

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 11, 2022

It's All His

Giving to God is never a popular subject and I have always wondered why? The reason is due to this question. How can people who are totally dependent on God for everything not want to say thanks for sustaining, protecting, and providing for them everyday of the week including undeserved eternal life? J. Oswald Sanders put it this way; *"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."*

Another question that I think of many times is, "What does man actually give to God?" I have experienced the answer after sorting it out this way. Man cannot give God anything. God owns everything and *"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."* (James 1:17) *Our offering on Sunday is telling God thanks (2 Corinthians 9:10-15) for having something to give and for allowing us to keep the other ninety percent. As an anonymous person once said, "we need to get God off the charity list and put Him on the payroll." A lot of people are willing to give God credit, but not too many are willing to give Him the cash."*

R. T. Kendall, longtime minister at Westminster Chapel, London, wrote that shortly after he and his wife were married, they found themselves hopelessly in debt. Tithing seemed utterly impossible to them. Some of the bills could not be helped and others were the consequence of imprudence. Kendall was engaged in secular work at the time, and one day he came home very, very discouraged. He fell on his knees in a sense of desperation, hoping that God would give him a ray of light that would help him through. There on the dining room table lay the large, white Bible his grandmother had given to him. He picked it up and opened it at random. Instantly his eyes fell on these words: "Will a man rob God?" He didn't like what he found one bit, so he closed his Bible and sat down to watch the television (for which he still owed). He knew that God wanted him to begin tithing, but he postponed it for a while longer; and in the meantime, things went from bad to worse.

One day they made a turn. They took ten percent of their income right off the top, making tithing the number one priority. Kendall paid their bills with the remaining ninety percent. "We were not out of debt in weeks, but we were completely out of debt in less than two years, and those days became the happiest we have known."

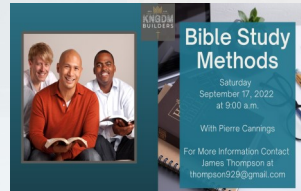
"Honor the Lord with your wealth, and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine." (Proverbs 3:9-10)



UPCOMING Events



PRAYER VIGIL—SEPT. 13TH 12 P.M. & 7 P.M.
Living Word family, join us for prayer and praise at our quarterly Prayer Vigil. There will be 3 ways to join: In-Person, on YouTube, and on Facebook at 12 p.m. and at 7 p.m. Bring your prayer requests for the start of the school year and intercede on behalf of family and friends. Also praise God for all that He has brought us through in these pandemic times. For more information email **Tomitra Wiley** or **Bernadette Bullock** at tomitraw@sbcglobal.net



KINGDOM BUILDERS MEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY METHODS—SEPT 17TH 9:00 A.M.
The Kingdom Builders Men's Ministry will be hosting its monthly fellowship and Bible Study Methods class on Saturday, September 17th at 9 a.m. with Pierre Cannings. For more information contact James Thompson at thompson929@gmail.com



MISSIONS MONTH 2022—SEPTEMBER
Living Word, our Mission Ministry is impacting lives all over the world. In the month of September, learn the **WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, HOW and WHY of MISSIONS!** This week, we are highlighting BELIZE, and the Church of Zion Rebuild project. Sign up to volunteer, and find out more information on the Missions page of our website at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/missions or contact **Valarie Miller** at valarie.miller@lwfellowshipchurch.org



LWCA IS NOW ENROLLING—\$85 PER WEEK BEFORE/AFTER CARE—\$35-\$55 PER WEEK
The Living Word Christian Academy is having a Back to School Special of \$85 per week for the full day program ages 18 months—4 years old. Before and After School Care ages 5-12 years-old, \$55 per week and only \$35 per week for either Before or After care. Transportation is included from select schools. For more information, call **(713) 686-5538** or register at www.lwcaacademy.org



LWFC VOICES OF PRAISE CHILDREN'S CHOIR STARTS BACK THURS. SEPT. 15TH 7:00P.M.
The LWFC Voices of Praise Children's Choir needs your voice and enthusiasm. Ages 6-12, come and join in song, learn music, and gather with your peers in worship for rehearsals and performances. For more information, contact **Bobbie Lawrence** at bobbiejlawrence@yahoo.com



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Acceptable"

1 Chronicles 21:18-27

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

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction

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

2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS

SUNDAY

9:30 PM

EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

Acceptable
1 Chronicles 21:18-27

A. It's First, All About Him (vs. 18-23):

1. The Angel of the Lord specifically told David where to go to worship Him.
2. The angel appeared to the four sons of Ornan. God got ahead of David and prepared the way for him.
3. David is not going to stop until the altar is done.
4. When God told David to build an altar it was understood that it was a place of sacrifice before God. It is a place where God is going to re-establish His relationship with David.
5. David paid full price because he knew that God needed a full surrender to Him.
6. David totally surrendered to worship God because he needed God to stop the plague. This means that David came prepared to sacrificially bless the Lord so that he fully exposes a contrite spirit (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
7. David's response is a demonstration of complete dependence on God. Giving to God vividly portrays this (Matthew 6:19-24).

B. All In (vs. 24-26a):

1. David persisted in addressing Ornan, demonstrating he was deeply committed to obeying God as instructed.
2. David is not going to make an offering to the Lord that did not cost him anything. This can only be demonstrated by how David sacrificially worships the Lord on his own initiative. This exposes the sincerity of his heart to refresh and have a genuine relationship with the Lord.
3. To worship God with nothing is to worship God in vain (Nothing means empty).
4. David endlessly focused on giving his all to endlessly put all his time and attention to constructing an altar and worship in the presence of God.
5. David with no intent of stopping, made a specific sustained shout to the Lord expecting a specific response since he had done everything to his very best to please the Lord.

C. God Will Respond (vs. 26b-27):

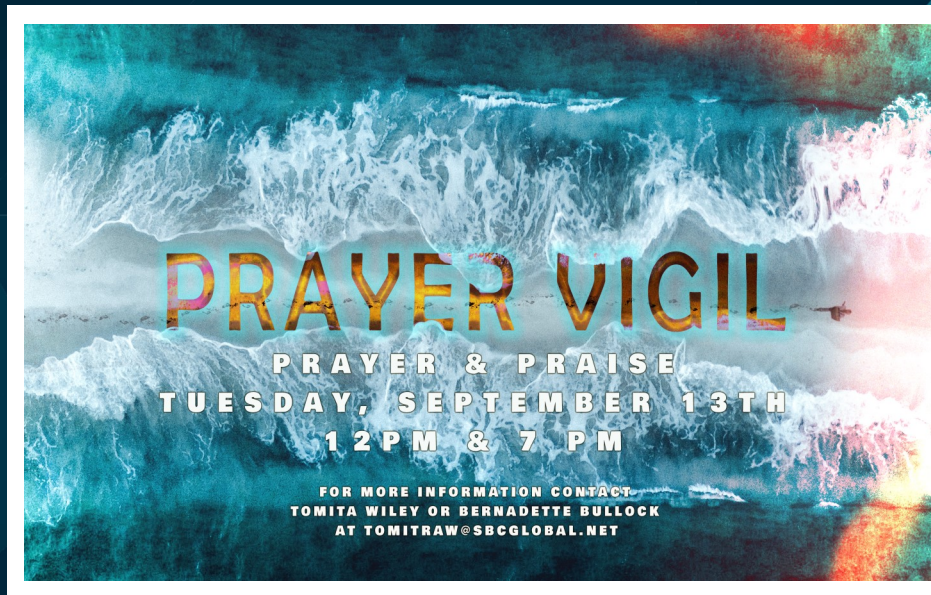
1. God came to the very altar that David built with fire from heaven demonstrating that He powerfully approved David's actions. There was no question what the Lord thought of the attitude of worship David displayed.
2. The Lord took charge in response because of the intense commitment David displayed while worshiping the Lord.
3. David's worship moved God to continuously speak to the angel that was killing people. This is how powerful, genuine, sacrificial worship moves God to respond to our needs.
4. It is David's obedience and sacrificial worship to the Lord that brought about God's gracious response and the protection of the nation.



YOUNG VOICES OF PRAISE
Children's Choir

Rehearsals Start Back
Thursday Sept. 15th at 7 p.m.
In the Choir Room

For More information contact
Sis. Bobbie Lawrence at
bobbiejlawrence@yahoo.com
Register at <https://bit.ly/3cK5qP8>



PRAYER VIGIL

PRAYER & PRAISE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH
12 PM & 7 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
TOMITA WILEY OR BERNADETTE BULLOCK
AT TOMITRAW@SBCGLOBAL.NET

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Doris Myles & family, Wesley Buckner & family, Nathan and Evelyn Harvey & family, Joyce Newsome & family, Wesley Buckner & family, Pastor Duane and Bobbie Lawrence & family, Joanne Hayes & family, Talicia Stringer & family, Margaret Baptiste & family, Jerald and Ethel Owens & family, and the family of Mildred Thomas.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptists, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, Sharon Owens, Erick Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Tanisha Collins, Latifa Brown, the Tillis family, Betty Goode, Joseph Brown, Glory Wilson, and Kevin Carey.

ACCEPTABLE

1 CHRONICLES 21:18-27