

# House of Prayer Handbook

*New Life Christian Fellowship  
Taylorsville, NC*

*“My House shall be called a house of prayer....”  
-Matthew 21:13*

## **What does participation in the House of Prayer look like?**

We have set aside Wednesday evenings, beginning at 6:30, as New Life's primary prayer gathering. This meeting is the centerpiece of our corporate prayer life. It is our intention to come together in unity of purpose to discern God's heart and pray for his kingdom to come and his will to be done in our families, church, community, region and nation. The sanctuary has been set apart as a "holy place." Please enter with reverence and a desire to worship and come into God's holy presence.

Twenty-five banners representing some of the many character qualities of God have been placed throughout the sanctuary. We believe he has shown us that these are character qualities that he wants to establish in his people. It is this foundation that will undergird New Life. The center of the foundation is love—and all of the other attributes that surround it are intended to be grown and built in God's people at New Life, forming a living foundation for ministry and relationships.

*We believe the Lord has instructed us very specifically to pray for these qualities to be released within the people of New Life, rather than poured out upon us. He has reminded us of Jesus' statement that "the kingdom of God is within you." His ultimate desire is to release his kingdom through his people as they interact with the world around them.*

So as you pray, choose any banner, as led by the Holy Spirit, fellowship with God and petition him to release and grow that particular aspect of his character in the lives of the people of New Life. Declare his promises regarding that facet of who he has revealed himself to be. The Holy Spirit may bring a particular person or group of people into your thoughts. If so, pray specifically for them with regard to that character quality. When you feel your prayer assignment at a particular banner is finished, move on to another as the Holy Spirit directs.

You may find yourself connecting with other people around a particular banner. You can pray silently or quietly on your own, or you may find that the Holy Spirit is bringing together an impromptu prayer of agreement around that banner. Follow the Spirit's leading. There is great authority in the prayer of agreement.

In addition, there are circles of chairs located in the front two corners of the sanctuary where you can come together with fellow believers in prayer.

Because all of us value spiritual sensitivity, we encourage:

- listening for the Holy Spirit's direction in our praying
- making our individual prayers specific, concise and to the point
- praying in a positive fashion, declaring the Word of God
- praying with fervor, expectancy and confidence that God is *El Shaddai, God Almighty*
- being willing to wait on God (times of silence are okay)
- allowing the Holy Spirit to saturate everyone with his presence

The leadership of New Life values and welcomes your participation and encourages you to pray strategically for our church, our families, our community and our nation.

"The believers joined together constantly in prayer." *Acts 1:14*

## What Led to the House of Prayer?

For 10 days in 2004, from May 20 through May 29, New Life held nightly prayer meetings in our soon-to-be-completed new building. The purpose was to dedicate our future as a congregation to the Lord and to seek his face. The meetings were filled with the presence of God. We sincerely believed that God intended to move powerfully in our midst, and that prayer was the key.

A number of prophetic dreams, visions and words were received during this time, and our faith was encouraged greatly. In recent months the Lord has drawn our attention back to one prophetic word in particular. On March 29, 2010, New Life's pastor received the following email from a brother who has since moved away:

*It's funny. I have this file on a computer that sits in the corner unplugged most of the time. I brought it out today just to mess with it a little bit and the documentation I put together about the 25 lights hanging in the sanctuary at New Life caught my attention. Thought I'd send it your way in case it has any life on it for this time.*

The prophecy (which follows in detail in this booklet) was attached to the email. The pastor politely thanked this brother for his thoughtfulness and filed the prophecy away... until a chain of events culminating on July 20, 2010, made it clear that the *25 Lights Prophecy* did indeed have "life on it for this time."

On May 3, 2010, Alan Smith gave each of New Life's Governing Elders a copy of Jim Cymbala's book, *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire*, and asked that they read it to see what the Lord might want to say to our congregation through it. Two weeks later the Governing Elders met again and agreed that God was calling New Life to make prayer our primary focus and central to everything we do, noting a 5-week Wednesday night prayer study scheduled to begin on June 2 (completely uninitiated by the Governing Elders) as confirmation.

On July 18, the Governing Elders met with a broader group of ministry leaders to share with them the decision to prioritize prayer. At the end of this meeting, the participants gathered to pray and the Lord drew a sister's attention to the number of people in the prayer circle: 25. Convinced that God was saying something, she called the pastor later that evening. When the call was returned on July 20, her husband told the pastor about her impression and asked if he had any idea what it might mean. His immediate thought was of the *25 Lights Prophecy* he had filed away nearly four months earlier. Believing that God was bringing this prophecy to the forefront once again, the pastor submitted it to the Prophetic Council who agreed that it should be sent to the Governing Elders for their consideration.

On July 29, 2010, the Governing Elders agreed that the prophecy was from the Lord and that its purpose was to provide a foundation for establishing New Life as a House of Prayer. It was decided to commission the creation of 25 banners (each to represent one of the 25 aspects of God referred to in the prophecy) to be used as touch points for weekly congregational prayer meetings, which were set to begin on Wednesday, September 1, 2010.

On a final note, a confirming prophecy was discovered amongst the dreams, visions and words from 2004 that notably preceded the *25 Lights Prophecy* by three days. A sister who has since moved out of state wrote:

*I was awakened on May 21<sup>st</sup> with the number 25. I was curious if this was significant in any way. I looked on a Bible verse calendar and found this verse—Ezra 3:11...and the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord; because the foundation of the house of the Lord had been laid.*

## 25 Lights

As we were gathered for prayer on May 24, 2004, I felt God invite me to step under the light spreading on the floor before me. As I waited under the light I heard, "My name is 'Passion'". God then led me to stand beneath the adjacent light, to which I heard, "My name is 'Mercy'". God wanted to reveal a facet of himself, a name, for each of the 25 lights lighting the sanctuary. Over the next 4 nights he brought forth the names through several individuals. My "job" was to listen to the prayers of the saints gathered, identify the facet of the Lord underlying and record it on the floor beneath a light. I felt the Lord instructing that the named places beneath the lights were to be special meeting places. First, they were to be focussed places of worship and intercession, places of giving unto the Lord. They are also places of focussed revelation and outpouring. As I write this, I see 25 bank teller windows where we deposit in our abundance and withdraw in our need. A bank without deposits is bankrupt! The physical lights are not annointed or magical. They are merely providing a 'structure' to help us exercise the disciplines of faith. The Lord desires that we lay up treasure in our abundance and humble ourselves before him in our need. Let us never believe that a location is more annointed than the faith gathered to it in our hearts.

<b>Creativity</b>	<b>Intimacy</b>	<b>Revelation</b>	<b>Mercy</b>	<b>Trust</b>
<b>Power</b>	<b>Truth</b>	<b>Mystery</b>	<b>Passion</b>	<b>Wonder</b>
<b>Purity</b>	<b>Wisdom</b>	<b>Love</b>	<b>Equipper</b>	<b>Encourager</b>
<b>Holiness</b>	<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Physician</b>	<b>Compassion</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>Grace</b>	<b>Kindness</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Comforter</b>

## The following Scriptures provide insight into the meaning of each recorded word:

### Love

And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. *1 John 4:16, HCSB*

### Trust

I will leave in your midst  
A meek and humble people,  
And they shall trust in the name of the LORD. *Zephaniah 3:12, NKJV*

### Revelation

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. *Ephesians 1:17, NIV*

### Discipline

[The Father] disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. *Hebrews 12:10b-11*

### Truth

When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. *John 16:13, HCSB*

### Physician

But He *was* wounded for our transgressions,  
He *was* bruised for our iniquities;  
The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him,  
And by His stripes we are healed. *Isaiah 53:5, NKJV*

### Passion

Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me." *John 2:17, NLT*

### Creativity

...and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, <sup>32</sup> to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, <sup>33</sup> in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. <sup>34</sup> And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. <sup>35</sup> He has filled them with skill to do every sort of work done by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of workman or skilled designer. *Exodus 35:31-35, ESV*

### Intimacy

When You said, "Seek My face,"  
My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek." *Psalms 27:8, NKJV*

### Wonder

Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, "We have seen amazing things today!" *Luke 5:26, NLT*

### Power

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." *Acts 1:8, NIV*

## **Mystery**

...the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to His saints. <sup>27</sup>God wanted to make known to those among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. *Colossians 1:26-27, HCSB*

## **Holiness**

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. *Psalms 29:2, ESV*

## **Purity**

Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself just as He is pure. *1 John 3:2-3, HCSB*

## **Wisdom**

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him—a Spirit of wisdom and understanding.... *Isaiah 11:2a, HCSB*

## **Comforter**

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may be with you forever, <sup>17</sup>(even) the Spirit of truth.... *John 14:16-17a, ASV*

## **Provider**

"So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup>These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup>Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." *Matthew 6:31-33, NLT*

## **Compassion**

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. *Psalms 103:8, NIV*

## **Encourager**

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord. *Acts 9:31, NIV*

## **Worship**

For we are the real circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh. *Philippians 3:3, ESV*

## **Hospitality**

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;  
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

<sup>2</sup>Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

<sup>3</sup>Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. *Isaiah 55:1-3, NIV*

## **Kindness**

The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.

<sup>18</sup>The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. *Psalms 145:17-18, ESV*

## **Grace**

### **Grace for those who are separated from God**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.... *Titus 2:11, ESV*

### **Grace for those who belong to Christ**

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in

time of need. *Hebrews 4:16, ESV*

### **Mercy**

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

<sup>10</sup>He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. *Psalm 103:8-10, ESV*

### **Equipper**

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. *1 Corinthians 12:4-7, ESV*