

LIVING HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER



How are you all doing? We hope you've been staying strong and walking in faith. It's always a blessing to come together again, reflect, and grow as one body. As summer approaches and life keeps moving, let's take a moment to celebrate what God is doing in and through our church.

Whether you've been here every week or are just coming back—welcome home. We're glad you're here.

## Upcoming June Birthdays

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



## Sermon: Vertical & Horizontal Forgiveness

This week, we reflected on 1 John 1:8-9, which reminds us of both the honesty we owe to God and the grace He freely gives:

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

The focus was on forgiveness—not just God’s forgiveness toward us (vertical), but also our responsibility to extend that forgiveness to others (horizontal).

Many of us walk around burdened, forgetting that we’re already forgiven. God’s grace isn’t something we have to earn—it’s already been given. Once we embrace that truth, we’re freed up to forgive others too, even when it’s hard.

Forgiveness doesn’t mean forgetting or excusing what someone did. It means releasing the bitterness and trusting God with the justice. It’s one of the hardest things to do, but it’s also one of the most powerful ways to live out the Gospel.

And maybe the hardest of all—forgiving ourselves. But if God, the perfect judge, has already forgiven us through Christ, who are we to hold on to guilt?

This week, take time to reflect:

- Have I accepted God’s forgiveness for myself?
- Who do I need to forgive, even if it’s hard?
- Am I willing to let go and trust God with the rest?



## Personal Reflection Forgiveness

Abigail's message on 1 John 1:8-9 had me thinking deeply about the way we deal with sin and forgiveness—especially within ourselves. Some people live like they've never done anything wrong, like they've got nothing to confess. Others know they've messed up, but never bring it to God. Then there are people who ask for forgiveness, even when they haven't done much wrong—because their heart stays humble. And sometimes, the hardest thing isn't being forgiven by God—it's forgiving others, or even ourselves. But God's forgiveness is always there, waiting. We just have to be real enough to confess and receive it. Forgiveness isn't a one-time deal—it's a way of life. A rhythm. And when we let it move through us—first from God, then to others—we start to see just how freeing it really is. We stop holding onto bitterness and start living in the light.

Before I came to faith It wasn't always easy for me to even believe in divine intervention or even divine forgiveness. But as I pondered upon the idea I felt the Spirit convict me—then it made this world that much more clear, my eyes began to be filled with clarity and my mind became still—instead of worrying so much about if I'm forgiven or how to forgive others? I found the answers in the life and work of Jesus Christ.

So here's the truth—I've still got a lot of growing to do. But this sermon reminded me that it's worth it. That God wants to use people like you and me to flavor this earth and light it up.



## Sydel's Daily Devotion Embracing God's Transformative Power

This week's verses remind us that the road of faith isn't always smooth—but it's worth it. Whether you're facing heartbreak, setbacks, or silence from God, these scriptures speak loud and clear: Don't give up.

- 📖 Romans 5:3-4 teaches that suffering isn't pointless. It builds perseverance, which builds character, and ultimately, hope.
- 📖 Matthew 24:13 reminds us that the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.
- 📖 Romans 8:18 tells us that the pain we feel now is nothing compared to the glory coming.
- 📖 Philippians 4:13 says we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength—not by our power, but His.
- 📖 Galatians 6:9 encourages us to not grow weary in doing good, because the harvest is coming.
- 📖 James 1:12 declares a blessing over those who endure trials with love for God—they'll receive the crown of life.

When life hits hard, these verses are a shield. Perseverance isn't just about pushing through—it's about trusting God in the middle of it. He sees you, He's with you, and He's not done.

Stay grounded. Stay faithful. You're not alone.

**This Week's Giving To Date:**  
05/23-05/29

**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