

# Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. We sincerely hope you will be especially aware of God's presence as we worship. If this is your first time to worship with us, here is what you can expect:

## Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship, you are free to connect with God in whatever biblical way that expresses your heart's adoration. Some may remain seated, others stand, kneel, clap or lift their hands.
- 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.

{over for sermon notes}

## "GOOD NEWS"

*God wants us to seriously listen to His voice*  
Luke 2:10

### FOCUS FOR THE DAY

- How Pastor Troy's fight with leukemia may be an illustration to show us the seriousness of our own spiritual life.
- Many of us are at a crossroads, which will determine our spiritual life or death.

## "A DEEPER LOOK ..."

### 1. CHRIST CAME TO OFFER \_\_\_\_\_

- It's true -- we create many of our own problems.
- The Bible teaches every sort of social problem, sickness, crime -- even death -- is courtesy of Adam and Eve's \_\_\_\_\_ to be independent from God.
- Because of this, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ.

**Luke 2:10** "I bring you **good news** that will bring **great joy** to **all** people." NLT

**Luke 4:18** "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me. Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted; to proclaim liberty to the captives; And recovery of sight to the blind. To set at liberty those who are oppressed" NKJV

### 2. IT ALL RELATES TO \_\_\_\_\_ FOR GOD

- Authentic spiritual life is not about performance. It's about passion for God. [Example: the church at Ephesus – Revelation 2:1-11]
- Just as the human body, without \_\_\_\_\_ will die, so a person without a healthy passion for God will die.
- The great commandment ...

**Mark 12:30** "you **must love** the Lord your God **with all** your heart, **all** your soul, **all** your mind, and **all** your strength." NLT

- God would have to remove their candlestick -- symbol of His presence = death. [Revelation 2:5]

## “DIGGING DEEPER”

For personal or small group study

Week of December 16, 2007

- The cure requires listening to God’s voice, and total submission to His purifying way in them.
- True \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s ways is the core of authentic faith in Him.
- It is absolutely vital for your spiritual health that you learn to hear His voice and apply it.

### 3. DO I HAVE \_\_\_\_\_ LEUKEMIA?

- One indicator of spiritual leukemia is the weakening of spiritual passion [or apathy] for God.
- All with a passion for God do ministry, but not all who serve are passionate about God.
- Well-intended religious busyness can degenerate into duty, resulting in lack of spiritual passion for God.

### 4. GOD’S \_\_\_\_\_ FOR US

- Question: Do you have a “cockroach-like” stronghold in your life?
- Has God’s voice been gently pointing out such cockroach things in your life that He is waiting for you to allow Him to treat with His grace?
- The “great news” Jesus brought to the world was healing for the brokenhearted, liberty to the captives and sight to the blind and liberty to the oppressed.
- Freedom from busyness, distractions, bad habits, etc. will only happen as you learn to listen and obey what He tells you.

#### MY ACTION PLAN:

- Do not deny or excuse your fading passion for God. History is strewn with people who once heard God speak, but did nothing.
- If you have expressed a desire to hear God’s voice, that desire is God speaking to you. Spiritual revival for you is within your grasp. All you have to do is to surrender and take the initiative to cooperate with what He’s trying to change in you.
- For your own well-being, give greater value to your spiritual life, and Pastor Troy’s painful battle with leukemia, by allowing it to bring fresh life and blood into your personal life.
- Become serious about finding a partner of the same gender, by the end of the year, to share what God is speaking to you as you read His Word.

**QUICK REVIEW:** Which point or scripture passage most challenged, confused, or caught your attention in this week’s message? Why?

#### TODAY’S FOCUS

1. How can, or does, the seriousness of someone else’s problem affect our perspective on life? Do you think God ever uses pain to get us to change?
2. Josh McDowell says, “*Rules without relationship leads to rebellion.*” What do you think he means? [Matthew 7:12] How is religion like a yardstick?

What happens when someone relies on religion instead of a personal relationship with Jesus? [Matthew 5:20; 9:11-13; 15:1-11; 16:23] What happens when our focus is on the relationship? [Luke 4:18; Romans 8:29; Matthew 22:37-39; John 15:11-17; Colossians 3:12-17]

#### GETTING THE POINT

1. Read Revelation 2:1-11. How valuable is a healthy passion for God and keeping our first love? What may be some resemblances of the Church at Ephesus and our modern church? In your own personal life?
2. C. S. Lewis wrote, “*You can’t get second things by putting them first; you can get second things only by putting first things first.*” Discuss what a “first thing” is. What would you consider a “second thing” to be? How can our old religious thinking affect what we consider to be first and second things? [Luke 10:38-42; 5:21-22, 27-28, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44]
3. Rick Warren says, “*The heart of worship is surrender.*” Discuss this statement and how a surrendered heart shows up best in relationship?

What does surrender mean to you? [Psalm 37:7; Luke 9:23-25; Luke 10:27; Romans 6:13; Mark 14:36-38]

#### A LOOK INSIDE

1. Has your love for God cooled since you were saved? Do you find it easier to skip your private time with God? Become lazy in your church attendance? What can you do? What **are** you doing? Read and discuss the “My Action Plan” at the end of the sermon notes. Come up with your own plan!