

New HOPE

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Heb 10:23–25 ESV)

- **RECAP:** New **FOCUS**, New **TIME** & New **MISSION**

- **New FOCUS...**LUKE 8:22-25 ~ “Let’s cross to the other side!”
 - **Strengthening Individuals**
 - **Strengthening Families**
 - **Strengthening Congregations**
- **New TIME...** ZECH 4:10 NLT-SE ~ “The LORD rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel’s hand.”
 - **Adjusting to Change...**Moving to Sunday mornings is an important piece of that puzzle, allowing families to have their evenings together, especially families with children.
 - **Aligning with Our Assignment...**We want to take the time we have together when we gather and divide it into thirds; spending a third of our time in *worship*, a third teaching the *Word*, and a third *ministering* to each other and to the Lord.
 - **Addressing the Need...**As we seriously look at *how we are investing our time*, we should constantly be seeking insight and wisdom as to how we should engage with those in need.
- **New Mission...** John 20:21 NLT-SE ~ “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”
 - Our goal is to experience **MISSIONAL COMMUNITY**, that being our primary structure for making disciples.
 - **GATHER: *Going Up More*...**Can you ever get enough of God’s Presence? I hope not.
 - **GROW: *Going Through More, Together*...**We are being prepared to advance the Kingdom of God and to do it together.
 - **GO: *Going Out More*...**As much as we feel the need to press in with God, there should be an increasing stir within us to go out.

- Time For Change - Week 4 ~ New HOPE

- **STIRRING UP HOPE**...”Hope changes everything!” As we stir up hope in each other, allowing God to use us to demonstrate His power through signs, wonders, and miracles, the world around us will be transformed!
 - Let us **hold fast the confession of our hope** without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to **stir up one another to love and good works**, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Heb 10:23–25 ESV)
 - We want to **sir up hope** in this church family. A “key” to stirring up hope is to **nurture a people who appreciate and pursue the Presence of God**. We also want to **teach, train, and release** believers across the region to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in demonstrating God’s glory and transforming the local culture. Here is where we will see that take place...
 - **Sunday Mornings**...This is not “the big show,” or even the only show, but the place where the people called Evangel gather for **inspiration, encouragement, and vision casting**. It is the primary rallying place for Evangel. If you want to find out who we are and what’s important to us, this is where you’ll see it manifested.
 - **Tuesday Nights at Evangel**...Learning to understand and communicate the Word together is a **spiritual discipline** we highly value. Every Tuesday at 7:00 PM we gather to worship and dive into the Bible together. Each week one of about 15 people share their insights into a section of scripture as we walk line-by-line through a whole book of the Bible.
 - **Three Rivers House of Prayer**...Over the past 8 years, Evangel has hosted our local house of prayer. What a blessing it has been! We are becoming a people who not only value prayer, but **followers of Jesus who actually pray together often**. What a huge benefit this ministry is to our local congregation.
 - **Missional Communities**...These groups of 10 to 15 people are all about **living life together, sharing the Word, walking with each other** through good times and bad. They seek to be aware of the need to love and serve their community in very practical ways. There is lots of room to innovate, using whatever means possible to get the word out that “Jesus loves you” and wants to work in and through you to advance His kingdom.
 - **School of the Spirit**...This gathering on Sunday nights will start up this Spring here at Evangel. Jesus Himself, told us “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 have said to you.” (John 14:26 ESV) On Sunday evenings **we want to create a place to learn and grow in the deeper things of God; hearing the voice of the Lord, ministering in prophetic gifts, interpreting spiritual dreams and encounters, etc.**
 - Then those who feared the LORD **spoke with each other**, and **the LORD listened to what they said**. In his presence, a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who feared him and always thought about the honor of his name. (Mal 3:16 NLT-SE)

- **SO, WHAT'S THE GOAL?** All this is NOT for us to be more “spiritual,” but to become follows who are ***growing in their devotion to Jesus and desire to pursue His kingdom together.***
- **CONFRONTING HOPELESSNESS**...More and more, we will see the battle over hope rage around us. Will we simply wait for opportunities to minister to people who are struggling with hopelessness, or ask the Holy Spirit to help us strategize ways to confront hopelessness wherever we see it manifest? We could be much more aggressive in our assault against this growing and destructive enemy!
 - **Seeing hopelessness diminish** in people’s lives really comes down to **helping them see how they have agreed with the enemy, instead of God.** Freedom comes when they break their agreement with the enemy and declaring their agreement with the Lover of their souls!
 - **The Principle of Agreeing with God**, by Mike Bickle, Charisma, November 2014
 - **Engaging in spiritual warfare is essentially agreeing with God and disagreeing with the enemy.** It involves reminding God of His character and covenant promises, agreeing with His Word, and declaring the supremacy of Jesus and who we are in Christ (a new creation, the sons of God, the bride of Christ, etc). There are basically four forms of agreement that play a role in spiritual warfare:
 1. **Worship is agreement with who God is.** In worship we declare the truths about ho God is. For example, the saints and angels in heaven declare truths such as, “Holy, holy, holy” (Rev. 4:8). Throughout the Old Testament we find the declaration, “The Lord is good, and His mercy endures forever.” This is the most emphasized declaration about who God is.
 2. **Intercession is agreement with what God promises to do.** In intercession we declare the truths related to what God promises to do. For example, we pray, “Lord, release a greater measure of Your Spirit’s activity to revive the church. Release the power of Your Word, confirmed with signs and wonders.”
 3. **Holiness is agreement with God’s heart of love.** Holiness involves repentance that breaks any agreement with sin and comes into agreement with God’s standards of purity.
 4. **Healing is agreement with God’s heart for life.** We proclaim the truth of Jesus as healer, and we break all agreement with sickness.
- **BREATHING HOPE INTO THE WORLD**...God breathes. He breathes through His people and brings life and hope to those who are spiritually weak and vulnerable. As we see the hope that is in Christ, we will begin to be used more and more to revive the world around us and restore hope to the hopeless...by the breath of God!
 - What is the “**confession of our hope**” the writer of Hebrews is talking about?
 - Let us ***hold fast the confession of our hope*** without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to ***stir up one another to love and good works***, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Heb 10:23–25 ESV)
 - Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because ***he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.*** (1 Pet 1:21 NLT-SE)

- **HOPE.** *noun.* The feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best; a particular instance of this feeling; grounds for this feeling in a particular instance; a person or thing in which expectations are centered; something that is hoped for.
- Now, **how does the bible define hope?**
 - Instead of wishing or hoping for something to happen, a believer knows that **their hope is solid, concrete evidence** because it is grounded in the Word of God and we know that God cannot lie (Heb. 6:18, Num. 23:19).
 - “For ***in this hope we were saved***. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently,” because, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom 8:24–25; 31 NIV)
 - How is it that we can “**breathe hope**” into someone’s life?
 - **Praying for people.** I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. ***Then you will overflow with confident hope*** through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 15:13 NLT-SE)
 - **Speaking prophetically.** This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Do not listen to ***what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes***. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. (Jer 23:16 NIV)
 - **Helping people.** ¹¹ “All who heard me praised me. All who saw me spoke well of me. ¹² For I assisted the poor in their need and the orphans who required help. ¹³ I helped those without hope, and they blessed me. And I caused the widows’ hearts to sing for joy. (Job 29:11–13 NLT-SE)
 - **Remember...**A some point in time, someone “breathed hope” into you! Someone showed you the love of Jesus; someone reached out to you, took the time to listen to your story, and didn’t stop there. They also told you about the hope and future you have in Christ, who He created you to be and told you about the promises of God for your life. They gave you HOPE!
 - **Hopelessness to Hope...**This is going to be one of the most ***formidable battlegrounds*** for the church at the end of the age! ***This is the “fight” we are being prepared for!***
 - Let us ***hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm***, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. (Heb 10:23 NLT-SE)
 - ¹⁸ So God has given both his ***promise*** and his ***oath***. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for ***refuge*** can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. ¹⁹ This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God’s inner sanctuary. (Heb 6:18–19 NLT-SE)