

Walking by

FAITH

and Not by Sight 2 Corinthians 5:7

Living Faith Christian
Center Newsletter



July 2025 - Volume – 8 Issue 7

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Calendar of Events

August 2, 2025

Back to School Bash

10 am to 12 Noon

Living Faith Christian Center

August 9, 2025

LFSOT Open House

10 am to 12 Noon

Living Faith Christian Center

September 6, 2025

Rainbow Tea

12 Noon

Living Faith Christian Center

October 5, 2025

Living Faith Christian Center

9 Year Church Anniversary

Stay tuned for more information.

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

Social Media

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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

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



Words of Encouragement

“Being Strong During the Sifting Process”

Minister Lisa Dula

Throughout life, we experience many ups and downs. There are challenges that we must face in life. There are struggles that we go through. But during these struggles. During the challenges. During the heartache. During these times, God is refining us. There is a sifting occurring. These circumstances are molding us. These challenges are building us up. The heartache we are experiencing makes us stronger. It is during this sifting process that God is trying to use us and make us better. Unfortunately, many of us fall off before the sifting process is finished. We get distressed, bummed out, confused, beat down. We fall into a state of “I give up”. And it is in these moments that we need to lean even more on the Heavenly Father.

Many of us who bake may be familiar with the sifting process. Sifting is a method used to smooth out the flour before baking. The flour is measured and placed in a metal sifter with very tiny holes. The sifter is held over a large bowl. The flour is poured into the sifter, and movement is made to sift the flour through the tiny holes. This removes all the lumps and clumps. Whatever is remaining in the sifter is discarded. What is at the bottom of the bowl is a consistency so smooth that it can be used however needed. You are the flour, and God is the sifter. He’s trying to build you up and make you stronger, even through your circumstances.

Let’s look at three critical points of the spiritual sifting process:

1. You must be willing to go through the fire.

God wants to use you, but you must be strong. You must be willing to be sifted and refined. You must be willing to go through the fire. Holding onto the faith that your Heavenly Father will see you through. Jeremiah 29:11 says *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”*. Many of us do not want to stay on the course. The road is sometimes too bumpy, and we want to pull off on the side of the road or escape onto the next exit. But you can’t, you must keep going. No matter how rough it may be, you must keep going. There is a testimony in your story. A testimony that you need to share so God can get the glory. You are not the only one going through this. You are not the only one going through a sifting process. You are not the only one facing financial struggles. You are not alone in experiencing trouble in your marriage. You are not the only one experiencing heartache, experiencing grief. You are not the only one. Your journey may be unique to you, but how you overcome is vital to your spiritual well-being and that of others, as they see how you made it through and how you tackled the lion and won. They can see how you tackled your goliath and won. It gives them the hope they were looking for in knowing they can make it through as well. You must be willing to go through the fire and stand through the sifting process.

2. Sifting requires or involves change.

Change is hard. It’s hard because, quite frankly, we do not like change. We enjoy being comfortable. We dislike

Being Strong During the Sifting Process cont...

anything that deviates from our routine. We dislike anything that takes us out of our comfort zone. God wants us to be comfortable with being uncomfortable. For the sifting to work, you must be willing to change. You must be willing to adapt. You must be willing to allow God to use you. We often become so lost in our own emotions and ways of doing things that we disregard what God is truly revealing to us. Because we want to do it our way. We do not want to let go; our trust in God wavers. You must let go and let God. You must have faith that He's got you. You must believe that He desires better for you.

Psalms 37:4 says *"Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart"*. We go to God and ask Him for help. We give Him these long lists of things we want. We read this passage, and we think it is carte blanche. God will provide us with the desires of our hearts. That is true, our Heavenly Father desires to give us the desires of our hearts. But it may require some changes on our part. It may require some sifting. There may be certain conditions that we must adhere to. We are like, uh, Lord, can't you bless me with what I want? I don't want to do that. I don't want to have to change.

We only see the last half of that powerful scripture...he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. That scripture is twofold. There is responsibility for both parts. God is faithful to His promises to us. The first half is our responsibility, delighting ourselves in the Lord. That is reading His Word and spreading the goodness of God to all. Going to church. Attending Bible Study. Hiding His Word in our hearts. Following His commandments. Walking by faith and not by sight. Trusting the Lord. The willingness to do whatever God asks of us to help build His Kingdom.

Delighting ourselves in the Lord. We forget that part and go straight to wanting Him to answer our prayers. Hear our cry, Lord. Sitting, waiting for our desires to be met. During this waiting period, God is refining us, sifting, smoothing us out. He is making changes in our lives. This condition of change is one we do not want. There are many things that we desire God to do for us, but we don't want to make the change for Him. We buck at the first moment of the sifting process. We may even say Lord, that is not what I asked for. I didn't ask for this to happen. I didn't want to be changed. It may be what is needed for your prayer to be answered. Change is good. Sifting is good. God is removing all the parts that are not of Him so the good can burst forth. It's time to be comfortable being uncomfortable.

3. Sifting requires patience.

We cry out to the Lord, and we expect it to happen right at that very moment. We are willing to go through the fire. We are willing to do whatever it takes, Lord, do it for me. It's that waiting period that we have trouble with. And it's also not knowing what to do during the waiting period that gives us trouble, too. So, first and foremost, God does hear your cry. He hears you in the early morning. He hears you at noon. He hears you late at night. He hears you every time you cry out to Him. Having faith and trusting God, believing that God will answer your prayers. Waiting is the part that many individuals struggle with. Even those devout Christians. They know God is going to do it, but they struggle with waiting. There is a song by Juanita Bynum called

Being Strong During the Sifting Process cont...

I Don't Mind Waiting. In the chorus, the words are, I don't mind waiting on you, Lord. We must put ourselves in that mindset where we don't mind waiting on the Lord. He hears us. But like with all things, there is a process. It is during these times that your faith may be put to the test. It is during these times that He wants you to trust Him. It is during these times that God is rearranging some things. It's during those times that He is working on you. The sifting. He needs to sift you to get you to your blessing. He must sift you to get you to your answered prayer. He needs to refine you. You may not be where you need to be to receive that blessing. You may not be where you need to be to make that next move you want to make. He must sift away the old and reveal the new. He must remove some of those people from within your circle so you can stand out. He needs to remove those hindrances that are holding you back. He needs to sift you. While this sifting is taking place, you must remain patient.

We must be in the frame of mind where we don't mind waiting on the Lord. There are several scriptures on patience to encourage you during the sifting process.

Philippians 4:6 *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*

Galatians 6:9 *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

Psalms 37:7-9 *"7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. 8 Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. 9 For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land."*

Romans 12:12 *"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."*

Romans 8:25 *"But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."*

During the spiritual sifting process, be willing to go through the fire. Be open to change and patient. God only wants the best for us. Sometimes a little sifting is all we need to get through.

Be Blessed

“We Appreciate You”

Happy 4th of July



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

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.

Lady Downing

Thoughts for the Month

“What God is preparing for you is worth the wait.”

“Walk in forgiveness.” Matthew 6:14-15

“Fear paralyzes us from fulfilling our destiny. God has not given us the spirit of fear.”

“Keep moving forward no matter what life sends your way. You are VICTORIOUS!”

“The enemy will keep throwing the same pebble to distract you as long as you keep giving it your attention.”

“GOD'S Favor over your life will make you look unfamiliar to those who knew you.”

“The enemy wants you to look back and see the pain of your past but God wants you to look back and see His goodness & mercy.”

“Ignoring the problem does not make it go away but trusting God is the formula for overcoming it will.”

“Don't force things to happen. It will happen in God's timing.”

**Be Blessed
‘First Lady Inza Downing’**

2025 Youth Academic Recognition

Elementary School



Nyla Owens



Leeland Parrish



London Spriggs



Aaron Remsburg



Denver Crawford



Aspen Swinston



London Boland



Dallas Crawford



Bryson Mills

*Congratulations on a
great school year!*

Middle School



Christopher Remsburg

Highschool



Kennedy Anderson



Tristan Remsburg



Jessie Remsburg Jr.
Highschool Graduate

College



Christian Jones



Jeremy Burkett



Denali Middleton



Dr. Kendra Mills

Faith and Healing Conference 2025 Philippines



Faith and Healing Conference 2025

Philippines cont...



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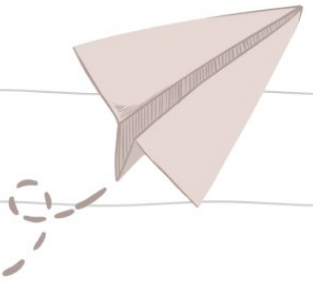
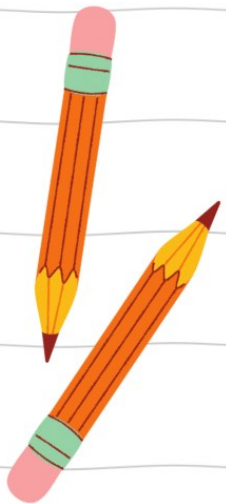
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Living Faith Christian Center
presents...

BACK TO SCHOOL Bash



August 2, 2025

10-12PM

1540 Frye Road
Columbia, SC 29203
803-609-5714





**AUGUST 9, 2025
AT NOON**

**ON CAMPUS
1540 FRYE RD.
COLUMBIA, SC 29203**

OPEN HOUSE

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

**Free
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Light Refreshments**



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TEACHING...EQUIPPING...DEVELOPING**

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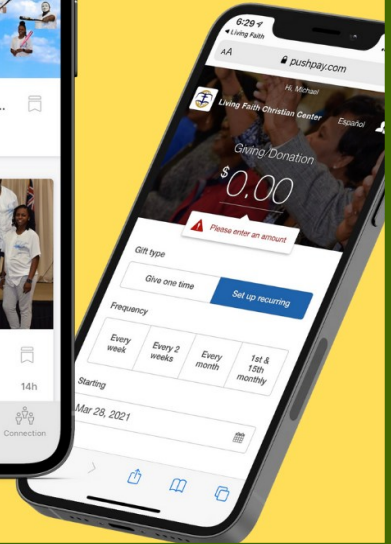
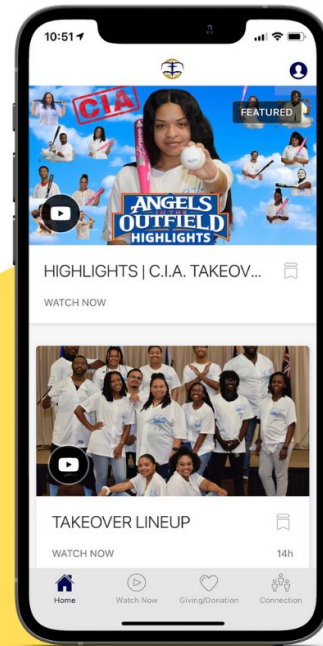
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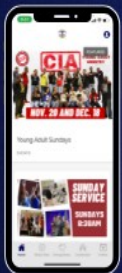


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LIVING FAITH SCHOOL of THEOLOGY



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

Columbia, SC 29203

For more information call 803-609-5714