

**JUNE 8, 2025 – UPDATE**  
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 15



<https://livinghopecommunity.ca/>

LIVING HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER



Hello Church Family,

It's a joy to connect again. As we continue walking through Jesus' teachings in Matthew, we're being shaped more and more into people who reflect His heart.

This week, we're exploring what it means to live differently—but not distantly. A life that isn't just good on the surface, but rooted in real purpose and love.

Let's lean in together.

## Upcoming June Birthdays

- Mark J. (17th)
- Amir R. (18th)



## Sermon: Living Differently—But Not Distantly

This week's message hits deep. We're not called to run from the world or judge it from afar—we're called to live in it, but not of it. As followers of Christ, we are meant to live differently—not with pride or separation, but with love, humility, and a bold presence in the world around us.

Jesus makes it clear in Matthew 6:1–18 that authentic righteousness matters more than religious appearance. He warns us not to do good works just to be seen. Whether we give (v.4), pray (v.6), or fast (v.18), God isn't impressed by the performance—He's looking at the posture of our hearts.

This isn't about putting on a show—it's about walking in integrity. The Pharisees looked righteous on the outside but lacked the inner life of true devotion. Jesus calls us to go deeper. To be the kind of people who do what's right even when no one is watching. To live with sincerity, generosity, and dependence on God—not just for attention, but from conviction.

Living differently doesn't mean creating distance. It means stepping into the world with purpose. It means engaging in real conversations, entering into people's pain, and showing the kind of love that reflects the heart of God. We are here to bring light into dark places, not avoid them. We are here to bring flavor—to be salt that preserves truth and points others toward hope.

This kind of life doesn't just stand out—it draws people in. When the world sees Christians who are both bold in truth and tender in grace, who live honestly and love sacrificially, that's when hearts begin to open. That's when transformation begins.

Let's live like that. Let's be the kind of people who walk differently—not to be distant, but to draw others closer to the God we follow. Let's be the light that doesn't hide, and the salt that doesn't lose its flavor.



## Personal Reflection Living Differently—but Not Distantly

Lately, I've been thinking about what it really means to live set apart as a follower of Christ. Jesus didn't call us to hide from the world or judge it from a distance. He stepped into the mess, the pain, the reality of people's lives—and He calls us to do the same. That's what makes the idea of "living differently—but not distantly" so challenging and so powerful.

It's easy to fall into one of two extremes: either we blend in so much that our faith becomes invisible, or we pull away so much that we become disconnected. But Christ offers a third way. A way of bold love. A way of truth that doesn't isolate, but invites.

What stood out to me from the sermon was the call to authentic righteousness. Not righteousness for show, like the Pharisees, but something deeper—doing the right thing for the right reason. Whether in generosity, prayer, or fasting, Jesus emphasized the heart behind the action. And that made me pause. How often do I do the "right thing" because it looks good, or because I want to be seen a certain way? That's not the kind of life Jesus modeled.

This reflection made me realize that real impact doesn't come from perfection—it comes from presence. From being willing to show up with love, honesty, and grace in the lives of others. It's not about standing above the world, it's about standing within it—different in spirit, but close in love.

So I'm asking myself: Am I truly engaging the people around me? Am I loving them deeply, even when it's uncomfortable? Am I reflecting God in my everyday life, not just through words, but through quiet integrity and consistent compassion?

To live differently isn't to escape. It's to live powerfully—present, humble, and faithful in a world that desperately needs hope.



## Sydel's Daily Devotion

### Experiencing True Freedom in Christ

**John 8:36 | Romans 8:2 | Galatians 5:1 | John 8:32 | Galatians 5:13 | Titus 2:11–12**

True freedom isn't found in doing whatever we want—it's found in living as we were created to. Christ doesn't just free us from guilt and shame—He frees us for something greater: to walk in truth, love, and purpose.

**John 8:36** reminds us, **“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”** That freedom isn't temporary or shallow—it's deep, soul-level freedom that no chain of this world can hold back. **Romans 8:2** says we've been set free from the law of sin and death by the Spirit of life. But this freedom isn't a license to serve ourselves. As **Galatians 5:13** says, it's a call to serve one another in love. **Titus 2** reminds us that grace not only saves—it trains us to live godly lives.

Let's live in that freedom boldly—free from sin, and free to reflect Christ in everything we do.

Let us pray:

Lord, thank You for setting me free—not just from sin, but for a life that honors You. Help me to remember that true freedom comes from living in Your truth, not chasing the world's ways. Teach me to use my freedom to serve others in love, to walk humbly in Your grace, and to reflect Your character in all I do. Strengthen me to say no to what pulls me away from You, and yes to the life You've called me to. I trust You, Lord. Lead me in the path of true freedom.

Amen.

**This Week's Giving To Date:**  
06/01-06/08

**Living Hope Ministries : \$200.00**  
**Deacons Funds: \$50.00**

**Thank you for your ongoing support!**

**Our Programs:**

**Weekly:**  
**Friday - Anchored Young Adults**

**Bi-weekly:**  
**Tuesday - Men's Meeting**  
**Wednesday - Women's Coffee Chat**