

Walking by

FAITH

and Not by Sight

2 Corinthians 5:7

Living Faith Christian
Center Newsletter



December 2024 - Volume 7 – Issue 12

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Calendar of Events

December 31, 2024

Watch Night Service
6pm to 8pm

Living Faith Christian Center
1540 Frye Road
Columbia, SC 29203

Living Faith Christian Center Mission Statement

The mission of Living Faith Christian Center is to empower people to live successful lives through the teaching of the Word and Faith principles that will transform their thinking and impact future generations, teaching them to live independent of this world system and to have dominion over it.

Service Times & Contact Information

Sunday Morning Worship Service @ 8:30am

Tuesday Night Bible Study @ 7:00pm

Web Address: aldowningministries.org and livingfaithsc.com

Phone: (803) 609-5714

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Speaking Engagement Request

If you would like to invite Bishop Downing for a speaking engagement, the contact info is:

A.L. Downing Ministries
P.O. Box 291808
Columbia, SC 29229
Ph: (803) 609-5714



Bishop A. L. Downing and Lady Inza Downing

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and the recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord” Luke 4:18-19

Words of Encouragement

**The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me:
“He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God”
(2 Samuel 23:3 NKJV).**

Bishop A. L. Downing

I want to repost this letter because I believe in the last days we need pastors, leaders, and those in positions of leadership and authority to rule well. But, most of all to rule or show leadership with the fear of God. Not with a type of fear that’s “afraid” of God but with a referential type of fear, with respect to the Most High God.

Therefore, pray for those in leadership, for government officials that they all may lead well with respect to our God and each other. Because no matter who’s in the White House, it matters who’s in YOUR HOUSE.

These were the last words of King David the son of Jesse, the man God elevated to be King. The anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel (2 Sam 23:1). But what does it mean to **rule justly** over men and **rule in the fear of God**?

The Bible mentions ruling or to rule in many different segments. One of the most popular is in Genesis 1:28 on day six of creation when the LORD God commands the male and female to “rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” In addition, the word rule is used in Genesis 3 when the LORD God declares Eve’s punishment after the Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden. In Genesis 3:16, “... Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” But even these two rules are very different Hebrew words. Genesis 1:28 states that mankind will rule (radah) or **have dominion and that dominion is tied to the submission of the animals mentioned**, the fish of the sea and birds of the sky, and over every living creature that moves on the ground. In this sense man is to rule as a king or governor with subjects, but ones who he must care for and not be a dictator over. This is why the LORD GOD in Genesis 2 brings the animals to Adam so that he can name them. But in naming the animals Adam develops a relationship with each presented animal because he knows them and understands that they are God’s creation as well whom he must care for.

Similarly Genesis 3 discusses the ruling of Adam over Eve, but the Hebrew word for this relationship is different than in Genesis 1:28. The Hebrew word used here is mashal. Meaning to declare what something is and should be, to give it character and designation.ⁱ This characteristic of ruling ties back to Adam’s God given ability to name...or **to declare what something is and what is should be**. The act of conducting mashal was from the LORD God. In Genesis 1: 18 God stated this about the sun and the moon, “And to rule (mashal) over the day and the night...and to divide the light from the darkness.” LORD God called forth the sun and the moon

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(2 Samuel 23:3 NKJV) cont...**

and He gave them the purpose that He desired...to specifically rule over the newly established day and night. With a second purpose to divide the light from the darkness. This the LORD God saw was good. According to this translation Adam has the ability to name and call Eve what he desires her to be to include purpose. When we look at scripture, Eve was also brought by the LORD God to receive a name from Adam in the same way that Adam named all the animals brought to him previously. In this type of relationship ruling is showcased as Adam or man's ability to speak and command things into existence to include purpose and exercise authority. Simply put, *mashal* is the act of exercising dominion authority over a specific thing.

Therefore, from the two different definitions of rule we understand that man's role in God's eyes was to govern the earth. To do so God gave Adam the ability to exercise dominion by naming/decreeing or “calling things into existence.” However, how does that relate to King David's last words? Firstly, we have to understand the history that transpired between Creation and King David's rule. As men continued to sin God called forth men to rule and govern over people-groups, their own families who developed into nations. This is seen with Noah and his family, then the calling of Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of a multitude). Later to Jacob who became known as Israel. Each of these men became a prototype of Adam, a submitted man of God who ruled in trustful and reverent partnership with God. This partnership became the foundation for the blood covenant relationship between Abram^{*iii} and God in Genesis 15:9-10.

However, over time the people of God no longer desired God to rule them. Over time, men were established as priests and judges to govern and rule the people, with God serving as the Supreme ruler. But the people lost faith in this system, and they wanted to be like other nations and have a physical and earthly king or ruler.ⁱⁱⁱ Consequently, the Israelites began the system of having earthly kings to rule, beginning with King Saul, who David succeeded. After King David's tumultuous reign, he stated that government or ruling requires these two fundamental things: Just rule and ruling in fear or reverence of God. To rule justly over men^{iv} in Hebrew is to have just or righteous exercising of authority (man or God given). The term *saddiq* means to be blameless or innocent, or in the right.^v Secondly, King David states that rulers must rule in the fear (*yirah*-reverence) of God (Elohim). The fear or reverence of Elohim becomes man's anchor and guiding post for truth, morality, and ethical behaviors and standards. But this reverential relationship also re-establishes a relationship dynamic between God and His people...that man must submit under God's authority and this relationship ultimately helps man govern and guides man's dominion rule over creation and other people. This is exhibited in Genesis 17:1, when God appears to Abram and says, “I am the Almighty God; walk before me and be thou perfect.” Another interpretation is that God tells Abram to go before my Face and be blameless. God's expectation is that Abram has an *intimate* relationship with Him and that there is a need for Abram to be upright before Him.

Similar sentiments are stated in Micah 6:7-8 when the LORD is asked if He will be pleased with gifts as

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“He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God”
(2 Samuel 23:3 NKJV) cont...**

the people present themselves to Him. The response is “He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” Therefore, according to the Prophet Micah, God desires obedience to this ethical notion of goodness: justice, mercy, and to walk humbly with God, further reinforcing an intimate relationship. To the Prophet Micah, God values godly characteristics and morals more than He desires man’s sacrifices to Him.

Likewise, King David’s last words echo the notion of a just ruler, in character and in deed, are necessary for godly men to rule well over creation or the responsibility given to them (i.e. family, community, etc.); however, these godly rulers must first be blameless or upright in God’s eyes in their heart, not only in their hearts but also how they treat His creation; in addition, godly rulers must partner with God as they rule, reverently acknowledging God’s position and deity.

As we meditate on these words, let us take into consideration how we are governing ourselves, our homes, our church, and our communities. As godly men and women, we need to consider if the ways that we govern our lives and responsibilities are pleasing to God or are they pleasing to man. Let us make God’s Word our compass and allow it to light our walk with the LORD. Be blessed!

ⁱ<https://www.balashon.com/2021/03/mashal-and-moshel.html>

ⁱⁱAbram’s name is changed after the blood covenant is established with God and after God promises Abram and Sarai their own child, Ishmael (Genesis 16/Genesis 17: 5)

ⁱⁱⁱSee 1 Sam 8:5-22.

^{iv}is mō-wō-šêl bā-’ā-dām, šad-dîq

^vAccording to Strong’s concordance



If you desire prayer please call: (803) 609-5714 and you will be put in touch with an intercessor who will pray with you.

How You Can Get Involved...

- Pray for our upcoming events.
- Become a faithful partner and contributor of the Ministry.

Make contributions payable to: A. L. Downing Ministries, P.O. Box 291808, Columbia, SC 29229, or go to the ministry’s website: aldowningministries.org. All contributions are tax-deductible.

*We want you to know that Inza and I love you
and are so thankful for your support and that you're
a part of this ministry.*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
— and a —
JOYFUL
NEW YEAR!

Bishop A.L. Downing & First Lady Inza Downing

TESTIMONIES

Bishop, I want to share with you my child is in his first of year college and has received five A's.

Pastor, thank you so much for your prayers and support. After several delays in which you encouraged and prayed for my daughter. She finally took the oral examination for her pilot license. Then she took the flying part of the examination with one of the most challenging instructors. Well, she is now an OFFICIAL pilot. Praise God!!!

Bishop, I want to give God all the PRAISE! My daughter has completed the Basic Divisional Officer Course and Officer of the Deck Phase 1. She is excelling in all courses and training. God is placing her before high ranking officials. She has been invited to attend events in which high ranking officials are in attendance. She had her picture taken with a two-star Admiral. She is currently completing the Littoral Combat Ship Junior Officer of the Deck Course. She is acing all assignments and tests. God is continuing to guide her path. Praise God!



Lady Downing Thoughts for the Month

“If it is not helping you to grow up in the things of God you should let it go immediately.”

“Even though you can't see the path right now, know that GOD is making a way.”

“The only thing standing between you and the life God says you can have, are your thoughts.”

“God created you to be full of joy, happiness, love and peace. So why are you carrying around all that other baggage?”

“GOD did not give us permission to give up, but we do have His permission to Get Up, Fight, & Overcome!”

**“Don't speak defeat over your life.
Think and speak positive over your life and situations.”**

“Don't let your dreams hang out with your frustrations because the two of them were never meant to be friends.”

“Remember it's not about the gifts under the tree. It is about the joy of the birth of our Lord and Savior.”

**Be Blessed
'First Lady Inza Downing'**

Living Faith Christian Center

Invites
You To

PUT A PRAISE ON IT:



STEP INTO 4D



On New Year's Eve

From 6pm to 8pm

REFRESHMENTS

PRAISE AND
WORSHIP

WORD FOR 2025
BY BISHOP

GIVEAWAYS

1540 Frye Road
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2024 THANKSGIVING FOOD GIVEAWAY



Brother Clinton Jones Baptism



Congratulations Brother Jones!

Living Faith School of Theology



Teaching...Equipping...Developing

WINTER CLASS SCHEDULE

TO ENROLL CALL



803-609-5714

Classes are held at the main campus of
Living Faith Christian Center
1540 Frye Road, Columbia, SC 29203

ENROLL TODAY

All classes are open to any student who wants to audit the course. The cost for auditing a course is \$75 per month. FMI about auditing a course call 803-609-5714

DECEMBER 4-18TH

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS I

Dr. Darryl Hollowell



THE HOLY SPIRIT

Doctoral Candidate Rev. Michelle Guider



JANUARY 8-29TH

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS II

Dr. Darryl Hollowell



THE SIX TRIALS OF JESUS I

Doctoral Candidate Rev. Curtis Hamilton



FEBRUARY 5-26TH

GOSPELS I

(COMBINED WITH LIFE OF CHRIST)

Dr. A. L. Downing



THE SIX TRIALS OF JESUS II

Doctoral Candidate Rev. Curtis Hamilton



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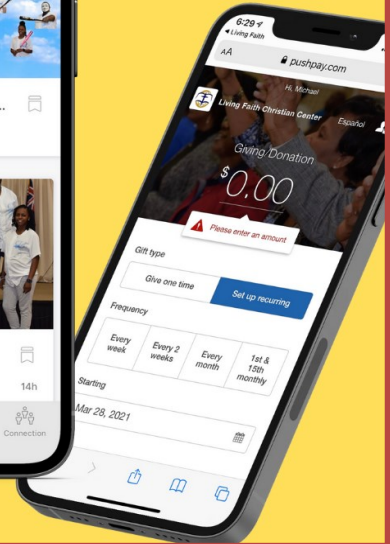
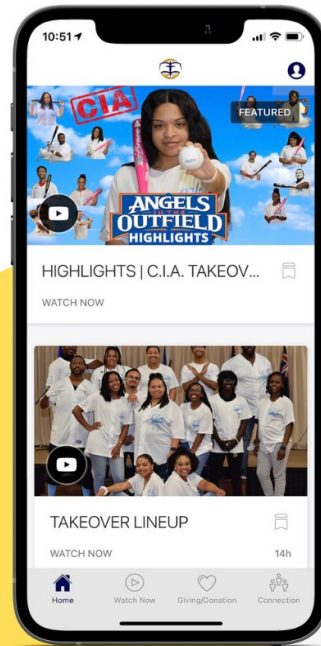
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Teaching...Equipping...Developing

OUR PROGRAM

Living Faith School of Theology (LFSOT) offers the following types of Certificates, Diplomas, and Degrees.

AUDIT CERTIFICATE

The Audit Program is for those individuals attending for their own personal spiritual growth. Audit students must attend all lectures and read all text books. Audit students will receive a Certificate of Attendance for each 30-credit hour program completed. Audit students may later convert their audit credit to an academic degree credit by completing additional work requirements (tests, papers, and labs) and paying the additional tuition for the degree program.

DIPLOMA PROGRAM

A Diploma in Biblical Studies is awarded to students who successfully completes their designated first-year program for academic credit (30 credit-hours total).

ASSOCIATES DEGREE PROGRAM

An Associates Degree in Biblical Studies is awarded to students who successfully completes their designated second year program for academic credit (60 credit-hours total).

ADVANCED ASSOCIATES DEGREE

An advanced Associates Degree in Biblical Studies is awarded to students who successfully complete their designated third-year program for academic credit (90 credit-hours total)

BACHELORS DEGREE

A Bachelors Degree in Biblical Studies is awarded to students who successfully completes their designated fourth-year program for academic credit (120 credit-hours total).

Classes are held at the main campus of

Living Faith Christian Center

1540 Frye Road

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For more information call 803-609-5714