

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

January 5, 2025

Light In Truth



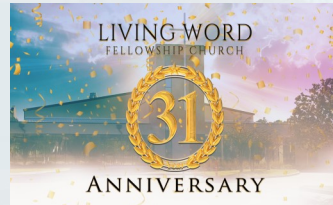
If you are reading this pastor's corner, it is because you have made it to 2025. This means that the Lord has preserved you in good and difficult times. He has protected you, healed you, whether known or unknown, and provided for you (you may have a job and skills to work it, but you had to breathe to get there, drive there, and have a mind and health to get it done); in other words every day no matter what is taking place in this world the Lord God is still good, perfect, loving, kind, gracious, holy, eternal and forever powerful. Therefore, how should you and I now respond in 2025? His faithfulness should cause us to focus on 'running the race He has set before you,' meaning commit to stop waiting on God before acting and start acting based on His Word, knowing He will be God daily. "Faith is what we hope for and the evidence...." (Hebrews 11). We have the evidence....

We have faithfully taught you sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:1-5). Challenge each person to discipleship and to love each other (John 13:34-35). Now, does all that has been taught translate from sound doctrine, to walk it out so that the Word becomes 'a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path?' (Psalm 119:93, 105; Proverbs 6:23; Psalm 119:33-40). As John would say, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory (God in His full excellence),, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) This Word that was preached through the Old Testament (Hebrews 1:1-3) in the New Testament became a light to the world (John 1:6-9), an example you and I must now walk in (lifestyle; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-4; 1 Peter 2:21-25) so that we become the light (Matthew 5:13-16) in our homes, communities, and world. This process nurtures the development of the Holy Spirit in you, creating genuine fellowship (1 John 1:5-7; Matthew 22:36-40), as the Holy Spirit continuously transforms you each day (Philippians 2:12; 1 Peter 1:13-16).

While on vacation, I attended my grandkids' soccer games. The coaches always expected the players to follow their instructions during practice, but the issue was how they applied all this in a game.

This year, you and I need to live out how the Word of God relates to the issues we experience daily; this way, we do not become short-sighted or blind when faced with struggles (2 Peter 1:3-10). This way, amid daily challenges (Philippians 4:13), we become conquerors while transforming to be like Christ, impacting others for His glory (Ephesians 3:14-21).

UPCOMING Events



CHURCH ANNIVERSARY—31 YEARS!
Living Word, thank God for 31 years of Faithfulness to our church, ministry, and families. Celebrate our 31st Church Anniversary on Sunday, January 12, 2025 with two services at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Make sure to join us in Fasting and Prayer (January 5th-11th) and for the LIT Prayer Revival (January 7th—10th). For more information, contact **Keron Brown** at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



CHURCH FAST—JAN. 5TH-11TH, 2025
It's time to start 2025 in fasting and prayer Jan. 5th-11th. As a church, we fast and pray in community the week before our church anniversary. The method of fasting is your choice, some choose the Daniel Plan, some fast from certain foods or at certain times. Break the fast with your Deacon Families Saturday, January 11, 2025. For more information, contact **Keron Brown** at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



THE LIT PRAYER REVIVAL—Jan. 7TH-10TH
The LIT Prayer Revival allows us to start the new year as a community in prayer. Join us each night at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 7th—Friday, January 10th for prayer, praise & worship, and a message from Pastor Rodney Maiden from Providence Baptist Church in Cleveland and Euclid, Ohio. Don't miss this time to start your new year in community with your church family in prayer.



LWFC KIDZ LIT PRAYER REVIVAL
LWFC Kidz get ready for to start 2025 off with fun, games, fellowship and much more! Join us each night at 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 7th—Friday, January 10th. Pray in the main sanctuary with your parents, then be dismissed to the Children's Wing for a week full of amazing activities including: Tues.—Prayer Journals; Wed.—Glow in Dark Cookies; Thurs.—LIT Painting; and Fri.—Popcorn & Movie Night!



JOIN THE NET TEAM
Join our NET Evangelism Team that goes out to spread the gospel in the community. We have opportunities for you to serve on the street team that goes out, on the hospitality team that provides refreshments, or on the phone team that makes phone calls to spread the good news of Christ. For more information sign up on the events page of the website or contact **Pastor Duane Lawrence or Omari Dawson**.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"L.I.T."
Light In Truth
Acts 17:24-28

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS

SUNDAY e 7:30 PM

L.I.T
Light in Truth
Acts 17:24-28

A. God, the Source of Life (vs. 24-26):

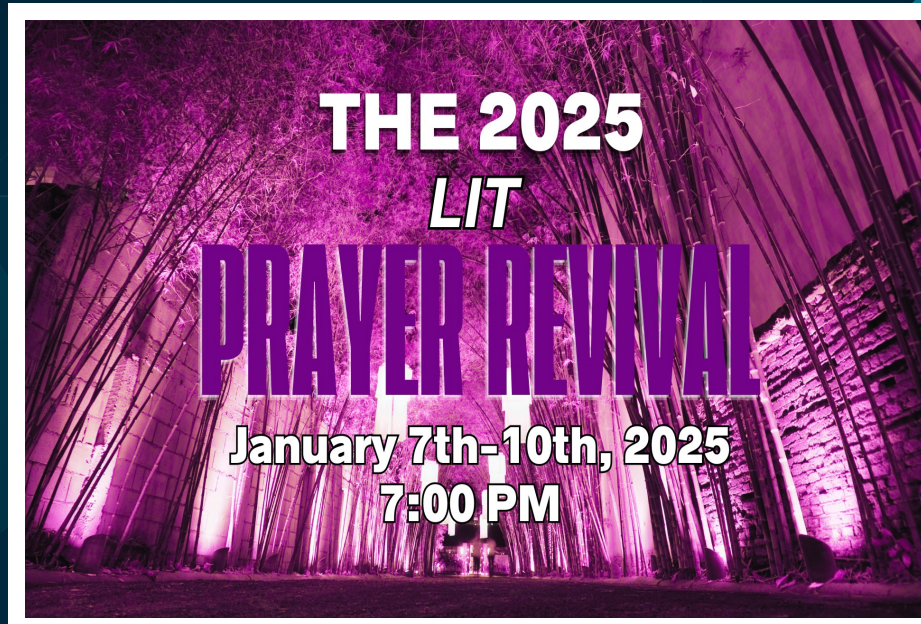
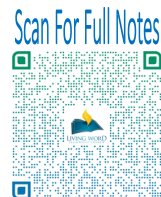
1. The Lord keeps watch over all things with all authority, and nothing is out of His control. Every day, no matter how chaotic things may seem, He reigns. We must trust Him no matter how silent He may seem. He is always at work.
2. How we live before God must be a conscious realization that the Lord God reigns every where, not just while we are in church. We must not leave church as if the Lord is only at church. He dwells in us (Ephesians 3:16-21) so we must maintain the mindset of working out our salvation every day (Philippians 2:12-13), presenting our bodies as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1-2).
3. Serving the Lord is an act of thanksgiving, appreciation, and respect – worshipping the Lord God because He alone is God. Just like water is essential to a fish so should the Lord be towards us.
4. There is no point in believing God continually needs help because He lacks absolutely nothing. We serve Him based on our spiritual gifts by the power of the Holy Spirit living in us and we transfer His work in us to others. People serve people since the Lord God is a spirit being.
5. Only the Lord God is the direct provider for the seasons of all things, including life and death (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). Our lives are entirely dependent on His goodness and grace towards us. No one has the power or capacity to change the course of time (Colossians 1:16-19).
6. Life here also means overcoming the challenges of day-to-day living. The inner power that is necessary to overcome trials comes only from God (Ephesians 3:16-21; 1 John 4:4). Outside of this process people live out Ecclesiastes – Vanity.
7. We live in a time of racial hatred, which is a demonstration through ignorance because all races came from one man. In heaven, God gathers all races (John 3:16) before Him, with the only elevation being how each person lived before Him (Matthew 25:31-33; Acts 10:34-35; Romans 4:17; Revelation 7:9). We must not allow the hate we may experience to cause us to be hateful. God does not bless believers based on their race. He blesses believers based on their spiritual gifts towards others (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

B. The Ultimate Quest (v. 27):

1. Because the Lord God is everything, the hope is that mankind will have an unending burning desire to love God with 'all their heart, soul and mind.' (Matthew 22:36-40) Because of all that God is, how much we need Him, and how He faithfully serves us, this should become our passion to seek Him (Luke 12:29-34).
2. To grope for God represents a desire so passionate for God that if mankind does not understand His Word or comprehend what God is doing, they would be like a blind man searching in darkness for an object, scrutinizing everything to discover all the mysteries of God.
3. God is constantly in every place all the time, so He is never distant from His creation. Seeking Him allows us to become more aware of Him by becoming less obsessed with ourselves (Luke 14:25-27).

C. God Alone Keeps Us 'L.I.T' (v. 28):

1. Because God is entirely everywhere all the time and sustains all things, it is only in the all-encompassing presence of God that we find meaning and purpose in life every day.
2. No matter our race or creed we all belong to Him forever. No one has the power or authority to overcome who God is and can never alter His plans.
3. The best way to live is to surrender everything to Him who is everything.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Tomitra Wiley & family, Arthur Latham & family, De'anna Mitchell & family, Mary Wheatley and Carol Dickerson and their families, and Randy Hadnot & 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, Elvis Anderson, 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.

