our beloved sister. Your words of encouragement and support has been very comforting. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

- Mitchell K. Johnson and the entire Johnson Family

GROW FOR IMPACT

ACTS 16:1-5