

2009: The Year of the Amen

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It was an interesting year, 2008. We had trials and breakthroughs as a personal family and a collective family.

God was so faithful to speak to us.

John 10:14-16

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me - ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

We want to be found pressing in to hear the word of the Lord, seeking Him.

Proverbs 25:2

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.

*2008 was New Life's fourth year of ministry. We've enjoyed increase and blessing, and we know there is more to come. But we are trying to humble our hearts and get ourselves in a posture to continue the values of the ministry in **not** calling people to New Life. We have no membership, no allegiance. New Life is a tool to serve you in your ministries.*

There are as many ministries here as people in this room. Everyone is called to the ministry.

John 14:12

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Your ministries are not to support my ministry. It's the opposite. My ministry is to support your ministries.

Ephesians 4:11-13 (ESV)

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Everything we do is to stir you to:

(1) your personal possession and union in Christ

(2) the uncovering of the glory of your gifting

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. ⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

We want to see the Church that Christ builds - not the church of our back room planning sessions.

Matthew 16:18b

...I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

2 Corinthians 1:20 (Amplified)

For as many as are the promises of God, they all find their Yes [answer] in Him [Christ]. For this reason we also utter the Amen (so be it) to God through Him [in His Person and by His agency] to the glory of God.

We, the Body of Christ, offer the Amen to God's Yes in Christ. There is a partnership. He will always accomplish His purposes, but He is okay delaying, if His partner on earth will not agree.

Ephesians 1:11

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

God is not messed up by our disagreement; He works it out and displays even more of His glory; but, He will delay.

Ministry is precarious. We just handed out a Bible-in-a-year reading schedule. I fear that some may do that out of legalism and at the Tree of Knowledge instead of Life. You can read the Bible to get law and principles and to judge somebody. You can do it to get approval from God. You don't have to - He loves you already. He loves you because He passionately loves His Son. You are in His Son and being transformed into His image.

Matthew 3:6

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Ephesians 1:4b-6

In love ⁵he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Romans 11:6

And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

We often do Good so people will look at us and God will like us. It's all messed up.

John 3:6

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

All that is good and holy and acceptable to the Lord comes from the Lord. All that He demands, He supplies for the accomplishment.

I am praying that 2009 because a year of a manifest, shouted "Amen" from our lives.

He is the One working, initiating, stimulating. He is the Husband in the relationship. We are the responders. You don't have to get God fired up. He is the consuming fire (Heb. 12:29). You don't even have to get yourself fired up; the Spirit of God inside of you is a fanning flame (cf. 1 Thess. 5:19). He is manifesting the Life of Jesus in you.

I want to expose you to the beauty of the Lord.

We believe in a proactive holiness. We are made with desires, built to eat. We want to show you where the best food is.

John 6:53-55

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

We need the power of the Holy Spirit for this. Theology will not move your heart. You need a living experience with the Holy Spirit, based in the word of God, living and active.

We believe with all our hearts that the Holy Spirit is already doing more than you can imagine inside you. We are an unpacking ministry. We don't have anything glorious to add - He is the glory! We just want to help you unpack His glory, like Paul did.

1 Corinthians 3:16

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

The prayers of the apostles were that we would know what we already have.

Ephesians 1:16-18

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 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. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe...

Colossians 1:9

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

We want to be careful in ministry that we don't stir people up to soul activity. We want to stir you in spirit and truth to possess Christ.

If you want more, you need to realize that, in Christ, you are in The More!

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed - not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence - continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

He is the Yes. We are the Amen. God works. We need to come into agreement with His work in us.

Philippians 2:13 (Amplified)

[Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.

John 5:16-17, 19-20

So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him. ¹⁷Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." ...¹⁹Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. ²⁰For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does."

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

We don't want to distract you by giving you works for New Life. You need to do the works in the kingdom preordained for you by God the Father - the works He wants to do in you with your agreement.

Romans 8:14

because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

The Christian life is not about you doing Christian things for God. It is about Christ living in and through you. We need this reminder often because of our addictions in this performance-based culture.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Being led by the Spirit of Christ should be the most practical aspect of our lives.

New Life is a ministry to believers to help them get into agreement with what the Spirit of God is doing in them and around them at all times.

Thus, we promote the disciplines that help our souls and bodies get into agreement with the living God's activity in our spirits.

We are three-part: spirit and soul and body.

[See 01/27/08 ([audio](#) and [notes](#)) and 02/03/08 ([audio](#) and [notes](#)).]

You were born again in your spirits.

1 Corinthians 6:17

But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

Your souls are still stained with the old Adam-life. Your mind is still funky and obsessed with sight-living. Your emotions are not in alignment. Your body...

2 Corinthians 4:16

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

We are caught between the ages - between the two comings of the Messiah.

We promote the disciplines that help our souls and bodies get into agreement with the living God's activity in our spirits.

Eating food satisfies my physical body, which is already too dominant among my three parts. Fasting settles me down to focus on agreement with what God is doing in my spirit.

Reading the Scriptures teaches our souls to understand and agree with the reality of God in spirit and truth.

Worship and prayer also align our three parts to agree with what God is saying.

We emphasize and encourage cells and house churches so we can spur one another on to hearing and obeying the Spirit in our spirits.

Missions is a priority because we know the Spirit in our spirits is compelling the believers to touch the lost and the poor.

We serve the larger Body of Christ, not recognizing man-made names and institutions, because the Spirit within our spirits is gathering all believers in Christ. The Lord is building one Church in El Dorado - one Church in the earth.

You are more than you know you are. I believe I will be more ashamed of what I did not take that was mine in Christ than I will be of what I did in the flesh.

Your problem isn't that you can't stop doing the bad stuff. Your problem is that you are not possessing the good stuff in Christ. When you possess the good stuff, the bad stuff goes away.

Galatians 5:16

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Greed, lust, or pride show you that you have a bigger problem than greed, lust, or pride. They show you that you are not living in the Spirit, satisfied with the holy God.

May our lives be an Amen to what God is doing.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.