

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

MAY 5, 2024

Combat Fear

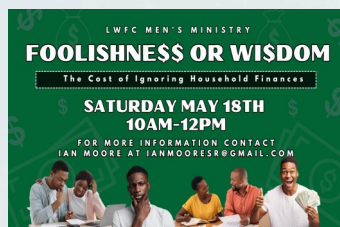


"Fear caused the disciples to huddle together in that room for protection. Indeed, they had heard the news by now—the news about the tomb being empty. Yet, the news of the empty tomb and Jesus' resurrection had not transformed their spirits. The room became a prison—fear kept them inside. Fear drove them to lock themselves up to protect their lives." Craig A. Loscalzo, Apologetic Preaching p. 45, submitted by Dr. Tom Martin, Fresh Illustrations. The scriptures say, "The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted." (Proverbs 29:25).

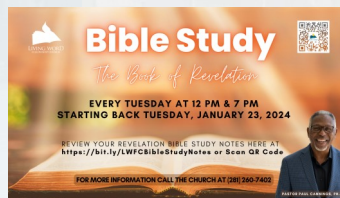
Fear and faith do not mix. When a person lives fearfully and anxiously about many things, trusting God and obeying Him becomes a major challenge. This is because obeying God most times challenges us to get out of our comfort zones; for example, Joshua, a great man of faith, struggled with fear when confronted about taking over leadership from Moses. "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:8-10; NIV) Joshua had to be warned not to fear. The same with Peter when the Lord initially challenges Peter to follow Him; "For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men." (Luke 5:9-11; NASB) In order for Peter to fully surrender to serving the will of God this is the major issue. It is again addressed when Peter is told to step out of the boat in Matthew 14:28-36. Peter, being a fisherman and now fully exposed to the storm while standing on water, began to sink because he doubted, and Christ again addressed his fear. Fear was still an issue after Christ's death as they huddled in a room, wondering if they would be crucified along with Christ (John 20:19-20). This was a realistic situation because Romans crucified over a hundred people in one day. Because of the circumstances, their fear became a snare, no matter how many times the Lord taught them about His crucifixion.

Fear is a natural emotion, and that is why, in scripture, we are instructed on how to combat this emotion. We are told to fear the Lord God rather than men (Deuteronomy 10:12). Fearing God increases knowledge, which leads to wisdom and understanding (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10). "You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield." (Psalm 115:11; NASB) When we live in reverent fear of God, we find strength, even while we fear (Psalm 118:5-8; Prov. 3:25-26; 30:5-6).

UPCOMING Events



FOOLISHNESS OR WISDOM MEN'S EVENT
Join the Kingdom Builders Men's Ministry on Saturday, **May 18, 2024 from 10 a.m.—12 p.m** for an event focused on household finances. Join us for an eye-opening journey into financial freedom, where we'll uncover the hidden costs of mismanaging household finances and empower you to break free from financial burdens. Discover practical strategies to take control of your money and build a secure future for yourself and your family. For more information contact **Ian Moore at ianmooresr@gmail.com**



REVELATION BIBLE STUDY— EVERY TUESDAY
Join us for Revelation Bible Studies every Tuesday at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Review your Revelation Bible Study notes at <https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes>

See you there to continue our deep dive into the Book of Revelation. For more information call the church at **(281) 260-7402**.



WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY GENERATIONS CONFERENCE
Calling all ladies and teen girls, join the Women of Grace Ministry for Our "Generations" Conference & Simulcast, Friday evening May 10th from 6:30-8:30 pm and Saturday May 11th 9:00am-4:00pm
No Childcare will be available. Register at <https://bit.ly/3QbmwFU>
For more information email wog77088@gmail.com



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 now at <https://bit.ly/3xwSnuu>
For more information contact Rashaud Hudson or Keron Brown.



LWCA/ABC SUMMER CAMP
Living Word Christian Academy and ABC Word Academy have a Christian-based, fun-filled summer camp available for ages 5—12. The cost is \$90 per week, and the camp is open from 6:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. The campers will have a dynamic summer with robotics, arts & crafts, cooking classes, karate, Christian character building and much more! Register on the events page of the website or call the church **(281) 260-7402**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Live Courageously"
Psalm 46:4-7

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

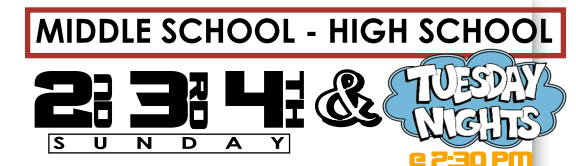
Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

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



Live Courageously Psalm 46:4-7

A. God is Unshakable (vs. 4-5):

1. For those who are committed to experiencing God's presence in their lives, the Holy Spirit is a fresh movement whose fruit produces a spontaneous, festive joy. This is simulated in and through the Lord's church (the city of God, a place where His people dwell).
2. The church in the New Testament is the only place Christ is the head of (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18), the only place that would withstand Satan's actions (Matthew 16:17-19; Ephesians 3:9-11), the only place where believers can grow up to the fullness of God (Ephesians 1:11-13, 16), and the only place that Christ is going to empower to change the world (Ephesians 1:23).
3. No matter how powerful someone may seem, no one compares to how 'exalted, supreme and overwhelmingly majestic God is.' Christ has all things below His feet (Philippians 2:9-11). In His city, He is the only person who is lifted up and the only person who keeps the stream flowing for His citizens (Ephesians 2:19-22).
4. Because God is God, no one can shake Him, cause Him to change His mind, or overpower Him so that He is displaced. Because God cannot be displaced, there is no need for us to fear and more reason to trust Him.

B. No Need to Fear (vs. 6-7):

1. None of the world's actions, no matter how powerful its nuclear forces, can change the Word of God or alter God's plans.
2. God's Word is powerful (Hebrews 12:4). When executed, those who hear it, see it unfold, or experience its justice will tremble helplessly and even panic-stricken by its authoritative, dominant force. Pharaoh at the Red Sea, the Walls of Jericho, and the resurrection of Lazarus are just a few examples.
3. David intentionally switched from God to Lord and added Host. He did this to emphasize the might, authority, and power of our covenant-keeping Lord, who, because of His covenant, fights for us as the mightiest, most powerful King that anyone can ever encounter. His covenant binds Him to us. (Romans 8:31; NASU)
4. As our Lord of Host, He is our very high tower, our fortress that is so fortified it is totally inaccessible to anyone or anything that can harm us (Psalm 34:7-10; Hebrews 1:14). This is why He is our refuge, our strength and there is no reason for us to fear. *"We can do all things through Christ" (Philippians 4:13), and "in all things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us." (Romans 8:37).*



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Rabia Jordan, Hermon Selassie & family, Donnie Emmerson & family, and Katarina House & 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, Vicki Hands, Clarence Coleman, and Sheryl Crowe

LIVE COURAGEOUSLY

PSALM 46:4-7