

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

February 9, 2025

From the Heart



Are we believers only because we accepted Christ in our lives, or are we true believers because we are in love with God? To love God is to keep His commandments (John 14:15). So why is giving to someone we love such a struggle for some believers (2 Corinthians 8:7). If an individual says they love their family, they go home and seek to be faithful to their family. No one has to make them come home or be responsible for those at the house because they are in love with them. The same should be true for God. No one should have to make us come to God's house or be responsible for what God says He wants His family to do.

Our love for God and our giving are directly connected. Christ says, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34). So if we are not willing to give or say we cannot give, there are a few issues. We lack ability and are not willing to make the necessary adjustments like the Macedonians (2 Corinthians 8:1-6), or we love money (we do what it empowers us to do; Matthew 6:24), and it is therefore our master so God cannot tell us what to do with it, or we love the world and the things of the world (1 John 2:15-17). Therefore, God does not control what we do with our resources. Not responding to God's command can also expose our unwillingness to trust God. True love directs the heart of a person, not just our lips.

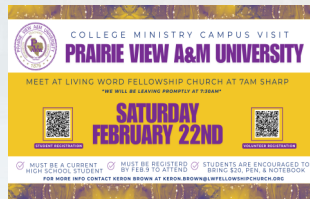
"Ah!" said a woman who, in her poverty, had done much for Christ and who had a significant sum of money willed to her, "I cannot do as much as I used to do." "But how is that?" someone asked. Said she, "When I had a nickel purse, I had a silver heart, but now I have a silver purse, and I have only a nickel heart." (from Illustrations of Bible Truths Copyright © 1995, 1998 by AMG International, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)

Our desire to love God, demonstrated by our service and gifts, allows God to love us with His gifts (Proverbs 3:9-10; 10:22; 11:24-26). Otherwise, instead of being blessed financially, we are disciplined by the Lord. "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure — pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return." (Luke 6:38; NASU) 'KEEP HIS COMMANDS' (John 14:15) Abide in His Word, and He blesses our desires (John 15:7).

UPCOMING Events



BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM—SAT. FEB. 22ND LWFC Silver Stars presents their annual Black History Month celebration. Join us this year as we celebrate the significant contributions of Black individuals in the workforce throughout history, from agriculture to the professional world.



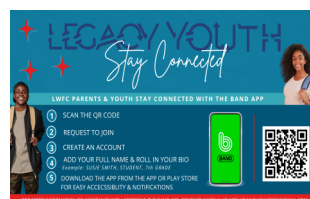
COLLEGE MINISTRY VISIT TO PRAIRIE VIEW A&M—SAT. FEB. 22ND Attention all high school students, join us to visit the campus of Prairie View A & M on Saturday, February 22nd. Meet at the church at 7 a.m. sharp. Register at <https://bit.ly/4aEH8Qa> For more information, contact Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



FEBRUARY IS PURITY MONTH Legacy Youth join us each Tuesday night at 7PM as we dive into open discussions, and learn what it truly means to live with "purpose, purity, and faith"
PURITY MONTH BANQUET — FEBRUARY 24TH If you have attended 2 or more Purity Month sessions, join us for our Purity Month Banquet. Please register at <https://bit.ly/PurityBanquet> and contact Angela Holmes at ang-holmes32@gmail.com



LEADERSHIP TRAINING—SAT. MAR. 15TH 8:30AM Join us for our first leadership training of 2025. Elders, deacons, and ministry leaders your attendance is required as we plan and prepare for a LIT 2025!



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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Proven Results Part II"
Hebrews 11:4

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



Proven Results Part II
Hebrews 11:4

A. It's Better (v. 4):

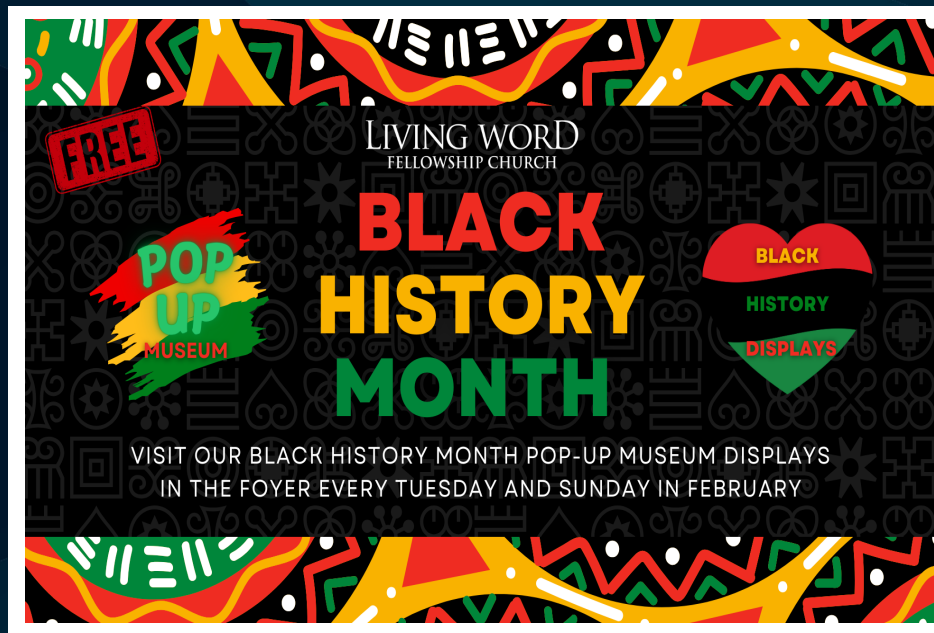
1. Whatever his parents taught Abel was executed effectively and faithfully. This was displayed because the animal was the best choice, and Abel offered the animal's fat. Offering the fat required much time and energy, exposing his dedication and commitment to please God.
2. This is a direct, purposeful personal presentation of a gift presented once and for all without expecting any return.
3. Abel presented the best he had, manifesting his respect for God as someone who is superior and necessary for his existence.
4. A better sacrifice means a more excellent sacrifice. Abel's sacrifice was more than enough, and it was beyond God's expectations. He went out of his way to impress God.
5. Because it was the first fruit and fat of the animal, it took time, and it was a deliberate gift.

B. Prime Rewards (v. 4b)

1. Abel's witness demonstrates that there is no possibility of a mistake being made and that what he did represents a good report. What he did was of such high regard it is now recorded permanently in heaven. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21; NASU)
2. Abel's righteousness demonstrated by His gift is a timeless example of giving that pleases God (2 Corinthians 9:10-11). God made sure Moses recorded this act of worship.
3. Abel exposed his faith level by bringing his gift to God. His gift was in accurate alignment with God's expectations. His faith justified him because his gift conformed to God's standards. He showed his faith through his works. God will never forget Abel's action.
4. God's witness is in reference to the fact that Abel's offering was directly set aside to be presented to God, and it was the choicest and the fat of the animal. This is an intentional, purposeful expression of Abel's desire to provide God his best, (the fat of the animal is an expression of giving the best of the animal – the animal was considered healthy because of the goodness of God).

C. Overflows (v. 4c)

1. The fact that Abel set aside his gift demonstrates that he was intensely committed to surrendering himself to please God. This mindset demonstrates Abel's steadfast commitment to obey God's Word.
2. Even though Abel is no longer physically on earth God did not forget Abel's sacrificial worship because Abel's offering was such a blessing, and God was so pleased God continues his righteous worship as an icon forever; "The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever." (Psalm 37:29; NASU)
3. Abel's sacrificial act of faith is God's message to everyone. After the Fall, Adam and Eve are not recorded as righteous. Still, their son Abel's commitment to living a life totally surrendered to pleasing God was fully highlighted by his sacrificial giving to God.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Lucretia Lewis & family, Joyce Hayes & family, Jon Heard & family, Marcia Anderson & family, the family of Vivian Phillips, and Judah David & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Barbara Smith, 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, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Janie Buchanan, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Beatrice Williams, Jessie Austin, Audrey Jones, and Evelyn Harvey.

PROVEN RESULTS
PART II
HEBREWS 11:4

