

# WELCOME TO WORD OF FAITH LIFE GROUPS WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

## LIFE GROUP LESSON PLAN

*The Ephesians Prayer of Revelation” Pt. 10*

Thursday, December 15, 2022 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

*Teaching The Bible Through Practical Biblical Teaching*

VIP Silver Saints - Conference Call # (717) 908-1834 – Dial \*6 to Mute

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### OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

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### WELCOME TO OUR GROUP (5 MINUTES)

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If this is your first time joining us, please introduce yourself! We are glad you took the time to join us today. Our group has four purposes:

1. **L... Learning together from God's Word**
2. **I... Interceding through prayer**
3. **F... true Fellowship in the Spirit of Christ**
4. **E...Evangelizing the lost**

### PRAISE & WORSHIP (5 MINUTES)

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### FACILITATION OF LESSON

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*Sermon Title: “The Ephesians Prayer of Revelation,” Pt. 10*

#### **POINT I**

We are continuing our study of the Ephesians Prayer of Revelation. We have all read scriptures like **Romans 1:17** which states, “*For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*” And **Galatians 3:11**, “*But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*” Who are the just? Another word for “just” is righteous. And **Romans 5:19** tells us, “*For as by one mans disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*” Who is that one? Jesus! So, by the obedience of Jesus, we were made righteous. Made to be in right standing with God. Then in **2 Corinthians 5:21** it tells us, “*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*” The “just” is the righteous and the “righteous” is the just. We are the just! The “just” means those that are innocent and have been declared righteous. According to this text, the moment you prayed to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior was the moment that you became “just.”

#### **QUESTION**

1. What does righteousness mean to you?

Paul noted in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that something supernatural happens when someone is born-again.

What happens? According to **2 Corinthians 5:17**, “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*” What happened when you were

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born again? You heard the Word about Jesus, and you applied faith to it according to **Romans 10:8-10, 13** where it says, *“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* When you applied faith to what you heard, power was released, and you were recreated into a new man or woman. At that moment you were **made righteous** in the eyes of God.

You are not an old sinner saved by grace. You were an old sinner, but now, you are saved, healed, delivered, and set free because of God’s grace.

#### QUESTION

1. What happened when you became born again? How did it happen?
2. Are you still an old sinner? Explain!

#### POINT II

So, being *“the just”* how does God expect us to live? In **Hebrews 10:38** it states, *“Now the just shall live by faith.”* The word *“Live”* is the Greek word *“zao”* and it means to breathe. In other words, your faith is just as important to you as breathing. It also means to enjoy real life to have true life. You haven’t enjoyed real life until you learn how to live by faith. Faith is for a lifetime! Now I want you to pay attention to the rest of this verse where it says, *“but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”* The Message Translation states, *“But anyone who is right with me thrives on loyal trust; if he cuts and runs, I won’t be very happy.”* The Amplified Translation reads, *“But my righteous one [the one justified by faith] shall live by faith [respecting man’s relationship to God and trusting Him]; and if he draws back [shrinking in fear], my soul has not delight in Him. Jesus says I will not have any pleasure in them, I won’t be happy, my soul has no delight in him.”* Does that tell you how Jesus feels when you shrink in fear? We shouldn’t draw back from living by faith; we should press in.

#### QUESTION

1. How important is it to live by faith?
2. What is Jesus’ reaction to those who shrink into fear instead of living by faith?

In **Hebrews 11:6** it states, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him...”* In this verse we learn that without faith you cannot please God. And we saw in **Hebrews 10:38**, God takes no pleasure in those who draw back. God derives pleasure when you operate in faith towards Him. In recent global events, people did not walk in faith. Many of the members of the Body of Christ shrank in fear. Pastor took the blame saying that maybe he didn’t teach you enough about faith and how to live by faith or how important faith is to your well-being and your relationship with God. From these verses we can see that Jesus is very concerned about you learning how to live by faith.

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#### QUESTION

1. When is God pleased?
2. Why did some people shrink in fear during recent events?

Paul says something interesting to Timothy in **2 Timothy 1:5**, “*When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*” If there is unfeigned faith that means, there is feigned faith. Well, what is feigned faith? The word “*feign*” means hypocrisy. The word “*hypocrisy*” is the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one’s own behavior does not conform; to pretend. Some people are convinced that they are walking by faith, but their actions say something totally different. Their behavior doesn’t line up with what they believe. They are quick to run to the arm of man rather than run to the arm of God. People are pretending to have faith but it’s not true faith.

#### QUESTION

1. Can a Christian claim to have faith and really not, have it? Explain!

The word “*feign*” also means disguised. What is a disguise? It is having changed one’s appearance in order to conceal one’s identity. A Christian’s faith can look like faith, sound like faith but not be real faith. They are walking around with disguise faith, and some don’t even know it. How you react to things. How you respond in certain situations gives us an indication of where your faith truly is. You can say you have faith all you want. You can even get mad when someone tells you that’s not faith. That’s not going to change what God sees when you respond to certain trials and temptations. We have to learn to live by faith!

#### QUESTION

1. What is an indication that someone is truly living by faith?

Notice what Paul says in **2 Timothy 1:5**, “*When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*” Unfeigned faith can be seen, it can be witnessed in your life. Paul says, “*I saw it first in your grandmother and then in your mother. The unfeigned faith I saw in them, I see in you! Your faith is without hypocrisy, you’re the real deal, there’s nothing pretensive about your faith!*” From this verse, we learn that our example of walking in faith affects our children’s walk-in faith. If our children don’t see us walking by faith, they have nothing to glean from when the trials of life hit them.

#### QUESTIONS

1. What is hypocrisy faith?

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2. What is unfeigned faith? How does unfeigned faith affect your children?

### **POINT III**

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Unfeign is a belief system and conviction that is so real that it changes a person’s thoughts and actions. Real genuine faith will change the way you think, and it will be totally opposite to what the world thinks and believes. Real genuine faith will change the way you act. You won’t follow the actions of the crowd or the government or this world system. Real genuine faith will stand up and say no to what the Word of God says is wrong. It’s doesn’t bow or compromise!

Walking by faith is not intended to be a get rich quick scheme. It is not supposed to be merely an emergency measure that you pull out when things suddenly go wrong. No, God wants us to live the life of faith! It should be something we do day in and day out, year in and year out. This is how we roll! It’s just what we do! We live by faith.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. What are the results of real genuine faith?
2. Walking in faith is not meant to do what?

So, what do we mean by faith? The New Testament is translated from the Greek language. Pistis is the Greek word for faith. Pistis mean persuasion, conviction, and assurance. When we talk about biblical faith, we are referring to what is in you: your persuasion, your conviction, and your assurance. There are several reasons why operating in faith matters. We already saw one, 1) The just shall live by faith. We slightly look at another one in **Hebrews 11:6**, “*But without faith it is impossible to please him [GOD]...*” Remember the word “faith” means to be persuaded; it’s your conviction an assurance. When the bible talks about faith, it references God and His written word. You can’t separate God from his Word. The Word is God, and God is the Word. They are one!

God Is Eternal, and so is His Word as Jesus taught in **Matthew 5:18**, “*For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*” You can’t separate God from his Word.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. What do we mean when we talk about biblical faith?
2. When the Bible talks about faith what is it referencing? What’s the connection?

### **POINT IV**

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In **Hebrews 11:6** it states, “*But without faith it is impossible to please him [GOD]...*” The Greek word “*please*” means to gratify God entirely. In other words, God is not pleased or gratified without faith. For he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

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Did you notice the word must? There is no doubt about what God requires. If you are going to come to God, you can only do it by faith. We must believe that God is everything that he said he is. He is your father, mother, sister, or brother. He is your provider, your banker, and your protector. God is whatever you need in life. He is God Almighty. He is all powerful and He wants to be your everything.

#### **QUESTIONS**

1. What **MUST** we believe about God?
2. Does the word **MUST** mean you have an option? Why or why not?

Hebrews 11:6 goes on to say that when you approach God with faith, believing he is everything you need, He will reward you! When you go after God, everyone will see how God rewards you. Your children will see how God rewards you. God is only gratified when you walk in faith towards Him not when you doubt Him. You have to be honest with yourself and be able to recognize whether or not you are walking in feign faith or unfeigned faith. You can't go around believing you have arrived when it comes to faith. It's a constant checkup. Because you want to make sure you are pleasing to God.

#### **QUESTION**

1. What happens when you pursue God with everything you've got?
2. When it comes to faith, can you ever reach a point where you feel like you've made it?

#### **CALL - TIME OF DECISION (EVERYONE BOW YOUR HEADS)**

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#### **PRAISE REPORTS - \*2-MINUTES PER PERSON**

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#### **PRAYER FOCUS / INDIVIDUAL PRAYER REQUEST (10 MINUTES)**

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##### **Prayer focus:**

- 1) Your Circle (friends and family)
- 2) Life Group members
- 3) Word of Faith Leadership:
  - a. Pastor Ronald D. Walker, Jr., Evangelist Sharon L. Walker, Minister Promise Walker, Brittany and Christian, Carmelo and the ministerial staff.
  - b. Bishop Keith A. Butler and Pastor Deborah Butler

**Have you reached out to your circle today?**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)**

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1. Join the SWAT Team for their next outing Saturday, **December 24th**. Prayer begins promptly at 11:00 am. For more information contact Minister Julie Francis.

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2. Join us for Christmas Day Service, **Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 am**. Come and hear a dynamic Word from our Pastor. You don't want to miss it!
3. Join us for a Night of Prayer, **Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** Let pray in the new year together.
4. Join us for **New Year's Day Service, Sunday, January 1, 2023 at 10:00 am**. Join us as we hear the word of the Lord for 2023 from our Bishop.
5. Mark your Calendars for **30 Days of Prayer** from **Monday, January 2nd to Tuesday, January 31st**.
  - a. Visit [pray30.org](https://pray30.org) or text **PRAY** to **248-266-9990** to receive the daily devotionals right to your inbox.
  - b. Watch or Read the Daily Devotionals and Pray at Least 30 Minutes Daily.

Our youth are invited to follow **youthpray30** on **Instagram** and **subscribe** to the channel on **YouTube**

c. In addition, the youth videos will be posted on the [pray30.org/ignite](https://pray30.org/ignite) website page

**Children's Ministry** will have special lessons for the month and a ZOOM meet up every Saturday from 12:00 Noon – 12:30 Noon EST.

6. Join us for Early Morning Prayer, **Monday- Friday from 6:00 am - 7:00 am** and Saturday's at 10:00 am. Join us on the Miracle Line on Tuesday's and Thursday's at 11:00 am by conference call, Facebook, YouTube and the Word of Faith Website. The call-in number for the Early Morning Prayer and the Miracle Line is (717) 908-1834, access code 755875#.
7. Then Join us for Noon Day Prayer, with Evangelist Sharon Walker. Join us for 1-hour to pray. This is an In-person Prayer Service at Word of Faith.
8. Monetary donations are being accepted to be a blessing to those truly in need. When making your donation to please write **"Gift for WOFICC CARES."** **WOFICC CARES** about our church family! **WOFICC CARES** about our community! **WOFICC CARES** about the Islands of the Caribbean!

## OFFERING

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- <https://wordoffaithstthomas.com/give-online/>
- <https://www.givelify.com/>



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**CLOSING PRAYER & DISMISSAL**

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