

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

MAY 19, 2024

The Privilege

If there is anything that I battle with in my walk with the Lord, it is not praying as I go, but habitually taking time to pray alone with God. This practice was part of Jewish culture. Daniel was dedicated to prayer no matter the opposition, and Paul as well (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The woman with the unjust judge was persistent (Luke 18:1-8), and her persistence provided a great result. This act of dependence on God is a powerful demonstration of our trust in His grace and love towards us.

Prayer is such a great privilege. To go before the throne of God's grace with Christ at the right hand of the Father is a blessing we must never take for granted. When we approach God, we must always bear in mind that He is "Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:9-10). Our prayer must fit within the will of our Father because He and He alone knows what is best for us. Even though we may not feel He understands, we must remember to be ".....of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer." (1 Peter 4:7; NASU)

"A rather lazy student noticed that a fellow student always recited her lessons well, so he asked her, "How is it that you always say your lesson so perfectly?" She replied, "I always pray that I may say my lessons well." "You do?" said the boy, somewhat surprised. "Well, then, I will pray, too." However, he could not even repeat a word of his assigned lesson the next morning. Perplexed, he ran to his friend and accused her of being deceitful. "I prayed," he said, "but I could not say a single word of my lesson." "Perhaps," rejoined the other, "you didn't study hard enough!" "I didn't study at all," answered the boy. "I thought I didn't have to study after praying about it." (from Illustrations of Bible Truths Copyright © 1995, 1998 by AMG International, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission).

For example, when a child asks for something, the parent answers based on what is best for the child and the family. The more the child understands the parent, the easier the process becomes. The Lord's Prayer ends this way; "For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen" (Matthew 6:13b). Take advantage of our access to God's throne, but remember God knows everything and has our best interest at heart (Hebrews 4:16). There is nothing we will say that He does not know from thousands of years before we prayed, so trust Him and make prayer what you do habitually (Luke 11:9-13; 1 Thessalonians 3:10).



UPCOMING Events

HEALTH SERVICES MINISTRY
Collaborate and serve with us in case of an emergency. We seek licensed nurses, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and medical doctors. Help us manage health emergencies and keep our church family informed. Register at <https://bit.ly/4dr4N7I> and for more information contact **Deidra McCoy** at 281-995-4694

WIDOWS MINISTRY BALLOON RELEASE
Losing your partner is never an easy thing and this International Widows' Day, Living Word Fellowship Church is taking a stand to create awareness about the situation of widows across the world. We will have a brief ceremony with a balloon release on June 23, 2024, at 10:15, in the front parking lot. If you are a widow and would like to participate, please register at <https://bit.ly/3QNvhX7> For more information contact Maxine Thomas, Pamela Farris or Mary Wheatley.

CONNECTION SUNDAYS IN JUNE
This June Connect with us as we continue to celebrate 30 Years of God's Faithfulness. We are going old school to the 1990s and beyond.

- Sunday June 2nd** — 8 am—70's/80's Attire
11 am — 90s Attire
- Sunday June 9th** — Bring something that reminds you of the 90s
- Sunday, June 16th** — Wear Your Favorite throw back Sports jersey or attire!
- Sunday, June 23rd** — Come dressed "Sharp As A Tack" in your old school church hats and outfits
- Sunday, June 30th** — ONE SERVICE at 9:30 am
Wear Your Family Reunion T-Shirts and Enjoy Deacon Family Fellowship Family Reunion Style

FAMILY REUNION T-SHIRTS
Living Word Family, please purchase your Family Reunion T-Shirt for our Family Reunion Fellowship happening on Sunday, June 30th after our ONE SERVICE at 9:30 a.m. Purchase your t-shirt here at <https://bit.ly/3xw5nuu> no later than **May 27, 2024!** For more information contact **Rashaud Hudson or Keron Brown.**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"He Listens"
Psalm 86:5-10

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

Visitor's Welcome

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

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

He Listens Psalm 86:5-10

A. Throne of Grace (v. 5):

1. The One who has all authority and power but genuinely desires a relationship with us (John 15:13) is by His very nature excellent, committed to providing those whom He has a covenant practical benefit for their day-to-day lives.
2. This word 'forgive' only relates to God pardoning us of our sins. The Psalmist wants to remind us that it does not matter what we have done. Even though He is sovereign, powerful, and mighty, God is willing and always fully prepared to create a pardon for our sins if we humbly come before Him.
3. God is the best Father we can ever have, but He is Holiness. Respect who He is and trust He is committed to providing us His best when we approach His throne.
4. The Lord's steadfast, gracious kindness toward us is very generous. He is loyal to us and deeply committed to never turning away His affection and compassion toward us. Even when He seems distant, He is ever present (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Ps. 28).
5. The Lord's attitude is the same to all those who loudly provide a specific request to Him.

B. Pray with Confidence (vs. 6-7):

1. Because of the Lord's steadfast kindness and forgiving nature, we can come before Him boldly (Luke 11:5-13), requiring He give us His full attention with the expectation that He will respond.
2. Our trust in Him is manifested not just when we make a request but also when we loudly and actively remain before Him, pleading with Him to respond, primarily because He can address our troubles.
3. In the midst of distressful circumstances, we naturally focus on our anguish and seek the quickest resolution for our troubles. Because the Lord is all-powerful, forgiving, and merciful, we must continuously offer Him specific petitions confidently, believing He is listening and understands.
4. Unquestionably, God will respond to those who come humbly before Him, continuously seeking Him with specific requests and pleading before Him in a heartfelt manner. They are guaranteed that He will listen and will respond.

C. There is No One Else (vs. 8-10):

1. God's activity in the nations He has created is strategically executed so that He completely fulfills all the plans He had prepared beforehand each day. God obligates Himself to make sure His plans are completed.
2. Everyone in every nation will continuously, purposefully, and humbly prostrate themselves in God's presence, demonstrating ultimate respect for who He is.
3. The Lord who is faithful in His steadfast love and mercy toward us will continuously be honored for His surpassing great character and nature in all the earth. This is because His reputation is superiorly greater than any other god.
4. If God is our only hope, will His apparent delays intensify our prayer? Does His apparent delays lengthen our supplications? Does His apparent delays teach us how to wait on the Lord, or does it drive us to find other means to resolve our troubles?
5. When God is in Whom we place our complete trust, who said, "pray without ceasing." (1 Thess. 5:18)

Connection Sundays
FELLOWSHIP WITH US EACH SUNDAY IN JUNE

June 2nd: 70'S / 80'S ATTIRE, 90'S ATTIRE

June 9th: Bring Something That Reminds You of The '90s and take a Picture at our Photo Station

June 16th: Wear Your Favorite Throwback Sports Attire

June 23rd: Come Dressed "Sharp As A Tack" -Wear Your Old School Church Outfits

June 30th: -ONE SERVICE Deacon Family Fellowship Wear Your Family Reunion T-Shirts

JOIN US FOR ONE SERVICE SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH AT 9:30AM
Take Photos Every Sunday and Post with Hashtag #LWFCFamilyReunion

For more details on Connection Sundays and Upcoming Fellowship Events Contact Keron Brown or Rashaud Hudson

From Pain to Promise
Please fill out this ONE question Survey to help us serve you best FROM PAIN TO PROMISE!

LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Katarina House & family, Ashley Gipson & family, Brenda Jones & family, and Jo Latham & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Birdie Williams, 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, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Elvis Anderson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Carolyn Hadnot, Angelique Hudson, and Sheryle Crowe.

HE LISTENS

PSALM 86:5-10