

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

JUNE 30, 2024

Unchangeable



Life has a way of rocking our world in a variety of ways. There are times we find strength, and there are times we become despondent, perplexed, or even mad at God. These feelings can become so overwhelming that they affect our relationship with God and those around us, whether the children we parent, our marriages, extended family, church family, or even ourselves. We can feel helpless and defeated which can lead to isolation. We are not the only people who have experienced this. There are great men of God like Elijah (1 Kings 17-19), David (Psalm 28, 42, etc.), and even Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46). Paul says to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:13, "When you come bring the cloak....Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching. At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me, in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the lion's mouth. The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen." (NASB) How can we, like Paul, learn to grow through these times rather than feel defeated and distant from God and others?

The pain that Joseph experienced was expressed every time Joseph spoke to his brothers; several times, we read how Joseph wept. It did not say Joseph cried; it said he wept (Genesis 42:24; 43:30; 45:2; 50:17). When Joseph finally saw his father after twelve years, a father that loved him and he loved Joseph "fell on his neck and wept on his neck a long time." (Genesis 46:29). Despite Joseph's pain Joseph maintained his faith in the Lord (Genesis 39:11-18; 45:4-15) and this allowed the Lord to powerfully use him so that he went from 'Pain to Promise.' In other words, Joseph's pain, because of his faith, shaped him to mature in his walk with God, which led God to bless him and promote him to be a redeemer. He became so powerful he managed a nation and became a type of Christ. Our lives may never be free of pain, but it should not prevent us from trusting God's 7000 promises.

When our circumstances don't change, remember God is unchangeable (Hebrews 6:18), and all-powerful. Nothing is impossible for God to accomplish (Luke 1:37). The only thing God chooses not to make us do but require from us is to trust Him like David before Goliath or Daniel in a Lion's Den. Life is rocking. Remember God and His cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 11-12:3).

UPCOMING Events

<p>Leadership Retreat 2024 JULY 17TH - JULY 20TH 19333 David Memorial Dr, Shenandoah, TX 77385 ELDERS PASTORS DEACONS DIRECTORS STAFF MINISTRY COORDINATORS Register by Sunday, June 30th 12:00 p.m. at https://bit.ly/LWFLLeadershipRetreat2024</p>	<p>LEADERSHIP RETREAT—JULY 17-20 Calling all elders, pastors, deacons, directors, staff and ministry coordinators, please register for the Leadership Retreat by today, Sunday June 30th. Register at https://bit.ly/LWFLLeadershipRetreat2024 For more information, contact Pastor Duane Lawrence at dlawrence@lwfellowshipchurch.org</p>
<p>LWFC KIDZ & LEGACY YOUTH ORCHESTRA WORKSHOP JULY 8TH - JULY 12TH MUSIC WORKSHOPS JULY 8TH - JULY 11TH 9 AM - 12 PM PARTY CELEBRATION WITH EPIC MINISTRIES JULY 12TH 6 PM - 9 PM CALLING ALL KIDS AND YOUTH AGES 8RD - 12TH GRADE WHO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT. COME AND RECEIVE GIFTS FOR CHRIST AT THE END OF THE WEEK WITH A PARTY CELEBRATION AT THE END OF THE WEEK HOSTED BY LWFC KIDZ & LEGACY YOUTH & EPIC MINISTRIES Register by July 5, 2024 at https://bit.ly/4c45hPP</p>	<p>LWFC KIDZ/LEGACY YOUTH ORCHESTRA WORKSHOP Are you a LWFC Kid or a Legacy Youth? Do you play an instrument? Join us for an Orchestra Workshop the week of July 8th-12th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each day. The week will end with a party on Friday, July 12th from 12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m. featuring EPIC Ministries. Register for Orchestra Workshop at https://bit.ly/4c45hPP For more information, contact Sylvia Edwards at sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org</p>
<p>CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING JUNE 25TH - AUGUST 6TH From Pain to Promise FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CLASSES VISIT www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/centerforchristianliving</p>	<p>CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING EVERY TUESDAY UNTIL AUGUST 6TH Living Word Family join us for Christian Education classes and bible studies every Tuesday at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m. until August 6th. Classes for Men, Women, Young Adults, Youth Kidz & Recovery & Restoration. Visit the events page of the website or contact Jordan Washington for more information at jordan.washington@lwfellowshipchurch.org</p>
<p>SUMMER TECH SERIES YOUTH/ADULT HTML WEB DESIGN CERTIFICATION JULY 12TH 8:30PM-8:30PM JULY 13TH 8:00AM-3:00PM REGISTER ONLINE TO ATTEND https://bit.ly/4c45hPP</p>	<p>FREE HTML WEBSITE CODING CERTIFICATION CLASS Living Word on July 12th-13th join our Two-Day HTML Website Coding Certification Class. Youth Ages 16+ and Adults come and receive FREE HTML Website Certification. Get Job Skills, Enhance Your Resume, and Learn how to code websites and receive FREE Certification. Please bring a laptop, tablet or mobile smart phone. If you do not have any of these devices, please still come and contact Shani Smothers at shani.smothers@lwfellowshipchurch.org</p>
<p>CPR Training CPR, AED, and First Aid Certification AUGUST 24 9:00AM-12PM HOSTED BY THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION \$65 PER PERSON • MUST REGISTER BY AUG. 11 • OPEN TO ALL AGES "Be the heart & save a life" Register before & after each worship service or contact Mrs. Lulu Hayes for more information at luluhayes1@gmail.com</p>	<p>CPR TRAINING—AUGUST 24TH 9AM—12 PM Have you ever wanted to be CPR certified? We have a CPR certification course coming up August 24, 2024 from 9 am to 12 p.m. Must register by August 11, 2024. Cost is \$65 per person. Receive CPR, AED, and First Aid Certification. To register, contact Lulu Hayes for more information on Sundays after service or at luluhayes1@gmail.com</p>



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Grace Under Fire"
Genesis 50:15-21

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

Grace Under Fire Genesis 50:15-21

A. The Conscience on Fire: v. 15; Romans 12:17-21

1. Sometimes, we think the wounds are healed because everything is packaged nicely. However, wounds are only healed once we deal with them with a lot of grace, humility, and a focus on the common good.
2. When we decide to address an issue, we must keep the facts in front of us, or our fears can cause us to invent stories that become truth.
3. No matter all the good Joseph did, his brothers believed that he was always planning to get back at them.
4. When our consciousness is good, unresolved issues will be rehearsed repeatedly. This sometimes causes individuals to fall into depression.
5. They admit they did what they set out in their hearts to do. Joseph's faithfulness to God piled coals on their heads (Romans 12:9-21).

B. Steps that Heal Relationships: vs. 16-17

1. The father let this issue linger, only allowing it to fester for years when he had a good relationship with Joseph. This is why loving God first is critical (Matthew 22:36-40).
2. The brothers requested that Joseph remove the debt that was owed to him by his brothers with a clear conscience. When we are committed to healing, we must confront the truth:
 - a) Our request should demonstrate our sincerity.
 - b) They must admit that they willfully revolted in a rebellious way against God and Joseph.
 - c) They were habitually sinful and willfully carried out an offense against God's standards. They were taught better.
 - d) The sad thing in this story is that they are saying they lack the ability to do better.
3. Joseph did not cry; he wept, not once but several times (42:24; 43:30; 45:2,14; 46:29), and God made sure it was recorded. It is not recorded that Joseph's brothers wept or even cried.
4. Joseph's brothers came to him as if they had decided that this was what they would keep doing for the rest of their lives.
5. Honesty and humility are the catalysis that heals relationships.
6. They were willing to be his indentured slaves.

C. Greater Will...It Heals: vs. 19-21

1. Joseph could not exchange his place with God to deliver to them an "eye for an eye, or a tooth for a tooth."
2. God met the evil they intended to do skillfully, with clever military precision, and a purposeful heart to do Joseph good. God's every intention was to work this out for good (Romans 8:28).
3. God took the evil they intended and turned it around to provide Joseph with a pleasant and excellent life, which offered practical economic benefits for a greater result. He was a prince in charge of everything and most likely lived well with the best resources. **KNOWING GOD'S WILL LEADS TO ACCEPTING GOD'S RESULTS.**
4. The decisions we make can affect other people. We cannot just think of ourselves; we are called Biblically to deny ourselves (Luke 14:26-17). Relationships are often damaged because we act on our fears and anger rather than wisdom focused on the purposes of God.
5. Joseph's communication style made it clear that he held no grudge against them and had no desire to harm them or their families.
6. When grace came under fire, Joseph's commitment to God saved lives and established God's legacy.
7. Life will rock and roll, but when we choose to endure the processes that God allows us to go through, in the long run, God will heal us and bless us because we made a willful decision to trust Him rather than be led by our emotions.

LWCA KIDZ EPIC PARTY
Summer Reading Fun! Drop Everything & Read!
Friday, July 12th 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Legacy Sanctuary
7350 W. TC Jester Blvd. Houston, TX 77088

FREE

EPIC
ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FUN?
High-Energy Games, Hilarious Mascot Skits & A Powerful Gospel Message

READING GAMES | MUSIC & DANCE | FUN & SNACKS

For more information, contact Sylvia Edwards at sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org

COUNTY CONNECTIONS IS FUNDED IN PART BY HARRIS COUNTY, CASE FOR KIDS, AND HARRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. THIS PROJECT IS BEING SUPPORTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY FEDERAL AWARD NUMBER SEP19966 AWARDED TO HARRIS COUNTY BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

+ SUMMER TECH SERIES 2024

JULY 12TH 6:30 PM-8:30 PM	YOUTH / ADULT HTML WEB DESIGN CERTIFICATION	AGES 16+
JULY 13TH 9:00 AM-3:00 PM	YOUTH / ADULT HTML WEB DESIGN CERTIFICATION	AGES 16+
JULY 27TH 10:00 AM-2:00 PM	GOOGLE SUITE & LWFC FORMS	ALL AGES
AUGUST 24TH 9:00AM-3:00 PM	YOUTH CODING CAMP	AGES 12-18
AUGUST 24TH 10:00 AM-2:00 PM	CANVA WORKSHOP	ALL AGES

REGISTER ON THE EVENTS PAGE OF THE WEBSITE & FOR INFORMATION ON TECH WORKSHOPS AND MARKETING CONTACT MARKETING@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Mary Ngwazini & family, Orelee Fields & family, Hazel & Dee Davis & family, Betty Hopson & family, Bailey Mier-Nava & family, Nikisha Doyle & family, Nathan Harvey & family, the family of JoeAnn Hayes, Mignette Dorsey & family, and Deidra McCoy & 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, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Joyce Denman, and Diana Doyle.

GRACE under FIRE

GENESIS 50:15-21