

LIVING HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful mothers of Living Hope. We think it's always a beautiful thing for us to take some time out to acknowledge the greatness you all bring to us every single day whether its making a fresh meal for us or being there for us all when we need company, advice or just blessing us with your presence. We want to thank you Mothers, woman of God for all that you do for us from the small things to the large. You're always appreciated in all our lives.

Upcoming May Birthdays

- Gaston P. (14th)
- Sherry D. (21st)
- Debra J. (23rd)





Sermon

Living in Christ's Power

John 15:1-8

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

There's a quiet strength in those words — abide in Me. It's not flashy. It's not loud. But it's powerful. Jesus didn't say, "Try harder." He said, "Stay close." Because power doesn't come from our own striving — it flows through connection.

Like branches grafted into a living vine, our strength, growth, and purpose come from staying rooted in Christ. He is the source. The lifeblood. The power. And when we draw from Him daily — through prayer, Word, worship — we begin to bear fruit that reflects His Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, and more. Fruit that can't be faked, only formed through abiding.

The song **"Power of Your Love"** that the worship team *powerfully* sung, echoes this surrender:

"Hold me close, let Your love surround me.

Bring me near, draw me to Your side..."

It's a plea — not for power to dominate, but for power that transforms. A power that lifts the broken, softens the hard-hearted, renews the weary. That's Christ's power. And it's available, not when we do more, but when we stay close.

This week, ask yourself:

Am I connected to the Vine, or running on empty?

What fruit is Christ producing in me today?

What distractions do I need to cut off so I can grow deeper in Him?

Remember: apart from Him, we can do nothing. But in Him? We bear fruit that lasts forever.

Let His power carry you. Let His love transform you. And let your life become a living branch of His glory.



Reflection

Living in Christ's Power

There are days where I wake up with this heavy pressure on my chest — the kind that whispers, “You’re behind,” or “You’re not doing enough.” It’s subtle, but it creeps in. And in those moments, I catch myself trying to prove something — trying to be someone. That’s when I remember Christ’s words: “Apart from Me, you can do nothing.” At first, that hit like a hard truth. But over time, I’ve come to see it as one of the most freeing things He ever said.

Because it’s not about pushing harder. It’s about drawing nearer. The strength I’m looking for doesn’t come from me — it flows through me when I’m connected to the Vine. I don’t need to manufacture greatness. I need to abide in the One who is great. That’s where the fruit is. Not in endless motion, but in rooted stillness. In Him.

Lately, I’ve realized that even though I want to build a legacy, walk in wisdom, and lead with strength, I can’t skip the simplicity of staying close to God. That’s the source of everything. Not hustle, not perfection — but presence. Being with Him. Listening. Letting Him prune what needs to go. Letting Him strengthen what needs to grow.

So this week, I’m shifting the focus. No more proving. No more performing. Just connecting. Just abiding. Because I don’t need to be everything — I just need to stay with the One who is. In that place, I find peace. In that place, the pressure fades. In that place, I don’t have to carry it all on my own.

If you’re reading this and feeling the same weight — I feel you. But hear this: you were never designed to run on empty. You were made to be filled daily by the power of His love. So breathe. Be still. Stay near the Vine. That’s where the real power is.



Sydel's Daily Devotion Embracing God's Transformative Power

This week, we step into the truth that walking with God isn't just about behavior change — it's about transformation at the core. When we come to Christ, we're not given a patch or an upgrade — we are made new. Entirely. Eternally. From the inside out.

2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that in Christ, the old has passed away. That means our shame, our past, and the labels we once carried no longer define us. God doesn't just cover our wounds — He heals them, rewrites our story, and calls us forward as new creations.

Ezekiel 36:26 reveals the depth of that change — a new heart and a new spirit. He doesn't leave us hardened or distant. He replaces the cold, heavy heart with one that can feel again, love again, hope again.

But here's the key — transformation is both an event and a journey. We're made new in a moment, but we also walk it out daily. Each step is a surrender. Each decision is a reflection of that new spirit alive in us. This week, reflect deeply:

- Where am I still holding onto the old when God is offering the new?
- Do I believe He's truly changed my heart, or am I still living like I'm not enough?
- What areas of my life need to catch up to the transformation He's already begun?

Let God's love reshape how you see yourself. Let His Spirit renew your desires, your direction, your destiny.

You are not who you were. You are who He says you are — and He calls you new.

This Week's Giving To Date:
05/02-05/08

Living Hope Ministries : \$1082.00
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