

**Matthew 13:1-23,
NKJV**



New Life Church

New Life Church Welcomes Our Guests Today!

New Life Church is a friendly community Where Jesus and His Word are Exalted! It is a real blessing to have you visiting with us today. We love welcoming and connecting with people in our community.

If you and/or your family are first-time guests at New Life Church, please complete the attached Connect Card. Each first-time guest family that completes and submits the Connect Card will receive a Gift Bag from our NLC Family.

Visit the Welcome Table following the worship service to submit your Connect Card and receive your Gift Bag. Members of the Welcome Team will be available to answer any questions you may have about New Life Church.

*Our NLC family looks forward to meeting you
and getting to know you!*



CONNECT CARD

Welcome to New Life Church! We love welcoming and connecting with people from our community. If you are visiting with us today, please complete the top portion of this card so we can connect with you. If you are a First-Time Guest, following the worship service bring your completed Connect Card to the Welcome Table to receive a Gift Bag for your family. Thank You!

How did you hear about New Life Church?

Friend/Family Friend/Family Name: _____

Website Advertisement Other: _____

Please circle: First-Time Guest Returning Guest New Resident Would Like To Be Contacted Member Regular Attender

Contact Information

(Please Print - Thank You!)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Family Information

(Please Print - Thank You!)

Age Group (please circle): 13-18 19-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56-65 65+

Category (please circle): Married Single Engaged Divorced Widowed Youth

Children (names & ages): _____

-----**-FOLD HERE AND PLACE IN BASKET-**-----

I have a **PRAISE** that I would like to share with the (circle all that apply): Congregation Pastor Staff

I have a **PRAYER REQUEST** that I would like to share with the (circle all that apply): Congregation Pastor Staff

I Would Like The Pastor To Contact Me

Missions Meal - Saturday, May 4th 6 to 8 pm in The Gathering Place

The meal will be catered by Mission BBQ

The menu is:

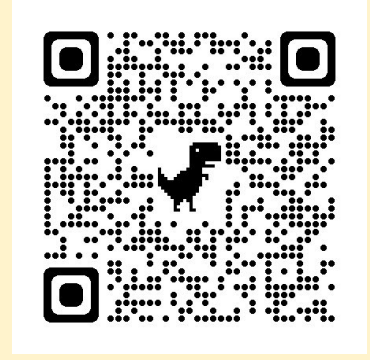
Pulled Chicken & Pulled Pork, Mac 'n Cheese, Baked Beans and Green Beans

Registration by noon on Wednesday, May 1st is required for Mission BBQ.

Register for the meal by using the QR Code or the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table.

Guest Speakers will be Ken & Eileen Lorow with ABWE.

Faith Promise missionary Joanne Foltz will join us for the meal. She will give her ministry report during the worship service on Sunday.



Dear New Life Church Family,

More than 30 years ago, God challenged our faith in Him as a church and we began supporting missionaries through 'Faith Promise Giving'. You may not know what that is all about, so we have attached a document explaining it for you. If you have never joined in Faith Promise giving, we encourage you to pray about doing just that.

Currently, New Life financially supports 27 missionaries, plus 6 mission organizations every month. There are at least 25 different countries and people groups that are experiencing the love of Christ through these missionaries and organizations. Every month, we send over \$10,000 to these families and organizations to help enable them to reach the world with the gospel of Christ. God has really blessed us to be able to send out around \$120,000 each year. We want to do more though and that is where we need your help.

We are excited to announce that we will be having a missions emphasis weekend this year, May 4th and 5th. On Saturday night, May 4th, we are planning a dinner (catered by Mission BBQ) beginning at 6:00. More information about registering for this dinner will be coming out in a separate email. At this dinner, we will give you an update on the missionaries that we support and then will hear from one of our new missionary families, Ken & Eileen Lorow with ABWE. It will be a great evening together. On May 5th, Joanne Foltz will be with us and have time to share in the morning worship service.

How can we as a church grow our Faith Promise giving? It all starts with prayer. We begin by praying for our missionaries on a regular basis. We cannot imagine the challenges that they face day in and day out. As we are doing that, we then ask God to lead us in how we can help. As He leads, we need to be willing to obey. A commitment card is enclosed, and we ask everyone to complete it as God leads. Even if you already give to Faith Promise, we ask that you pray about what God may want to do through you this coming year. If you have never participated in Faith Promise before, we ask that you prayerfully consider joining in this work. We will be collecting these cards through May 26th and you can place them in the designated basket located on the Welcome Table.

How can God use you in reaching the nations for Him? He is working around the world and Faith Promise is one way that we can join Him in that work. All we ask is that you pray over this and then be obedient as He leads. God uses His church, and it is exciting to see how God changes lives around the world. Our missionaries are on the front lines, and they need our help and support. It is a joy to serve together in this way. God is so good!

In His Service,
NLC Missions Team

FAITH PROMISE GIVING

1. What is Faith Promise?

Faith Promise is a way of systematically supporting world evangelism efforts. Rather than waiting to respond to individual appeals as they come along, believers ask the Lord how much they should give to missions over the next year. They then commit to that annual total as a "Faith Promise." Faith Promise thus turns global missions giving into something strategic rather than something sporadic.

2. Is there a scriptural basis for Faith Promise missions giving?

Faith Promise giving makes us channels of blessing. In His covenant with Abraham, God said that through Abraham's descendants, "all peoples of the earth would be blessed." (Genesis 12:3) Faith Promise giving is a way of handing on the blessing.

- Faith Promise giving is more than one can afford (II Corinthians 8:2-3, II Corinthians 9:6-15)
- Faith Promise giving reflects our personal commitments (II Corinthians 8:5)
- Though Faith Promise giving is optional, it does clearly demonstrate our love (Philippians 2:1-4; Luke 6:38, Romans 12:9-10)

3. Who should give to Faith Promise?

Everyone! Children and youth may have less money than adults, but it's crucial to train them in systematic giving and faith living.

4. What's the relationship between Faith Promise and giving a tithe?

Faith Promise giving is over and above the tithe. Tithing is a clear scriptural principle, dating back to the earliest pages of Genesis. Tithing recognizes God's ownership over me and all that I have.

In practical terms, tithe money runs the local church and its ministries. Faith Promise is a way for us to give specifically in reaching the unreached of the world. Faith Promise giving tangibly expresses my desire that the whole world know the Good News.

5. How do I get the funds to fulfill my Faith Promise?

God may increase your income.
God may decrease your expenses.
God may lead you to sacrifice.

6. Do I give my Faith Promise before I get it?

A Faith Promise is a FAITH commitment. Promise only what you believe God wants to give through you. Then trust God to be faithful in this promise.

Your Faith Promise involvement says that you believe:

- World evangelism is vital to accomplishing the mission of the church
- The gospel can change lives
- Giving, although important, is secondary to faith and praying
- God will help supply the amount promised

FAITH PROMISE GIVING - continued

7. How do I decide how much my Faith Promise should be?

- Study the scriptures.
- Total up your giving to world evangelism for last year.
- Increase that total by a reasonable percentage.
- Divide the total by 52 or 26 or 12 (weekly, bi-weekly or monthly) according to your individual pay schedule.
- Prayerfully again consider the amount you can faithfully purpose to give. (II Corinthians 9:7). Do not be surprised at what God lays on your heart. Just be obedient.
- Fill out a Faith Promise Card, indicating your Faith and Promise.

8. How often do I give the money for my Faith Promise?

Give regularly if you can. Missionaries need regular support. Some Faith Promises, however, depend on annual, one-time income. These can be paid when those monies are received.

9. Is this a pledge and will I be notified of my progress?

This is a promise to God, not a pledge to the church. Your Faith Promise amount is between you and God. No one will notify you or keep track of your progress toward your commitment.

10. Who can make a Faith Promise?

Anyone who wants to trust God and who wants to be used of God to get the Good News to the unreached can make a Faith Promise commitment (Luke 6:38, Proverbs 11:24-25). Youth and children are encouraged to participate in Faith Promise giving.

11. How long does my Faith Promise commitment last?

Generally, Faith Promise commitments are made once a year during missions emphasis Sundays or a missions conference. The weekly or monthly or annual commitments extend for one year from that time.

12. Is Faith Promise a pledge I commit to pay even if my income goes down during the year?

Faith Promises differ from other kinds of giving such as pledges. Pledges are largely horizontal since they are made to a church or some other worthy cause. Pledges are often the basis on which a church takes out a loan to do a construction project. Faith Promise giving is more vertical since it is made between the believer and the Lord.

13. What is the advantage of Faith Promise giving?

One major advantage in giving to missions on a per week or per month basis is that you can give far more to missions that way than you can by giving one or two big sacrificial gifts per year. (This has certainly been the experience at New Life Church.) Faith Promise enables you to give to missions in amounts that reflect what you'd like to do but probably could not in just one or two big annual offerings. Faith Promise enables you to reach out to the unreached on a regular basis (rather than just one or two special occasions during the year).

It's a Jungle Out There

But **YOU** can make a difference by joining us for an unforgettable week!

NEW LIFE VBS

Crafts
Snacks
Bible Time



Games
Kids Group Guide
Decorating

June 23 - 27 ◆ 6-8pm

Please contact Amanda Geiman
ageiman@nlcfamily.org
717-377-8845

*To begin making a difference,
Scan the QR Code to Register
for an unforgettable week!*



BIBLE STUDY

GROUPS



SEE BELOW FOR DAYS, TIMES & LOCATIONS

NEW LIFE CHURCH

Men's Group

1st & 3rd Sundays at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
Contact: Jeff Strayer

Women's Group

2nd & 4th Sundays in the Fellowship Hall (following the worship service)
Contact: Kathy O'Donnell

Women's Bible Study

Women of the Word now through May 6th
Mondays at 6:30 pm in Room 308
Contacts: Mandy Davis or Ido Mathew

Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall
Contact: Robert Miller

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9 am in the Conference Room
Contact: Kenny Marshall

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:30 am in the Chapel
Contact: Joyce Eichelberger

Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Chapel
Contact: Dale Lance

Volunteer Week **April 21 - 27, 2024**

Honoring our
incredible volunteers.

Thank You for your selfless
dedication to our NLC family!



Adult Bible Studies

Mandy Davis
Joyce Eichelberger
Dale Lance
Kenny Marshall
Ido Mathew
Robert Miller
Kathy O'Donnell
Jeff Strayer

Audio Visual Team

Cherry Davis
Dan Davis
Faith Davis
Frank Kinsinger
Dee Stewart
Nancy Zimmerman

Biblical Eldership Transition Team

Dan Davis
Dave Davis
Carey Fullmer
Jeff Lundeen
Ben Mathew
Ian Maurer
Kirk Zuercher

Building & Grounds Projects

Dave Conrad
Dan Davis
Dave Davis
Carey Fullmer
Marylin Gorka
Eric Harte
Jake Helmick
Lindsey Helmick
Jeff Lundeen
Gordon Miller
Steve Perkins
Barry Ritchey
Bob Sholly
Jeff Strayer
Phil Strayer
Kirk Zuercher

Chair Set-Up for Services

Dan Davis
Dave Davis
Evie Davis
Jack Davis
James Davis
Lydia Davis
Brelle Perkins
Steve Perkins
Tommy Perkins
Cam Sutton
Jen Sutton

Counters

Denise Brooks
Marylin Gorka
Renee Kurtz-Olin
Zula Mae Snyder

Deacons

Dan Davis
Dave Davis
Ben Mathew
Jeff Strayer
Phil Strayer
Kirk Zuercher

Decorating

Pam Conrad
Katrina Davis
Pam Ishler
Marylin Gorka
Brelle Perkins
Beverly Riggins

Finance Team

Vicki Harte
Kyle Kirchner
Ben Mathew
Vance Stouffer

Greeters

Jim Bateman
Wanda Bateman
Donna Crider
Renee Kurtz-Olin

Kenny Marshall
Nedra Marshall
Ian Maurer
Lydia Maurer
Rachel Maurer
Tasha Noss
Barry Ritchey
Lisette Ritchey
Patsy Ryan
Dave Stewart
Dee Stewart
Burt Swick
Wendy Tobin

Hospitality

Joe Johnson
Patricia Johnson
Emma Kurtz-Olin
Renee Kurtz-Olin
Dee Stewart
Doreen Strayer
Jeff Strayer

Men's Ministry

Joe Johnson
Ian Maurer
Jeff Strayer

Parking Lot Attendants For Events

George Craker
Dale Lance
Ian Maurer
Tyler Rhodes
Barry Ritchey
Pastor Ronnie
Jeremy Samek
Stacey Sanger
Bob Sholly
Jenn Sholly
Jeff Strayer
Burt Swick
Dave Wickert
Joel Wickert

Photography

Hannah Strayer
Greg Zimmerman
Nancy Zimmerman

Security Team

Luke Cox
Dan Davis
Dave Davis
Matt Geiman
Eric Harte
Jeff Lundeen
Kenny Marshall
Steve Perkins
Reed Snyder
Vance Stouffer
Jeff Strayer
Mike Sutton

Welcome Team

Bob Sholly
Jen Sholly
Ginger Wallace
Julie Zuercher

Women's Ministry

Pam Conrad
Mandy Davis
Ido Mathew
Sarah Samek
Doreen Strayer

Worship Team

Joseph Belanger
Dave Conrad
Pam Conrad
Cherry Davis
Faith Davis
Mandy Davis
Patty Kinsinger
Ellie Lieb
Ben Mathew
Linda McClure
Jeremy Samek
Sarah Samek
Dave Stewart
Phil Strayer
Joel Wickert
Josh Wickert

Youth Ministry

Joseph Belanger
Dan Davis
Ian Maurer
Doreen Strayer
Jeff Strayer
Phil Strayer

Children's Ministry - Awana

LB Cameron
Laura Coleman
Dave Conrad
Pam Conrad
Brenda Cox
Katrina Davis
Mandy Davis
Alexis Fiadewornu
Matt Geiman
Lindsey Helmick
Patty Kinsinger
Terra Kirchner
Sue Lance
Kenny Marshall
Rachel Maurer
Stuart Nickerson
Brelle Perkins
Alisha Rhodes
Tyler Rhodes
Lisette Ritchey
Zach Stewart
Ellie Strayer
Kayla Wagner
Heather Wallace
Julie Zuercher
Kirk Zuercher

Children's Ministry - Nursery

Laura Belanger
Ella Bender
Kati Bender
Laura Coleman
Cherry Davis
Lydia Davis
Phylis Eichelberger
Olivia Helmick
Pam Ishler
Bonnie Lundeen
Linda McClure
Brelle Perkins
Carrie Perkins
Beverly Riggins
Doreen Strayer
Ellie Strayer
Kayla Wagner

Children's Ministry - Children's Church

Amy Bates
Beth Bates
LB Cameron
Laura Coleman
Pam Conrad
Dave Davis
James Davis
Katrina Davis
Alexis Fiadewornu
Carey Fullmer
Lori Fullmer
Matt Geiman
Kari Harbold
Lindsey Helmick
Olivia Helmick
Sherry Knotts
Sue Lance
Ashley Lentz
Katie Lieb
Mark Lieb
Nedra Marshall
Ben Mathew
Ido Mathew
Ian Maurer
Lydia Maurer
Nora Maurer
Rachel Maurer
Tasha Noss
Carrie Perkins
Alisha Rhodes
Tyler Rhodes
Emily Ritchey
Lisette Ritchey
Natalie Ritchey
Jen Sholly
Ellie Strayer
Phil Strayer
Jen Sutton
Heather Wallace
Laurie Winters

**2023 Light-In-The-Night
Outreach Event**

Jim Bateman
LB Cameron
Dave Conrad
Pam Conrad
Cherry Davis
Dan Davis
James Davis
Katrina Davis
Lydia Davis
Mandy Davis
Matt Geiman
Kari Harbold
Lindsey Helmick
Olivia Helmick
Pam Ishler
Woody Ishler
Joe Johnson
Patricia Johnson
Frank Kinsinger
Patty Kinsinger
Renee Kurtz-Olin
Dale Lance
Ian Maurer
Lydia Maurer
Nora Maurer
Rachel Maurer
Brelle Perkins
Steve Perkins
Tommy Perkins
Beverly Riggins
Naomi Riggins
Pastor Ronnie
Barry Ritchey
Emily Ritchey
Lisette Ritchey
Natalie Ritchey
Stacey Sanger
Bob Sholly
Jen Sholly
Ellie Strayer
Phil Strayer
Jen Sutton
Aidan Trimmer
Austin Wagner
Kayla Wagner
Ginger Wallace
Heather Wallace
Laurie Winters
Nancy Zimmerman
Julie Zuercher
Kirk Zuercher

2023 VBS

Jim Bateman
Laura Belanger
LB Cameron
Linda Church
Laura Coleman
Cherry Davis
James Davis
Katrina Davis
Lydia Davis
Mandy Davis
Matt Geiman
Kari Harbold
Lindsey Helmick
Olivia Helmick
Patty Kinsinger
Terra Kirchner
Melanie Lambie
Dale Lance
Sue Lance
Ashley Lentz
Celia Lieb
Ellie Lieb
Katie Lieb
Kenny Marshall
Nedra Marshall
Ian Maurer
Lydia Maurer
Rachel Maurer
Tailynn O'Donnell
Carrie Perkins
Tommy Perkins
Alisha Rhodes
Tyler Rhodes
Emily Ritchey
Lisette Ritchey
Natalie Ritchey
Liam Samek
Sarah Samek
Doreen Strayer
Ellie Strayer
Austin Wagner
Kayla Wagner
Heather Wallace

**2024 Glow-In-The-Dark
Egg Hunt Outreach Event**

A very, very special "THANK YOU!" to those of you who stepped-up, without being asked, to assist as needed for this event. God exceedingly blessed this event with a greater number of children (and their families) than we could have imagined! Without you, we could not have managed this event! If your name is not listed below, please know it is not intentional and that your efforts blessed everyone who participated in this community-wide event.

Denise Brooks
LB Cameron
Laura Coleman
Dave Conrad
Pam Conrad
Cherry Davis
Evie Davis
James Davis
Katrina Davis
Lydia Davis
Mandy Davis
Charlotte Geiman
Grace Geiman
Mason Geiman
Matt Geiman
Noah Geiman
Kari Harbold
Lindsey Helmick
Olivia Helmick
Patricia Johnson
Patty Kinsinger
Renee Kurtz-Olin
Dale Lance
Sue Lance
Kenny Marshall
Nedra Marshall
Ian Maurer
Lydia Maurer
Nora Maurer
Rachel Maurer
Alisha Rhodes
Tyler Rhodes
Beverly Riggins
Emily Ritchey
Lisette Ritchey
Jeremy Samek
Liam Samek
Luke Samek
Noah Samek
Sarah Samek
Elizabeth Shaffer
Ellie Strayer
Aidan Trimmer
Ginger Wallace
Heather Wallace
Laurie Winters
Nancy Zimmerman

This Is Amazing Grace

Verse 1

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much
stronger
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Verse 2

Who shakes the whole earth with holy
thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and
wonder
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Chorus

(Yeah) (Oh) This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done
for me

Verse 3

Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory the King of Glory

Verse 4

Who rules the nations with truth and
justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Chorus

(Yeah) (Oh) This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done
for me

Bridge

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the
grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the
grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the
grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy worthy worthy

Chorus

(Yeah) (Oh) This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done
for me

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

Turn Your Eyes

Verse 1

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely
dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Verse 2

Turn your eyes to the hillside
Where justice and mercy embrace
There the Son of God gave His life for us
And our measureless debt was erased

Chorus

Jesus to You we lift our eyes
Jesus our glory and our prize
We adore You behold You our Savior ever
true
Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You

Verse 3

Turn your eyes to the morning
And see Christ the lion awake
What a glorious dawn fear of death is gone
For we carry His life in our veins

Chorus

Jesus to You we lift our eyes
Jesus our glory and our prize
We adore You behold You our Savior ever
true
Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You

Verse 4

Turn your eyes to the heavens
Our King will return for His own
Every knee will bow every tongue will
shout
All glory to Jesus alone

Chorus X2

Jesus to You we lift our eyes
Jesus our glory and our prize
We adore You behold You our Savior ever
true
Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You

Tag

Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You

You Are My King (Amazing Love)

Verse X2

I'm forgiven
Because You were forsaken
I'm accepted
You were condemned
I'm alive and well
Your Spirit is within me
Because You died
And rose again

Chorus

Amazing love
How can it be
That You my King
Would die for me
Amazing love
I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You

Verse

I'm forgiven
Because You were forsaken
I'm accepted
You were condemned
I'm alive and well
Your Spirit is within me
Because You died
And rose again

Chorus

Amazing love
How can it be
That You my King
Would die for me
Amazing love
I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You

Bridge

You are my King
You are my King
Jesus You are my King
Jesus You are my King

Chorus X2

Amazing love
How can it be
That You my King
Would die for me
Amazing love
I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You

Billy J. Foote
CCLI Song #2456623
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NLC's verse for 2024

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Romans 1:16, NKJV

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

April 28, 2024

Transformational Truth Through Tough Times!

Matthew 13:1-23, NKJV

Last Sunday - Jesus is the Living Word of God - Luke 8:22-25, NKJV
Today - The Bible is the Written Word of God - Matthew 13:1-23, NKJV

The Parable of the Sower

13 On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. ² And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. ³ Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁸ But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

The Purpose of Parables

¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,
And seeing you will see and not perceive;
¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown dull.
Their ears are hard of hearing,
And their eyes they have closed,
Lest they should see with *their eyes* and hear with *their ears*,
Lest they should understand with *their hearts* and turn,
So that I should heal them.'

¹⁶ But blessed *are* your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; ¹⁷ for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous *men* desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

The Parable of the Sower Explained

¹⁸ "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. ²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. ²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. ²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

A Biblical Parable is a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, to teach a great *truth* or to challenge the hearers to change their own beliefs and behaviors.

- Jesus Gives The Introduction Of The Parable - *Matthew 13:1-9, NKJV*

13 On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. ² And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. ³ Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁸ But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

- Jesus Gives The Interruption Of The Parable - *Matthew 13:10-17, NKJV*

¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"
¹¹ He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For who-

'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,
And seeing you will see and not perceive;
¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown dull.
Their ears are hard of hearing,
And their eyes they have closed,
Lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears,
Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn,
So that I should heal them.'

ever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:
¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; ¹⁷ for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous *men* desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

- Jesus Gives The Interpretation Of The Parable - *Matthew 13:18-23, NKJV*

- The Waywardness Of Some - *Matthew 13:18-19, NKJV*

¹⁸ "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

- The Word is Superficially Received
- The Word is Satanically Removed

- The Weakness Of Some - *Matthew 13:20-21, NKJV*
²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

- The Worldliness Of Some - *Matthew 13:22, NKJV*
²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.
 - The Cares of this World speaks to the Problems of this Life
 - The Deceitfulness of Riches speaks to the Prosperities of this Life
 - The Lust of other Things speaks to the Pleasures of this Life

- The Willingness of Some - *Matthew 13:23, NKJV*
²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."
 - Moderate Growth can be seen in some Lives
 - Marked Growth can be seen in other Lives
 - Marvelous Growth can be seen in a few Lives

- ⇒ Are you daily reading God's Word?
- ⇒ Are you daily studying God's Word?
- ⇒ Are you daily memorizing God's Word?
- ⇒ Are you daily meditating in God's Word?
- ⇒ Are you daily applying God's Word?
- ⇒ Are you daily being transformed by God's Word?
- ⇒ Are you daily sharing God's Word?

An Oak Tree is strong because of its roots. Its roots go way, way down. So whenever a storm brews, an Oak Tree is not intimidated. Now, your house might be intimidated but not the Oak Tree sitting in front of it. This Tree has a Solid Foundation. In the same way, the deeper your spiritual roots go, the more safe and secure you can be when storms come your way. The Spiritual Maturity that occurs when you grow as a Christian keeps you rooted and able to withstand difficulties when they come your way.