

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

January 1, 2023

The Big Toe

As we begin a new year, some of us may say there are too many valleys for us to walk through. However, there is only one hill to climb, and if we do not climb this hill in an effective manner, the valleys we experience may seem darker or grimmer (1 Timothy 6:12).

I know someone who, while mowing their lawn, accidentally damaged their big toe so badly that it had to be cut off. After healing, they discovered that the lack of their big toe meant that they could no longer run. They had to learn to walk all over again. Our big toe may seem irrelevant, but if both were removed, we would be unable to balance ourselves when we walk.

It is easy, with all the dynamics life can throw our way, to focus more on overcoming the emotional trauma it may create for us than what God requires to climb those hills. We meet our fears, anxieties, doubts, and mental duress with all kinds of coping mechanisms and sometimes forsake what God tells us to do because it may seem too religious, too spiritual, and requires too much church. As a result, when the Lord instructs us to run the race set before us, it becomes difficult or even laborious because we have forsaken the big toe because it just does not seem relevant.

The big toe is what we may rest on the nightstand, but not read; what we may hear, but not apply unless it is convenient; what we may think is too complicated and dismiss.

The Word is defined as God's mind that can turn darkness to light (1 John 1:5-7; Hebrews 1:1-3) once applied (2 Peter 1:3-11). It transforms our insides (Romans 12:2) so that our weakness becomes our strength (1 John 4:4) to climb, and deliverance from our vices or struggles becomes our victory (Philippians 2:12-13). It never withers away (1 Peter 1:22-25), and it does not return void (Isaiah 55:11); it is comprehensive for everything we need (2 Peter 1:3-4). It is the sword that the Spirit uses (Ephesians 6:17; John 14:16-17) to powerfully cut down obstacles we may experience (Hebrews 12:4). When we apply it, God so powerfully abides in us, we experience His love, answered prayers and His friendship (John 15:1-13). This is why when Joshua is faced with tremendous obstacles, God tells him there is only one thing he needs to do to experience victory; "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go." (Joshua 1:7; NIV)



UPCOMING Events



LIVING WORD CHURCH FAST

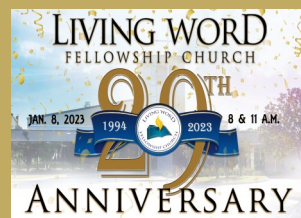
Our church will begin the Daniel Fast on Monday, Jan. 2nd through Sunday, Jan. 8th. We will break the fast with our Deacon families. Join us for our Prayer Revival each night at 7 P.M. Jan. 3rd-5th.



ANNUAL PRAYER REVIVAL

Join us for our annual Prayer Revival, Jan. 3rd-5th, each night at 7 p.m. in the main sanctuary. Each night will feature group prayer, praise & worship, and a word from Pastor Rodney Maiden. Come and be renewed and refreshed for 2023.

For more information contact Pastor Duane Lawrence at dlawrence@lwfellowshipchurch.org



CHURCH ANNIVERSARY—CELEBRATE LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH'S 29TH YEAR!

Join us on Sunday, Jan. 8th to celebrate Living Word's 29th Church Anniversary featuring Pastor Rodney Maiden for 8 a.m. service and Jonathan Evans for 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service.



BE INTENTIONAL WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY CONFERENCE 2023

The Women of Grace Ministry BE INTENTIONAL Conference will take place Sat., Feb. 4, 2023 9 a.m.—2 p.m. This dynamic Conference will feature praise and worship, vendors, a panel discussion, and our phenomenal sister-in-Christ and featured speaker, Priscilla Shirer. Registration will be \$50.00. T-shirts are available for pre-order at an additional cost of \$20.00-25.00.

For more information visit www.wogconference.org or Register Now at <https://bit.ly/WOG2023>



LWCA PRESCHOOL—\$85 PER WEEK

BEFORE/AFTER CLUBS—\$35-\$55 PER WEEK

Would you like your children to learn to be a little more like Jesus? Then, join the Living Word Christian Academy for preschool and before and after school programs and clubs including: robotics, chess, tennis, music, culinary arts, academic enrichment and much more! For more information, call (713) 686-5538 or register at www.lwacademy.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Tearing Down Walls"

2 Samuel 24:1-7

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

6:30 PM

EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

Tearing Down Walls 2 Samuel 24:1-7

Tearing Down Walls is Determined by what walls I have built against surrendering my all to Him. This is the victory over every obstacle.

A. Commit to Be A Doer (v.16):

1. The Lord God who is supreme and is to be revered and feared appoints us to have an inner commitment to obey what He has ordered us to do.
2. Because of our reverence and fear of God we are to carefully obey His written Word.
3. Because the Lord is all powerful and God is the supreme creator who rules the earth, anything pertaining to His governmental structure must be revered.
4. Like David in Psalm 119:9-11, we must maintain these principles in our hearts (our minds, with a commitment to make it our lifestyle) so that we are careful to apply them each day, so it becomes who we are (Gal. 2:20).
5. Doing what the Lord says must be an expression that comes from the deepest innermost parts of our lives so it drives us to live in wisdom and understanding.
6. With each breath and for the preservation of life, our obedience is imperative.

B. Tear Down Doubts and Fears to the Obedience of Christ (v. 17):

1. Our commitment to these words means that we are intentionally committing to the Lord's authority.
2. To walk in His ways is to intentionally work to establish a lifestyle that consistently abides within the divine will of God. This stimulates a transformation within us so we walk in the Spirit.
3. We must not allow our emotions, or stresses that arise in our day to day lives cause us to forget the need to obey the Lord.
4. We must develop a lifestyle of dependency on God's written Word.
5. God's Word is the last will and testament so it must be revered and respected.
6. The Lord is all powerful and His governmental structures must be revered.

C. Experience His Victory and Bring Him Glory (vs. 18-19)

1. The Lord, with complete commitment, verbally communicates His message so that it is very clear.
2. The Lord has acquired Israel to be His privately own nation, just like He does the New Testament church (1 Peter 2:9-10).
3. Like David in Psalm 119:9-11 these principles must become our determination just as it was for Daniel also.
4. His Lordship over our lives should lead us to be willing to submit to His authority.
5. His promise is to promote us by establishing us to be great once we submit to Him.
6. Those who are exposed to who God is and what He has accomplished for Israel, will become so delighted that they will express joy when they observe His workings with Israel. God will receive glory.
7. When God accomplishes His promises it magnifies His powerful ability which in turn exposes His powerful might, which establishes His reputation throughout the earth.
8. God's beautiful, glorious manifestations of His works rises above all other gods so that He is renowned throughout the earth.
9. God set Israel aside as a nation only unto Himself to be holy and devoted to all He has called them to be and to do.
10. The Lord our God who has all authority, and is supreme, can accomplish everything He says.
11. God has communicated in a manner that is so dynamic, everyone has the opportunity to hear Him. As a result we must keep His Word pure.

2022 Contribution Statements

Beginning on January 3rd, LWFC members can begin submitting requests for their 2022 contribution statements



3 Ways to Receive

- ✓ Email
- ✓ Mail
- ✓ Pick-Up

USE QR CODE
TO REQUEST
STATEMENT

Pick-Up Requests are available within 48 Hours. Please select your desired pick-up date when requesting your contribution statement. Pick-ups are available from 10:00AM-2:00 PM in the Admin Office.

Important: Contribution Statements must be requested using the online form. LWFC will not automatically send out statements.

Visit: bit.ly/3WqPWko

JAN. 3-5, 2023 AT 7 PM

Prayer Revival

Featuring Pastor Rodney Maiden

For More Information Contact
Pastor Duane Lawrence at
dlawrence@lwfellowshipchurch.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Kim Young & family, the family of Ethel Davis, Vivian Jackson & family, Jo Lathan & family, Larry Ellis & family, Eleanor Wilson & family, and Alex Wolfe & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, Betty Goode, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey, Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Patricia Jackson, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, and Deborah Smith.

TEARING DOWN WALLS

2 SAMUEL 24:1-7