

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

MAY 26, 2024

## Never Fails

When we experience intense challenges, these incidents may make us feel God is silent or slow (Psalm 28) to respond. This may cause us to react instinctively based on past experiences, educational backgrounds, or logical processes. We tend to pray when our accomplishments do not produce the expected or desired results. We sometimes only lean on God as the only remaining option.

God has demonstrated throughout the years that no matter what His church experienced, He was always there (Matthew 28:20), working things out for the good of those who kept walking in His ways ('love Him,' Romans 8:28; John 14:15) no matter what. He proved that He is never silent or absent because His purposes are unshakable (Hebrews 12:29-29). His power is incomprehensible, so God had no reason to be discomposed. This is why He sometimes seems quiet. It is because there is no reason for Him to think His purposes will not be accomplished; after all, He is the Lord God Almighty. All He proved we needed to do was demonstrate our trust by remaining faithful in our obedience to Him no matter the circumstances we encounter (John 15:1-15). When we are committed to trusting Him (demonstrated by our faithful obedience to Him), we allow ourselves to become immersed in complete dependency on His results.

After asking Moses to go and lead the people of Israel out of Egypt, I am amazed that God allowed Moses to experience one difficult challenge after another. Returning to the land, convincing two million people to follow him at eighty years of age was enough. When Moses encountered these challenges, many answers made no sense: how does stretching out a person's hand stop thunder and lightning (Exodus 9:28-29)? How does raising a stick over the Red Sea help about two million people get through the sea into the wilderness? God did not remove the challenges or ask Moses to determine the solutions; God called Moses to obedience.

As we face the future, let the faithfulness the Lord has vividly exposed by serving His church these thirty years remind us that our most significant challenge is to "fight THE good fight of faith.... (1 Timothy 6:12); one fight. Because of our flesh (Romans 7:14-25; Galatians 5:16-18), the struggle to keep the faith when our emotions are high or our common sense tells us we are insane makes faith seem unrealistic (things we can't see; Hebrews 11:1-2). Trusting God when He seems silent was even a struggle for David (Psalm 28).

A sky driver demonstrates complete surrender when they jump. A patient demonstrates complete trust when they commit to surgery, no matter the level of anxiety they may encounter.

The Lord 'Never Fails'!! We learn this when we patiently and continuously trust Him (Isaiah 40:27-27-31).

"GREAT is His FAITHFULNESS!!!"  
Lamentations 2:22-26



## 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 Sunday, 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/3xwSnuu> 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

"At The Table"

*Proverbs 9:1-6*

*Min. Jeffrey Allen*

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**





## At The Table Proverbs 9:1-6

### 1. Wisdom built her house with seven pillars—v. 1-2

- A. The word built means establish. Wisdom has established her house. The house is one dwelling place where life can grow. There is safety and security, a place where you sleep, enjoy peace. Evil stays on the outside and only a friend comes in. There is a level of safety. It's an investment. You raise your kids in a home. It is structured in a way to sustain every thing you need to secure a healthy and well life.
- B. Pillars were used for big buildings that were large, well-appointed, and unshakable. Pillars are connected to the beauty and stability of the church.
- C. In Galatians 2:9- says James, Cephas, and John are mentioned as pillars.

### 2. Wisdom has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine—v. 2

- A. Prepared here means to slaughter... Slaughtering, like the difficult and responsible activity of building a house, was normally a man's job (cf. Genesis 18:7; Judges 6:19; 1 Samuel 25:11), but Wisdom is an extraordinary woman." (Waltke)
- B. Shows wisdom goes beyond normal capabilities to get these done.
- C. She has mixed her wine... Wine is naturally a strong and delightful drink and normally would be mixed with water for refreshment and partly for wholesomeness. Also, wisdom teaches us how to be temperate in the use of our comforts. (Poole)

### 3. Wisdom has set her table—v.2

- A. This is to mean wisdom has put in order her furnished table but not just any table, but a table fit for a King. After the meal is properly prepared the table will be able to display all that wisdom has prepared. The house of wisdom is prepared with everything needed to host the invited guest. The house is stable and firm, the meal has been prepared and the table has been set.

### 4. Wisdom calls—v.3

- A. The word call means to summon.
- B. Wisdom calls from the top of the city.
- C. God has provided his servants to bring truth... Prophets, Apostles, Jesus, preachers, pastors, life app and Sunday morning services.
- D. Proverbs 1:20- Wisdom shouts in the street, she raises her voice in the public square.

### 5. Whoever is naïve—v.4

- A. Naïve here means silly; foolish. Wisdom uses people to send out an invitation to those who practice foolishness or just simply lack understanding to come to her.
- B. The word turn means to (change direction or abandon) Wisdom makes a call but the naïve must answer the call and choose to go in the way of understanding.
- C. Him who lacks- What are you lacking? Where do you need the wisdom of God?

### 6. Come and eat—v.5

- A. Come and eat of my food and drink of my wine I have mixed. At the table, wisdom has already prepared the nourishment for the very thing you lack understanding of. At the table there is wisdom for your marital issues, at the table there is wisdom for your lust issues, at the table there is wisdom for your mental health troubles.

### 7. The table of understanding—v.6

- A. Put off and put on- The naïve must forsake their folly.
- B. When we forsake, we leave from that which we were held to.
- C. There is life leaving foolishness. Wisdom's invitation is to experience life because wisdom sees the path where foolishness leaves the naïve. (Proverbs 9: 16-18)

### 8. The rewards of eating at the table of wisdom—Proverbs 3:13-23

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** 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

# AT THE TABLE

## Proverbs 9:1-6