

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

January 26, 2025

## The Trust Challenge



Why is giving so challenging to do? I believe it is because there is a tug-of-war between what we want and God's demand for us to trust and love Him. The things we love can compete with God. A true love for God requires sacrifice. An example is a mom giving birth to a child. On one hand, she would love to keep her figure and not put herself through so much pain. On the other hand, she wants to be a mother (as God has blessed her to be) and develop a family with her husband. But it calls for sacrifice. Another example is a hard-working parent who tirelessly toils daily to support a child through college or prepare them for the prom.

For a moment, let's evaluate the things we must do to express godly love. "If you love me, you will keep My commandments." (John 14:15) Loving is obeying God's Word (1 John 2:3-6) because we are committed to thinking the way He does (Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25). When we decide to think biblically and obey His Word, our love is transformed into Christ's love. This is the means by which we can genuinely and actively love God and each other. When Christ's love overflows in us, we deny ourselves, pick up the cross, and follow Him. (Luke 14:27)

The Bible describes love this way: "Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous, loves does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all thing. Love never fails..." (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

Because loving God's way requires patience, we can resist the emotional impulse to buy things and wait. Because love is not jealous, we don't have to envy what someone else has and purchase something we don't need. Because love "rejoices in truth; bears all things, believes all things," we will accept God's challenge and trust Him for our daily needs because love always hopes.

Giving can be difficult because it is in giving that we are letting go of the world. (Matthew 6:24) It is when we let go of the world's way of "making it" that we demonstrate faith and experience God's way of living.

"...you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD." (Deuteronomy 8:3) "And the world is passing away, and (also) its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever." (1 John 2:17)

Giving in worship expresses our love and trust in God. This is why it is worship.

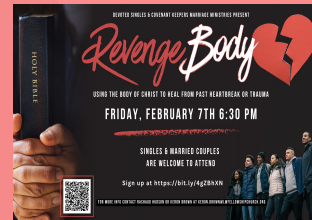
## UPCOMING Events



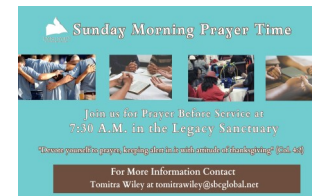
**WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY KICK OFF**  
**SATURDAY, FEB. 1, 2025 9 AM—12 PM**  
 The Women of Grace Ministry invites you to join us for our Kick Off event for 2025 on Sat., Feb. 1, 2025 from 9 am—12 pm. Start this year with the focus to use the Word of God as a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path. Living God's Word Daily. For more information email: [wog77088@gmail.com](mailto:wog77088@gmail.com)



**LWFC KIDZ MINISTRY SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS**  
 HELP THE KIDZ MINISTRY BY ASSISTING WITH FRONT DESK CHECK-INS ONCE A MONTH  
**LWFC KIDZ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
 If you are interested in volunteering at either 8 a.m. or 11 a.m. services for the LWFC Kidz Ministry assisting with check-ins at least once a month, contact Mrs. Sylvia Edwards at **281-260-7402** or at [sylvia.edwards@lwfcfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:sylvia.edwards@lwfcfellowshipchurch.org)  
 No experienced necessary.



**REVENGE BODY EVENT**  
 After hurt or heartbreak, some may use the Revenge Body approach to healing. This method never works when processing grief if you don't use your support system and the Word of God. The Singles Ministry and L.E.G.I.T. Young Adult Ministry present the Revenge Body event where we will show you how to use the Body of Christ to heal from past heartbreak or trauma. All are welcome 18+, both single and married, men and women. Invite your friends and others outside of the church. Register at <https://bit.ly/4gZBhXN> For more information, please contact **Keron Brown** or **Rashaud Hudson**.



**SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME**  
 Join the Prayer Ministry every Sunday morning for **Prayer Time at 7:30 a.m.** in the Legacy Sanctuary. Also join the Prayer Call every Monday evening at 7 p.m. **ZOOM MEETING ID: 776-2097-8265**  
**Password: PRAY!**  
 For More Information, Contact **Tomitra Wiley** at [tomitraw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tomitraw@sbcglobal.net)



**JOIN THE LEGACY YOUTH BAND APP**  
 Legacy Youth parents and youth, join the **BAND APP** to stay connected. WE have an exciting year planned for our youth and we don't want you to miss a single event or activity. Use the link below to join:  
<https://band.us/n/a8adA2G6V4fdO>  
 For more information, contact **Angela Holmes** at [angholmes32@gmail.com](mailto:angholmes32@gmail.com)



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

**"True Riches"**  
 1 Timothy 6:17-19

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 e 7:30 PM**



## True Riches 1 Timothy 6:17-19

### A. Earthly Riches, Temporal - Uncertain (v. 17):

1. This is a command that must always be in place as believers in a world led by Satan (1 John 2:15-17 5:19) can have their hearts become divided towards God (Matthew 6:24).
2. To be rich is to be able to pay bills and provide a roof over one's head. Food, and clothes are more than enough to create a sense of security.
3. This is a world that is rebellious against God, under the influence of Satan (1 John 5:19) who uses money to divide people's hearts (Matthew 6:24; 1 John 2:15-17), which is also the source of all forms of evil (1 Timothy 6:10).
4. Our finances should not cause us to be proud or arrogant (Deut. 8:12-14).
5. Those who are rich must be completely committed not to put their trust in the uncertainty of money but rather fully surrender to the Word of God, expecting it to fulfill the Lord's promises.
6. Riches are uncertain. They only provide temporary security because money cannot sustain anything permanently. For example, oil reservoirs can dry up, droughts can occur, fires just recently burned homes in LA or termites can eat at our houses if left untreated. All animals can become barren—there will be no more meat and no more vegetables.
7. Because believers commit to using God's Word to determine how they spend their money, God takes ownership of providing jobs even when the job market is terrible, sustain health (money is not eaten up with medical expenses), and provide scholarships for kids going to college, etc. In their culture, rain crops keep growing, animals multiply, and they are protected from their enemies who may seek to steal their crops.
8. His love is so great that it is available to everyone. There are no special people who are the only ones. Your background or your social or financial status does not matter.
9. God supplies to us so that we find joy, not the temporary nature of happiness (Proverbs 10:22; 11:6; Ecclesiastes 2:24-26; 3:12-13).

### B. Heavenly Riches, Unfading - Forever (vs. 18-19):

1. We are commanded to continuously do what is honest and acceptable in the sight of God based on His Word. Therefore, this, becomes beneficial to all those around us (Philippians 2:1-5).
2. The object of doing good richly is to see a project through to completion beyond what is expected, no matter the energy or sacrifice it takes. This could be everyone's cumulative effort so that the tasks directed by the Word of God, are executed and completed no matter how burdensome.
3. Our heart should be ready to supply whatever it takes to accomplish God's purposes like the believers in Acts 2:44-47.
4. To share is the sense that what God has provided is not just for that particular person; it belongs to God, so it belongs to His work (Acts 2:44-47; 5:32-37).
5. Doing all the above is continuously and actively gathering resources that are more valuable than any earthly riches any person can accumulate (Matthew 6:19-20; Luke 12:29-34. This is a banking system that lasts forever. This can be compared to those in Laodicea (Revelation 3:15-18).
6. Storing up treasure builds something superior and of greater value than storing earthly possessions. As a result, God establishes a solid foundation for a great future.
7. Because it is held with a firm power gift that God sustains, there is no way to lose it.
8. Believers who trust this process may go through financial issues like Job did, but their righteousness will be restored twice over what they have. As a result of being rich in heaven and earth, they experience the true blessings that living a saved and sanctified life provides. God always sustains them no matter what the economy is doing, lets them see all their days (Psalm 128:5-6), and allows them to enjoy the fruits of their hard labor.
9. Being generous blesses us on earth and in heaven – Abundant life!



**WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY**  
LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH  
**LIT 2025 KICK OFF**  
LIGHT IN TRUTH  
*Focus on Family*  
SATURDAY, FEB. 1, 2025 9 AM- 12 PM  
LEGACY SANCTUARY  
The Women of Grace Ministry invites you to join us in our focus to use the Word of God as a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Living The Word of God Daily.  
For more information, visit the LWFC events page or pick up a flyer in the foyer.

DEVOTED SINGLES & COVENANT KEEPERS MARRIAGE MINISTRIES PRESENT  
**Revenge Body**  
USING THE BODY OF CHRIST TO HEAL FROM PAST HEARTBREAK OR TRAUMA  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH 6:30 PM  
SINGLES & MARRIED COUPLES  
ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND  
Sign up at <https://bit.ly/4g2BhXN>  
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT RASHAUN HUDSON OR KERON BROWN AT [KERON.BROWN@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG](mailto:KERON.BROWN@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Lucretia Lewis & family, Joyce Hayes & family, Jon Heard & family, and Marcia Anderson & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, 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, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, 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, Robert Edwards, Beatrice Williams, Jessie Austin, and Evelyn Harvey.



## 1 Timothy 6:17-19