

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

New Life Church

January 10, 2021

### GROWING PAINS IN THE CHURCH!

Acts 6:1-7, NKJV

<sup>6</sup> Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup> Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; <sup>4</sup> but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

<sup>5</sup> And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, <sup>6</sup> whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. *Acts 6:1-7, NKJV*

#### AT NEW LIFE WE CAN CELEBRATE THE BLESSINGS!

<sup>40</sup> And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." <sup>41</sup> Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. <sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. <sup>43</sup> Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, <sup>45</sup> and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

<sup>46</sup> So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. *Acts 2:40-47, NKJV*

#### AT NEW LIFE WE EXPECT AND SOLVE THE PROBLEMS!

- They protected the unity of the church.
- They met the legitimate needs in the church.
- They overcame the overburdened leadership in the church.
- They kept the pastoral priorities of praying and preaching in order.
- They delegated and shared the ministry with others.
- They advanced the mission of the church, while managing the people.

## AT NEW LIFE WE CAN SEE THE OPPORTUNITIES

- We can pray, fast, seek and share the gospel with people!
- We can be the salt of the earth and make people thirsty for the water of life!
- We can be a sweet-smelling aroma and make people hungry for the bread of life!
- We can be the light of the world and give hope to the hopeless!
- We can have realistic expectations of one another!
- We can show grace, kindness, joy and peace to one another!
- We can serve in the power and the energy of the Holy Spirit!
- We can say thanks often to the people who serve in our church!
- We can through it all remember that Jesus is building His church and we are privileged to be a part of it!

### **NLC'S VERSE FOR 2021:**

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Romans 15:13, NKJV*