

stepONE

our family

OUR NEW LIFE FAMILY: WHAT WE BELIEVE

OUR HOPE FOR YOU

Our hope for you in SECTION ONE is to help you become better acquainted with the vision of New Life Church, connect with others and have the opportunity to become an active member of our church.

Today, several hundred people call New Life “Home”. We have a variety of ministry opportunities for you to grow and get connected in life-giving relationships.

From the beginning, New Life has been characterized by the following values:

VALUES

1. Scripture is our guide.
2. Prayer and worship are our lifestyle.
3. The Holy Spirit empowers us in all we do.
4. All people are valuable and need Christ.
5. Christ-centered relationships are foundational.
6. Growth is ongoing.

VISION: WHY WE EXIST AS A CHURCH

New Life Church exists to establish/build the kingdom of God.

Our VISION: We are a growing family who believes everyone can KNOW GOD,

FIND FREEDOM, DISCOVER PURPOSE, and MAKE A DIFFERENCE for Jesus Christ locally, regionally and globally.

Everything we do is built around our Vision.

There are Four Main Points of our Vision that really make us who we are as a New Life Family.

Four Main Points

1. _____ : Weekend Service
2. _____ : Connect Groups
3. _____ : Growth Track/Membership
4. _____ : Dream Team—Find a place to Serve

The Apostle Paul prayed this prayer for the church of Ephesus and it is my prayer for you.

Ephesians 1:17-19 NIV

¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may **know him better**. (*KNOW GOD*)

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may **be enlightened** (*FIND FREEDOM*) in order that you may **know the hope to which he has called you**, (*DISCOVER PURPOSE*) the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and **his incomparably great power for us who believe**. (*MAKE A DIFFERENCE*)

NEW LIFE CHURCH GOVERNMENT

1. _____ by PASTORS.

The Pastoral staff team is led by the Lead Pastor. This team oversees the day-to-day ministry and operations of the church. They serve the congregation and are responsible for the development of the spiritual life of the church.

2. _____ BY DEACONS.

The Board of Deacons consists of seven members who are chosen by the members of New Life, to serve the church. They provide support and counsel to the Lead Pastor and provide oversight regarding all major financial matters of the church.

3. _____ BY OVERSEERS.

The Overseers are five pastors of who are members of the Assembly of God Potomac Network. They provide oversight and support to our pastor and congregation.

Church Finances

“A tithe of everything... belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.”
Leviticus 27:30

Many people love to give to God, but need to have confidence in the methods and purposes used by the church to which they give.

Our tithes and offerings are not just financial transactions, but an expression of worship to God.

In an effort to provide greater oversight of the financial resources at New Life Church, each year, the members of New Life select a member to serve as THE HEAD OF FINANCE; who reviews the income and expenses, monitors the cash flow, presents a monthly finance report, and advises the Church Board in financial matters.

The Pastors have NO CHECK SIGNING PRIVILEGES.

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD FOUR CORE BELIEFS

The Assemblies of God established 16 Fundamental Truths as a standard to reach, preach and teach its people. Four of these truths are considered our core beliefs due to the key role they play in reaching the lost and building the believer and the church both now and for the future.

1. SALVATION

- WE BELIEVE...Every Person Can Have Restored Fellowship with God Through 'Salvation' (trusting Christ, through faith and repentance, to be our personal Savior).

*¹³for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
Romans 10:13 NIV*

2. DIVINE HEALING

- WE BELIEVE...Divine Healing of the Sick is a Privilege for Christians today and is provided for in Christ's atonement (His sacrificial death on the cross for our sins).

*⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.
Isaiah 53:5 NIV*

3. BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

- WE BELIEVE...the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a Special Experience Following Salvation that empowers believers for witnessing and effective service, just as it did in New Testament times.

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 NIV

4. SECOND COMING

- WE BELIEVE...in The Blessed Hope—When Jesus Raptures His Church Prior to His Return to Earth (the second coming). At this future moment in time all believers who have died will rise from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air, and Christians who are alive will be caught up with them, to be with the Lord forever.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 NIV

MEMBERSHIP IN THE FAMILY OF GOD

Our greatest priority is NOT church membership, but becoming a member of the family of God.

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. Acts 3:19

Surrender your heart to God, turn to him in prayer, and give up your sins—even those you do in secret. Job 11:13-14

PRAYER OF SURRENDER

Dear, Lord Jesus, I surrender my heart to you. I confess my sin to You and thank You for Your forgiveness. I ask You to set me free from everything that has held me captive and from those things that hinder me from serving You completely. I ask You to be the leader of my life, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

NEW LIFE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

1. I will _____ the UNITY of my church:

- By acting in love toward other members.

“Have a sincere love for other believers, love one another earnestly with all your heart.” 1 Peter 1:22 (GN)

- By refusing to gossip.

*“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs.”
Ephesians 4:29*

- By following the leaders.

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” Hebrews 13:17

2. I will _____ the RESPONSIBILITY of my church:

- By PRAYING for its growth.

“To the church...we always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.” 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2

- By INVITING the un-churched to attend.

“Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that the house will be full.” Luke 14:23 (LB)

- By warmly WELCOMING those who visit.

“So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.” Romans 15:7 (LB)

3. I will _____ the MINISTRY of my church:

- By discovering my gifts and talents.

“Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you.” 1 Peter 4:10 (Ph)

- By being equipped to serve by my pastors.

*“God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”
Ephesians 4:11-12*

- By developing a servant’s heart.

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...by taking on the very nature of a servant.” Philippians 2:4-5, 7 (NIV 1984)

4. I will _____ the TESTIMONY of my church:

- By being actively involved in the life of the church.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:42

“Let us not give up meeting together...but let us encourage one another.” Hebrews 10:25

- By living a godly life.

“Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting

together for the faith, which is the Good News.” Philippians 1:27 (NLT)

“But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the Gospel of Christ.” Philippians 1:27 (Ph)

- By being a faithful and generous giver. (Automated Giving)

“Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering.” 1 Corinthians 16:2 (LB)

“A tenth of all you produce is the Lord’s, and it is holy.” Leviticus 27:30

OUR NEW LIFE FAMILY: HOW WE BEHAVE

OUR HOPE FOR YOU

In SECTION TWO, our hope is to help you learn and put into practice what we believe are FOUR ESSENTIAL HABITS of every follower of Jesus. It is through these habits that we develop a deep relationship with Christ.

1. POINT ONE: _____:

HOW TO WIN PEOPLE TO CHRIST:

1. Accept personal _____:
2. Build a personal _____:
3. Share your personal _____:
4. Give a personal _____:

POINTS OF PASSION (Outreach; Locally, Regionally, Globally)

1. "In Jerusalem" - _____
2. "In Judea and Samaria" - _____
3. "To the ends of the Earth" - _____

HABIT ONE: BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER (Know God)

A vibrant relationship with God is sustained through Bible study and prayer.

- ONE YEAR BIBLE (Daily Devotions on Facebook)

HOW DO I GET MORE FROM MY BIBLE?

1. I must _____ its authority.

- We believe that the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible and inerrant.

2. I must _____ its truths.

- *Hearing, Reading, Studying, Memorizing & Meditating on God's Word.*

3. I must _____ its principles.

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

James 1:22

HOW DO I PRAY?

- Prayer involves both _____ & _____.

2. POINT TWO: _____ . (Connect Groups)

Real life-change happens in the context of RELATIONSHIPS – Connect Groups.

In the Bible, they worshipped in the temple, but ministry happened in their homes.

CONNECT GROUPS PROVIDE THREE THINGS:

1. A place to CONNECT.

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 1 Corinthians 9:22 (NIV)

2. A place to PROTECT.

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.” 1 John 3:16 (NIV)

3. A place to GROW.

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”
Proverbs 27:17

HOW CONNECT GROUPS WORK

Our connect groups meet primarily on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, but also can occur at various times during the week, both in and out of the church and provide a place for you to connect, grow, and discuss the issues and challenges of life.

If you would like to join a connect group, simply visit our website and check out the online directory of groups or visit the Connection Center in the foyer.

New Groups Start Each Spring, Summer, & Fall. (*February, June, September*)

FREEDOM CONFERENCE

A Freedom Conference is a power-packed weekend, generally offered in the Fall, where people experience a life-changing Encounter with God. You will leave spiritually refreshed and free from the bondages and habit patterns of your past. This weekend is a spiritual jumpstart in your relationship with God and is designed to help you live out your life's purpose in God.

HABIT TWO: GODLY FELLOWSHIP (Connect Groups)

WHY ARE CONNECT GROUPS IMPORTANT?

They provide opportunities for:

1. Spiritual Growth (Bible Study)
 - I need people to strengthen and balance the Word of God in my life.

2. Fellowship
 - I need people who really know me.
3. Prayer
 - I need people to pray for me personally.
4. Support
 - I need people who will protect me.
5. Outreach
 - I need people with whom I can share my story.

3. POINT THREE: _____ (Membership)

HABIT THREE: LIVING A SPIRIT-LED LIFE (Discover Purpose) WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. The Holy Spirit is a _____.
“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.” John 14:16 (NASB)

2. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person in the _____

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.” John 14:26 (NASB)

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN OUR LIVES

1. The Holy Spirit ENABLES us to know God's:

_____.

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever." John 14:16 (KJV)

● _____

"But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment."
John 16:5-8 (NASB)

2. The Holy Spirit EMPOWERS us to live with Christ-like:

_____.

"For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image." 2 Corinthians 3:17-18(NLT)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB)

_____.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

3. The Holy Spirit EQUIPS us with:

- _____.

⁷ A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can HELP each other.

1 Corinthians 12:7

_____.

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

John 16:11 NLT

HOW DO I LIVE A SPIRIT-LED LIFE?

1. _____ & Surrender to God.

“Peter replied, ‘REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED, every one of you, in

the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:38

- Every Sunday, we provide an opportunity for people to Repent and surrender their lives to God and provide an opportunity to get Baptized in water on the first Sunday of the month.

2. _____ the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

"Now suppose one of your fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

Luke 11:11-13 (NASB)

3. _____ Him By Faith.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." Peter 4:10

4. Release your spiritual gifts with confidence.

"Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church."

1 Corinthians 14:12

4. CORE VALUE: _____ . (Dream Team)

HABIT FOUR: SERVING & GIVING (Make A Difference)

THREE AREAS OF GIVING

1. Give of our _____ .
“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.”
Ephesians 5:15-16 NASB
2. Give of our _____ .
God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10 NLT
3. Give of our _____ .
“Yes, you should tithe, but do not neglect the more important things”.
Matthew 23:23 NLT
For your convenience, we have AUTOMATED GIVING & Text to Give.

BIBLICAL GENEROSITY IS:

1. Willing

"Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion." 2 Corinthians 9:7a

2. Cheerful

"...for God loves a cheerful giver!" 2 Corinthians 9:7b

3. Sacrificial

"They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability." 2 Corinthians 8:3

