

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and “at home.”

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- 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.

{turn page over}

Pastor Bob Wine

August 16, 2009

TEAM PLAYER WITH GOD

Mark 4:26-29

Spiritual Journey Map Review ...

We begin as **Explorers** ... cross “the line” and become **Growers**. As we begin to take responsibility for our own spiritual progress, instead of depending on the church, we find ourselves moving **Close to Christ**.

The biggest hurdle to becoming “**Christ-centered**” is realizing we must change our thinking from using God to meet our needs, to allowing Him to use us to serve His purposes.

How does a person actually move through those segments?

God wants us to see ourselves more as a farmer, rather than a chess or tennis player.

1. **OUR RESPONSIBILITY: PLANT THE SEED**

- It's the “how to” factor that separates the professional and novice.

Psalm 103:7 “He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel ...”

- One of God's ways -- teaching you **how to fish** instead of giving **you a fish**.

Mark 4:26 “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.”

Jeremiah 4:3 NLT “Plow up the hard ground of your hearts! Do not waste your good seed among thorns.”

2 Corinthians 9:6 NLT “Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.”

- God's ways involve working with God -- not expecting Him to do it all.
- We must do all we **can** do to position ourselves so God can do what He wants done through us.

2. **GOD'S RESPONSIBILITY: CAUSES GROWTH**

Mark 4:27-28 NLT “Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens.”

- Digging Deeper - “Team Player With God”

For personal or small group study

Week of August 16, 2009

• God alone makes seeds grow, but we fail to consider that it is also He alone who can cause a person to grow spiritually. It all happens beneath our “radar screen.”

• When we choose to **daily plant** God's Word in our heart, and actually put it in front of us, the Holy Spirit soaks it into our spirit and we can't even see or feel it happening.

3. IT'S ALL ABOUT WORKING WITH GOD

• We tend to think we either need to totally trust, rest and wait on God to do it all. Or, we think we must virtually do it all.

• God doesn't think in **either/or** terms, He thinks in **both/and** terms.

• Working with God means that we trust fully **AND** work with all our might. **Ephesians 6:13** “... after you have done everything ... **stand**”

• Do all you can to **position** yourself to grow, yet depend fully on Him to bring the growth. If you don't plant the seed, you cannot have a harvest.

1 Corinthians 15:10 NLT “... whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; **yet it was not I** but God who was working through me by his grace.”

Colossians 1:29 NLT “... **I work and struggle so hard** depending on **Christ's mighty power** that works within me.”

- Do all you can do to personally **train** (model, coach) your children, then fully trust God to grow them into His likeness.

- Do all you can do to **position** yourself to become Christ-centered, then fully trust God to grow you into that stature of Jesus Christ.

- Do all you can do to lovingly **share** your faith with a seeker, then fully trust God to cause that seed to grow.

• This is what the “Christ-centered” life looks like. This is where you find your greatest joy, peace, purpose, energy and satisfaction.

Galatians 6:9 NLT “... let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.”

Mark 4:29 “As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

Matthew 25:21 NKJV “Well done ... Enter into the joy of your Lord.”

Knowing the growing of the seed is not all up to me brings GREAT relief and hope. Guard your heart above all things, and do all you know you can do. There is a reward in “doing all you can do.”

QUICK REVIEW: Which point or scripture passage was the most significant to you personally in this week's message? Why?

GROUP DISCUSSION or PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Describe a time in your life when you gave your best, and because of something that was - or appeared to be - beyond your control, everything was still ruined. [Example: hail on a garden or corn crop] How did it make you feel? How did it affect your relationship with God and your moving forward in your spiritual walk?
2. Why do you think God would want us to see ourselves more as a farmer than as a chess or tennis player? How would you apply this to when we feel the need to be responsible for our own spiritual growth? What part is ours and what part is God's?
3. Read Proverbs 4:23, Psalm 103:7 and Mark 4:26-29. What do these scriptures reveal to us about how we are to move from being an “Explorer” to being a “Grower” -- and to keep moving forward to the “Christ-centered” stage of spiritual growth? As a disciple-maker are we to give someone a fish ... or teach others how to fish? Explain your answer.
4. What do you think the difference is between teaching someone and training someone? What part does trusting God play in this process? [1 Corinthians 15:10; Colossians 1:29; Galatians 6:1-2, 6-10; 2 Timothy 2:2]
5. Find someone whom you know and trust and position yourself beside them -- to either receive from them and/or to pour into their lives what God has been pouring into you. Today write down the names of five people [same gender] who you can position yourself around who will help you grow. Then write down five names who you can position yourself with that you can pour your life into. **Now, take action** and follow through by finding and positioning yourself with one from each list.