

Life Notes *Understanding Our Core Values*

with Pastor Stephen

Core Value #3 – God’s Empowering Presence

- We believe that lives are transformed through God’s empowering presence. Therefore, we welcome Him in every aspect of Christian Life Church, acknowledging our dependence on His grace-filled presence.

What does this Core Value Mean?

- While we certainly celebrate our history, we daily embrace the idea that Christianity is kept alive by a blending of perspectives. We are rooted in past events, yet we live vibrant lives based on present power and reality, while looking forward to an indescribable future that only the Eternal God can give. This balanced approach to life is made possible by the ever-abiding presence of God that is enjoyed by every Christian.
- Christian Faith is inseparably linked to certain historical events in the past. The Divine Jesus Christ was born to a virgin and lived a sinless life. He died a substitutionary death on the Cross, and was physically raised from the dead by the power of The Father. He then ascended to Heaven, where He lives to make intercession for those of us who believe in Him.
- Christian Faith is also tied to promises of Christ’s Return to Earth, the final judgments, and eternity lived by Believers in the presence of God in a place called Heaven.
- Yet the power and privilege of the Christian Faith is lived out in the present tense. We are creatures who honor the past and anticipate the future. But this happens while living in the present world, where we experience the empowering presence of God.

Why is this Core Value important?

- **The danger of ignoring this Core Value:**
 - Without an understanding of God’s presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit, we would fall prey to the trap of trying to live the Christian Life in the strength of the flesh.

- Jesus taught that Christians must “abide in me” (John 15), and a recognition of the graces of our changed lives use another word connected to the idea of abiding - “fruit.” Galatians 5 teaches that the fruitful life we live is a result of the abiding presence of God - “the fruit of the Spirit.”

• **The principle we embrace:**

- We believe faith is maintained as we live with an appreciation of this palpable presence. Jesus said, “I will never leave you. I am always with you.”
- We also believe the maturing process that Christians experience is a result of the indwelling Holy Spirit. This work of spiritual growth is defined as “sanctification,” which is seen as the result of the abiding presence of God.
- Furthermore, we believe that our success as Christians is also a result of His abiding presence. Grace is seen not only as “God’s good will toward us, but also as His good work in and through us.” Grace teaches that He has shown us mercy to be what we could never become, but also power to do what we could never do in our own strength. This is due to “Christ in us - the Hope of Glory.”

How can I make this Core Value part of my life?

- By recognizing and responding to the manifested presence of God.
- By joining other Christians who gather to experience the presence of The Lord.

The result of believing this Core Value:

- As we gather in His Name, He promises to be with us.
- As we seek God’s presence, let’s be reminded that great grace, power, and faith are generated as we come into His Presence.
- The bottom line is that lives are only marginally changed by good works and self-strength. When God’s presence enters the picture, all things become possible!