

Our vision at New Hope Baptist Church is:
to be a multiethnic family of faith,
united by God's grace,
remaining faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ,
growing in obedience to God's Word,
and
sharing the Gospel with a distinctive witness in word and deed.



September 2022... the Contact ... Vol. XLIV Issue 9
Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor...pastorjasonsmith@newhopecharlotte.org

“Pray without ceasing” 1 Thessalonians 5:17

For a long time, I found 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to be one of the most convicting verses in Scripture. Of course, Paul was not instructing us to literally pray every second of every day, but he was instructing us to develop a life that is truly prayerful. At the very least, the spiritual discipline of prayer will always be a central priority for a faithful Christian. Still, when I read or heard 1 Thessalonians 5:17, I would immediately be reminded of how my devotion to prayer was often weak and pathetic. After all, if we truly believed what Scripture teaches about prayer, especially about how the Heavenly Father gives to those who ask in the name of His Son Jesus, how could we ever be so prayerless?

I can spend a significant time studying God's Word, and afterwards, in a non-prideful way, feel a sense of satisfaction knowing that I have honored God by doing so, by reading and studying His Word. Yet, when it comes to prayer, I can spend a significant time praying, and afterwards, feel like I should have prayed more, or wonder if I prayed about the right things or if I prayed the right ways and in the right manner. These struggles are reflected in Scripture. It is in the context of prayer that Jesus said, “the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matt. 26:41) In addition, Paul acknowledged that we often do not know what to pray as we ought but encouraged us that the Spirit helps us in this weakness by interceding for us with groanings too deep for words (Rom. 8:26).

I have come to learn that this increased sensitivity concerning the quality of my devotion to prayer is by God's grace. Prayer is a spiritual discipline that gages the level of our trust in the Lord. The reason we often feel that our devotion to prayer could be stronger and that we need to pray more is because our devotion to God could be stronger and we need to trust Him more. In this life, it would be foolishly arrogant if we were to reach a point where we felt no need to pray. The urge to pray and the desire to grow in prayer is God's continuously loving outreach to us to ensure that we remain close to Him. If we were not convicted about the quality of our devotion to prayer that would be a bad sign. It would mean that we were not concerned about the quality of our devotion to God.

Recently at our church council meeting, we have decided to start Wednesday Night Bible Study again. I will continue to post Bible Studies on Facebook on Wednesdays, but starting on September 7 at 6:00 PM, we will meet in the Hartis SS Classroom (located across from the office) to study “A Praying Life” by Paul Miller. This is one of my favorite books on prayer that has helped me greatly. It is an eleven-week study that I pray you will consider attending. If we truly desire to know what God's will is for our church in the days to come, it will require a strong devotion to prayer.

Pastor Jason

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Like us on Facebook

newhopecharlotte.org

Deacons on Call

September 4th
Jim Hartis

September 11th
Jeff Smith

September 18th
Gerald Freeman

September 25th
Don Jordan

Calendar of Events

Standing Weekly Schedule Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Join us on Facebook

1st and 3rd Saturday 10:00 a.m.
H₄F (Hope for Families-cloths &

Birthdays for September

September 5th
Sean Smith

September 14th
Teresa Dixon

September 27th
Jim Hartis

I am so excited to share this request for Grandparents Day!

One of our young folks has ask if he could do this presentation! Praise the Lord for stepping up - Jack - and we can't wait to see the results.....so, folks make sure you support him!

Calling All Grandparents!

We need pictures of your precious grandchildren! Please send pictures of your grandchildren to jackisacooler@gmail.com to be displayed on the screen for our 'Grandparent's Day Service'. Feel free to include name, age, and hometown.

Grandparents Day - September 11th
(Get your pictures in no later than 9/1).

If you are unable to send them to Jacks email - listed above - then please bring your photos to Jack on Sunday (make sure your name is on the back) and they will be returned to you

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Our Wednesday night Bible studies have been on our Facebook since the Covid pandemic began and they will continue but beginning September 7th at 6:30^{pm} we will return to the church for fellowship and Bible study. Pastor Jason will have an 11-week study with the subject being 'prayer life'. The study will conclude on Wednesday, November 16th at which time we will take a break for the holidays. We will pick back up after the new year.

News Flash!!!!

Homecoming '84' will be held on Sunday, October 9th and the Hospitality Team will have an article in the next Contact with instructions concerning our meal and the Pastor and Deacons will have information on the service.