

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.

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}

January 6, 2008

Pastor Bob Wine

THE PASSION OF WORSHIP

"Where are we going in 2008?"

Mark 12:30

FOCUS FOR THE DAY... "the cry of my heart"

- Moses said in an intense conversation with God ...
Exodus 33:13 "**If** you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and [so that I may] continue to find favor [grace] with you."
- As King David approached death, he appointed his son Solomon to be the next king and commanded him ...
1 Chronicles 22:19 "Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the LORD your God."
- The people worshipped at a traveling tabernacle that included an altar in the outer court and ark within the tent.
- Worship to Solomon was more of a _____ than a heart encounter with God.

~ TWO FORMS OF WORSHIP ~

1. Less _____ type of worship
2 Timothy 3:5 "... act religious, but [still] reject the power that could make them godly." NLT
2. Personal passionate heart for God type of worship
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

Contrasting results of each ...

- The passionate heart for God, produces growing dynamic faith.
2 Corinthians 3:18b "the Lord... makes us **more and more like him** as we are changed into his glorious image." NLT
- Without the perpetual life-change, the less personal type of worship leads to fossilization [death].

What does all this mean to you ... to our New Life family?

- Pastor's dream — that we each have an ongoing relationship with God like David, not like Solomon.

We can't make that happen, but we can create the _____ for it. When a person finds it, they will naturally find themselves like the early church believers, constantly changing more into being like Christ and doing what He did most on earth -- mentoring disciples.

Our vision for this next year ...

Focus even more on creating a more deliberate spiritual incubator

- How are we going to make that possible?

TWO ASPECTS:

1. **To call each of you** to make a _____ to step out of your comfort zone, determine which priorities need to be changed in order for you to break out of your routine.
 - To help you do that, we plan to more strategically shape each ministry activity to encourage and inspire personal growth encounters with God.
2. **Strategic gauges** that measure _____ spiritual motion.
 - How active we are in reaching out to our community. [When you bring a guest, it shows healthy blood flowing in your spiritual veins.]
 - How many of us are showing eagerness to move forward in our faith journey. [We will be watching both the % involved in small groups and in taking our discipleship classes.]
 - Monitoring our _____ in doing what Jesus commanded. **Matthew 28:19** "go and make disciples of all nations." [How many are active in the process of literally making a disciple who makes disciples, and active in weekly ministry.]
 - Our overall growth by watching our total ministry attendance. [Sunday worship, small group, and youth and children ministries.]

What will you _____ to do?

Choosing not to take initiative is like choosing not to act.

Here is what you CAN take initiative to do this year ...

- You can commit yourself to being in a mutual spiritual coaching relationship where you learn to hear God's voice and do what He guides you to do.
- You can commit yourself to building at least one friend-based, spiritual mentoring relationship with someone, seeking to help them move forward in their spiritual journey.
- You can commit to a small group that consistently challenges you to move forward spiritually.
- You can take initiative and take advantage of the growth opportunities we endeavor to provide.

"DIGGING DEEPER"

For personal or small group study

Week of January 6, 2008

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

TODAY'S FOCUS _____

1. What kind of passion for worship do you see the average Christian experiencing?

Discuss the two forms of worship mentioned in the sermon notes. (The less personal type and the personal passionate heart type.) How does our type of personal worship affect or reveal our relationship with God? How important is passion for God to you personally?

[2 Timothy 3:5; 1 John 2:15-16; Mark 12:30; Isaiah 6:9-10]

2. Solomon was challenged by his father David to live for God in **1 Chronicles 22:19**. But Solomon only had a form of religion; He had never taken ownership and never had a real heart encounter. How does this happen in our day and age? Have you transferred your faith from your head to your heart? Explain.

GETTING THE POINT _____

1. Take time to discuss the vision for the New Year. How are we as the Church going to be more deliberate in creating a spiritual incubator? How will that affect us as a whole? ... as individuals?
2. List some ways we can be deliberate to step out of our comfort zones? What does that say to you personally?
3. Discuss the **strategic gauges** that are being set up to measure forward spiritual motion. How will these help us grow in our passion for Jesus? What practical benefits do you see in these?

A LOOK INSIDE _____

1. What are you going to do to take initiative this year to grow in your passion for God? Which of the opportunities listed in the sermon notes are you planning on implementing in your life? When and how are you going to start? Remember – not choosing to take initiative is like choosing not to act.