

## *Welcome to our Fellowship*

Welcome to New Covenant. Thank you for attending our services. Our teaching and preaching is Bible based and designed to increase your faith and encourage a Christian lifestyle through the anointed Word of God. Our fellowship is independent and not a member of any religious denomination. We are Christians who believe in Jesus Christ as the only Savior for the world and faithfully follow his teachings. Our only creed is the Holy Bible.

## *Our Vision*

- Teach the only plan of salvation by faith through Jesus Christ. Acts 2:38, Acts 4:12
- Establish a Congregation that will love Jesus Christ, embrace and faithfully follow the teachings of the Apostles' Doctrine. Acts 2:42
- Maintain Christian purity in Faith and Practice of the Holy Scriptures Jude 1:3
- Provide a fellowship of believers desiring to show, by faith, a pattern of righteousness in our daily living. Titus 2:7
- Be witnesses of Jesus Christ and advance his Kingdom to all the earth, thereby fulfilling the great commission. Acts 1:8
- Look for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave Himself for us. Titus 2:12-13

## *Service Times*

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Sunday               | 11:00 AM |
| Thursday Bible Study | 7:00 PM  |

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# New Covenant Fellowship



An Apostolic Congregation

Stages of Spiritual Maturity  
God's Plan For Your Life

January 8, 2023

As born again believers, we are called to “grow up” in every way into him who is the head, into Christ”. *Ephesians 4:15* Sometimes we have growth spurts, but overall maturity tends to be slow and gradual. From day to day, we don’t notice a child growing. But every few months, we wonder, “How did you grow up so fast?” Even lamenting, “You’re not a baby anymore!” While there may not be an exact point at which a child passes from infancy into youth or adulthood, growth is typically measured in stages characterized by our qualities and habits. The same is true for spiritual growth. When you were saved, you were transformed from a natural kingdom. The words ‘spiritual growth’ indicates a transition of ‘becoming’ or ‘a coming to be’ of a Spiritual nature. While we are born as a baby into God’s Kingdom, we are expected to become spiritually mature adults. Healthy spiritual maturity is never an option, it is expected of us by God and occurs over a period of time. It is nurtured through the Holy Spirit in a Godly church family.

Believers need goals, or they tend to get stuck when they do not feel as though their life is headed somewhere. Especially when they only think about themselves as just “saved and sanctified and waiting for heaven”, they are most likely to not understand what it means to be a spiritual adult. They are more likely to rely completely on their pastor as teens rely on their mom to do all the cooking, the laundry, never realizing that God has something more for them.

**Stage 1 - Infancy / Childhood :** When born again, we are not mature, we are just ‘babes in Christ’. It is therefore, not expected for new-born babies to get up and walk and talk doctrine. During this time they are nurtured and provide the milk of the Word. A new convert must be taught how to communicate with God, read and study the bible, and begin their walk with God. Patience and understanding is the key as a new convert develops and exercises their ‘spiritual’ muscles. Mistakes don’t occur without effort.

**Stage 2 - Youth:** Even as children begin to walk, run, feed and even dress themselves as well as many other things, they still occasionally stumble. They are very energetic and are not aware of the dangers that exist in the spiritual world and must be guided in the right directions. Knowledge is gained thru this experience. They do not completely understand the nutritional value of ‘healthy’ vs. ‘junk’ spiritual food. They begin learning the power of the Holy Spirit and how to use prayer and fasting to take authority over the enemy of their souls. The development of gifts of the Spirit are starting to show. They also feel at times that because they now hear from God they do not need to submit themselves completely to the Spiritual authority in the church. This can be extremely dangerous because they are maturing yet not completely exercised in experience.

**Stage 3- Parenthood:** God’s intended and desired will is the perfecting

and full equipping of the Saints. Mature believers are fervent in prayer, fasting and exercising their spiritual gifts in and for the edification of the church. Their spiritual maturity demonstrates their full comprehension, accurate knowledge, and a complete oneness of the faith.

### Scripture Text

**Matthew 18:3** - And said, Verily I say unto you, Except you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

**Ephesians 4:13-16** - Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

**I John 2:13-15** - I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. I write unto you, fathers, because you have known him from the beginning. I write unto you, youth, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because you have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because you have known him from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.

**I Corinthians 3:1** – And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as babies in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for until now you were not able to bear it, neither yet now are you able.

**Hebrews 6:1** - Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.

### Key Verse

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. *Philippians 3:14-15*