

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

October 13, 2024

## Fix Your Gaze



Most believers would agree that God is good and He is good all the time, but they probably would struggle to count trials as joy. Sometimes, when there are struggles with illnesses, jobs, marriage, the stress of being a single parent, and the constant stress of managing long bills with a short budget, all we can see are problems. So when God says, “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence, and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things,” we say things like ‘I don’t know if I can do that or that is hard.’ The major problem with our thinking is that this verse requires faith, and it is faith that God rewards (Hebrews 11:6). This verse requires that we keep our eyes on what God is doing (since every good and perfect gift comes from above, James 1:17), rather than what our circumstances dictate.

Robert Fulton was utterly discouraged by his steamboat invention and the jeering public response it had brought him. But then, a man went on board the boat one day, and this conversation ensued: “Mr. Fulton, I presume?” “Yes, sir.” “Do you return to New York with this boat?” “We shall try to get back, sir.” “Can I have passage down?” “You can take your chance with us, sir.” “How much is the passage money?” Fulton had never thought about that. After a moment’s hesitation, he named the sum of six dollars. The man became the first to pay for a steamboat passage in history! Fulton met this man four years later and told him: “The vivid emotions caused by your paying me that first passage money will always be remembered. That, sir, seemed the turning point in my destiny—the dividing line between light and darkness—the first actual recognition of my usefulness from my fellowmen” (Tan, Paul Lee: *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers and Christian Workers*. Garland TX: Bible Communications, 1996, c1979).

This man could have given up because people laughed and mocked his invention. He kept trying only for this man to make his invention a great development for trips around the world.

When life is not going well each day, how can we count it joy or genuinely believe that God is good and truly feel this? It takes place when we **look through the eyes of God** and focus on what He is doing because of His genuine, sacrificial love for us. (John 3:16-17; NASU) We must focus on the good things God’s loving nature is doing each day so that His gifts keep us feeling blessed. God says that He can take our trials and disappointments and make them work for our good (Romans 8:28), and He uses our trials to teach us endurance and strength for life in a world led by Satan and his demons (James 1:2-4; Ephesians 2:1-2; 5:19). “For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” (Phil 2:13; NASU) *This is because; “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”* (Rev 4:11; NASU) *It is a blessing to be a vessel that God seeks to live in and work through, whether every day goes well or just another day.*

## UPCOMING Events



**LAST LEADERSHIP TRAINING OF 2024**  
Calling all elders, deacons, ministers, teachers, facilitators, ministry leaders, coordinators and staff, join us for the last Leadership Training of 2024. Don’t miss this opportunity to collaborate, learn, grow and get prepared for all activities for the rest of 2024 and plan for 2025. Register at <https://bit.ly/LeadershipOct2024> or for more information, contact Pastor Duane Lawrence at (281)260-7402



**WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE THE BOOKS OF 1ST JOHN & ACTS**  
Join us for a new Bible Study Series September 3rd—November 19th on the Books of 1st John and Acts. For more information, call the church at (281) 260-7402. Follow along with Bible Study notes on the website at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/bible-study-notes](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/bible-study-notes)



**HARVEST FEST 2024—OCTOBER 31ST 6 PM**  
Join us for a fun-filled festival on October 31, 2024 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Living Word Fellowship Church. FREE food, fun, games, candy, slaunted house, and much more! **DONATE CANDY** in the foyer or in the Children’s Wing and sign up with the Children’s Ministry to volunteer. For more information contact **Keron Brown** at [keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org) or **Sylvia Edwards** at [sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org)



**SKATING PARTY FOR ALL AGES—11/2/2024**  
Join the L.E.G.I.T. Young Adults Ministry for a Skating Party for all ages. This Family event will be Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. at Skate Champions Roller Rink at 5504 Fellowship Ln, Spring, TX 77379. For more information contact Keron Brown at [keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org) Register Online at: <https://bit.ly/LEGITskatingNov2024>



**LWCA/ABC AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
LWCA/ABC has a dynamic after school program available for \$75 per week with a \$55 Registration fee. The program focuses on the four cornerstones of child development: Academic, Physical, Emotional and Spiritual. Activities include robotics, karate, arts and crafts, outside play, academic enrichment, cooking classes, sports & more. Register at <https://bit.ly/LWCARegister> or call (281) 445-9673.



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

“Stand Firm”

*Philippians 4:1*

Pastor Duane Lawrence

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**



**Stand Firm**  
**Philippians 4:1**  
**Pastor Duane Lawrence**

How should we as Christians (servant of God) to stand in these last days?

**I. STAND IN THE TRUTH – John 8:32**

Standing in the truth is the result of abiding in The Word of God – we prove ourselves to be His disciples

**II. STAND IN GRACE – Romans 5:1-2**

Grace is not only the way salvation comes to us it is also a description of our present standing before God. “We stand” translates to a perfect tense, used in this verse of the present, and with the thought of a continuing attitude.

**III. STAND IN THE GOSPEL – I Corinthians 15:1**

Every Christian must take seriously their responsibility of sharing the gospel – the best news ever is the “good news” that we can be saved from the punishment we deserve from God because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.

**IV. STAND IN COURAGE AND STRENGTH – I Corinthians 16:13**

Keep in mind all that God has done – the glorious standing we have as a child of God – His great plan of the ages that He has made us a part of – the plan for Christian maturity and the growth He gives – the conduct God calls every believer to live by – the filling of the Spirit and our walk in the Spirit – there is a spiritual battle to fight in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**V. STAND IN CHRISTIAN LIBERTY – Galatians 5:1**

The liberty that Paul is writing about is our freedom from the tyranny of having to earn our own way to God – the freedom from sin and guilt and condemnation – freedom from the penalty and power and eventually freedom from the presence of sin – Jesus Christ has indeed made us free!

**VI. STAND IN CHRISTIAN UNITY – Philippians 1:27**

The ancient Greek word translated “conduct” means literally, “to live as a citizen.” Paul told the Philippians to be good, patriotic citizens of the kingdom of God. When the church stands in Christian unity it fulfills (1) the necessity of oneness to win the spiritual battle for the faith (2) the love of others in the fellowship (3) genuine humility and self-sacrifice (4) the example of Jesus Christ Who proved that sacrifice produces eternal glory.

**VII. STAND IN THE LORD – Philippians 4:1**

Paul used the ancient Greek word for crown that describes the crown given to an athlete who had won the race. It was a crown of achievement; not a crown that was given to a king. The Philippians, as they stand fast in the Lord, were Paul’s “trophy.” We can only stand fast when we are in the Lord; any other place is not a secure place to stand.

2 – STAND FIRM - continued

Practical principles to stand in The Lord –

1. Be willing to work through problems and live in harmony – Philippians 4:2-3
2. Maintain a joyful spirit through proper prayer – Philippians 4:4-7
3. Keep your mind focused on what is godly – Philippians 4:8-9
4. Learn to be content in your circumstances by trusting in The Lord – Philippians 4:10-19

The Christian life requires spiritual endurance and stamina. We cling to Jesus Christ and never let Him go.

We stand fast in the faith as we mature toward a spiritually stable stand that is rooted, grounded, established, and anchored in Christ and that can never be moved.

Stand Firm!!!



**HARVEST FEST KIDZ**  
**FREE** October 31, 2024 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
**DONATE CANDY**  
 FOYER OR CHILDREN'S WING  
 For More information contact Keron Brown or Sylvia Edwards at (281) 260-7402  
[www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events)



**Leadership Training**  
 Saturday, October 26, 2024 8:30 a.m.  
 Calling all Elders, Deacons, Ministers, Teachers, Facilitators, Ministry Leaders and Coordinators, join us for the last Leadership Training for the year so we can plan and align our efforts under the vision for Living Word Fellowship Church.  
 Register at <https://bit.ly/LeadershipOct2024>

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Patsy Moore & family, Elaine Bates & family, Robert James & family, Myrtle Nichols & family, Terrance Ford & family, Cheryl Beal & family, Margaret Jefferson & family, and Phillip Baillou & family.

**Health and Healing:** 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, Diana Doyle, Vivian Phillips, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Janie Buchanan, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Evelyn Harvey, Yolanda Barnes, Pat Deckard, and Robert Edwards.



# Stand Firm

## Philippians 4:1