

# Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you as our guest today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and "at home."

## Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

## Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

## Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

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We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Bob Wine

January 4, 2009

### OUR MISSION

*"Strengthen your journey with Christ"*  
Jude 20, 21

You must be very purposeful this year to follow that intuitive voice of God within, and take deliberate steps forward in becoming a more fully mature follower of Christ.

- God set our standard for maturity.  
**Ephesians 4:13** "attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."  
**Philippians 2:13 NLT** "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him."
- All of what God will do in and through you is predicated on your personal love and trust of Him.  
**Hebrews 11:1 GW** "Faith assures us of things we expect and convinces us of the existence of things we cannot see."
- It is not an emotional or mental thing; it is an intuitive assurance and conviction deep within ... "I just know that I know and can't explain it."  
**Jude 20, 21 NLT** "But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life."

**New Life is all about "*strengthening your journey with Christ*"  
-- that is our divine mission!**

### **"How do we build up each other's faith?"**

#### ALL FAITH IS NOT EQUAL

##### 1. Public or artificial faith

**Matthew 2:8 NLT** "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

- Sometimes being part of a church family encourages the temptation to pretend to believe something we really don't believe.

##### 2. Private faith

- We are delusional with this type of faith; we find out it is fickle.

## Digging Deeper

For personal or small group study

Week of January 4, 2009

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- The apostle Peter made some boastful claims.

**Mark 14:31 NLT** “No! Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!”

- Was that a true statement of faith? No. The next day Peter denied Jesus three times.

- Unless our heart is right, we all could wake up as those who had done signs and wonders in Jesus’ name and hear Christ say:

**Matthew 7:23** “I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!”

### 3. Core faith ~ which shows in what we do

- Every one of us has core beliefs.
- The best indicator of your true beliefs is your actions.
- Our daily choices and behavior call into question what we really believe about God.

#### What Kind of Faith Do You Have?

- Moms and dads, what kind of faith are you leading your children to have?

- If you are only worshiping God for the benefits that flow from loving Him [i.e. health, escape hell], you are only using Him, not truly worshiping Him.

- What do you sense is your next step to take in order to further develop your “core convictions”?

**Acts 20:24 NLT** “... my life is worth **nothing** to me **unless** I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus ...”

- Our mission is to “*strengthen your journey with Christ*” until your core conviction is ... “*for me to live is Christ.*”

- Where you are in your journey is not as important as the fact that you are moving forward in coming closer to Ephesians 4:13 “... attaining to the **whole measure** of the **fullness** of Christ.”

Will you make it your core conviction and personal mission this year to *strengthen the journey with Christ* of those in your sphere of influence?

By the end of 2009, our goal is that everyone we will come in contact with will have moved one step closer to becoming like Christ because of the Jesus they saw in each of us.

### GROUP DISCUSSION or PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Discuss this statement with your family or group. “*New Life is all about “strengthening your journey with Christ” – that is our divine mission.*” What is it saying to you?
2. What do you believe is God’s standard for maturity? How do we attain it? [Ephesians 4:13-16; James 1:2-6; 2 Peter 1:3-11; Hebrews 10: 22-23; Matthew 6:33-34]
3. Read Hebrews 11:1 and Jude 20 and 21. How important to you is the process of *strengthening your journey with Christ* as you face a new year? How can these verses help you in that process?
4. Here’s a little experiment: start a sentence with the words “I believe...” and then finish it with something deeply heartfelt. What kind of feeling is stirred within you? Are you uplifted? Why?
5. Pastor and author John Ortberg says, “*In the act of defining what we believe, we define ourselves.*” Do you agree or not? Explain your answer. What kind of belief really matters? Now answer this question, “What do I really believe, and what do I only think I’m supposed to believe?”
6. Discuss the three kinds of faith mentioned in the sermon notes. (Public, Private, Core) Which level of faith do you see yourself acting upon most often? How are you challenged as you ponder these three convictions?
7. What is your next step that you plan to take to help develop good core convictions? Why is it important to include in your core conviction to *help someone else strengthen their journey with Christ*? How will that affect you? [Acts 20:24; Hebrews 10:24-25; John 15:8,16-17]