

Annual Revival 2016

NEW LIFE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

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Pressing into BETTER This Year

Our heavenly Father has blessed us and deposited another year in our lives. As good stewards of this deposit, we must spend it well. The Revival theme "Pressing Into Better" mandates a deliberate look forward. The **best** is not required to have a good year, but **an action plan** to consistently reach for **better** is. — Philippians 3:12-14; 1 Thessalonians 3:10

Pressing Into Strengthening Your Pastor

Each year, a good pastor presses to be a better pastor. This is important because the primary reason for people to join a church is to receive the ministry of a pastor. A pastor needs support, assistance, and help carrying every part of his load.

These are the things that he presses to be better in:

1. **Feeding** every member with knowledge and understanding;
2. **Encouraging** each member through prayer and encouragement to stay connected;
3. **Maintaining** the type of spiritual environment that promotes regeneration, growth, experiencing the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and a safe place to walk through real life issues;
4. **Perfecting** every member's faith for a new **Year of Pressing Into Better**.

1 Thessalonians 3:10

A Better Walk with God

The following list should be considered as valid points of assessment before we spend each part of this deposit of another year.

In this new year, what should I start?

1. What is **worth** doing
2. What I have the **faith** to stick with
3. What would add the greatest **value** to my life
4. What would bring great **glory** to God
5. What would reflect the life of one who **obeys** God

Pressing into Better FAMILY Living

The African American community has seen great erosion in the biblical model of a family. This erosion is now touching families of almost every ethnic group in the USA. The erosion is so great that this generation wants us to change the definition of family, marriage, husband, wife, children, and grandparents in order to fit what we look like today.

The family is the part of our existence that affects this life and the life to come (Ephesians 3:14-19). The family is our building material for good success in the earth today. We do not have to compromise with less as we have done with weaker lumber and less lumber (e.g. wood sold as 2"x4" is actually a 1.5"x3.5"). The body of Christ must push for and demand and build to reach better this year. Let's press into defending and modeling great family life. Let's press into better to strengthen and maintain the roof of love, honor, and commitment.

PERSONAL Growth

It is God's good pleasure to give to us all things that pertain to life and godliness. He takes great pleasure when we model the life of Christ who grew and increased in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man. Pressing into "**a better me**" includes:

1. **Strengthening** good character traits;
2. **Correcting** or **eliminating** bad habits;
3. **Setting** a course for **accomplishing** specific goals this year.

Pressing into Better Financial Success

Pressing into better financially has two (2) **requirements**: **giving** to God and faithful **management**. The first requirement is giving to God in **tithes** and **offerings**. The tithe is a dime out of every dollar. An offering is whatever we are led to give over and above the tithe. It is the wonderful privilege of every believer in order to build a **kingdom-building investment portfolio** which provides divine protection for all that we have. Make this year your year for **proving God** who will open the windows of heaven, rebuke the devourer, and activate Luke 6:38 as a force working in our lives and in our affairs.

The second requirement for better is good financial **management**. In Proverbs 21:20, the Bible says that "There is **treasure** (*savings*) to be desired and **oil** (*needed things*) in the **dwelling** (*house*) of the **wise**; but a **foolish** man spendeth it up." To press into better, we must save (build a reserve); we must always keep an eye on what we see around us in order to not waste money on things we don't need; and we must stop running out and going for broke (when money is low **STOP SPENDING**).

Pressing into Being a Better Member

A short while ago, **New Life** celebrated God's advancement of the church in being release from debt. The Mortgage Burning was reach. The Lord has provided this church a good location in this market. There are hundreds of people who see this facility every day on their way to work. Consistent visibility is required to Press Into Better.

This church is blessed with the type of leadership which has aggressively positioned **New Life** to **succeed** and **grow**. Do not take lightly God's blessing of stewards who will continue to manage well to improve the portfolio of the church even more for whatever doors the Lord opens. Though your pastor is not always in your face, he is not spiritually asleep. Pray that this entire body will have its ears opened to the leading of the Lord. ***This is the Year for Pressing into Better.***

Buildings and property does not make a great church. Neither of these actually make a church better. The church is the **body of people** who have committed themselves as **stewards**. ***This stewardship includes giving to God our resources, time, and ability.*** It takes **you** to make ***New Life Church of God in Christ*** better.

Soberly, prayerfully, and faithfully consider what the Lord would have you to do in order to be a better member. Get it done! Let's all make every effort with the strength and resources that we have to end this year as a better member of ***New Life Church of God in Christ.***

3 Steps this Year for Getting Things Done

These three steps should help us to get it done:

1. **Write it down** so that you can remember (create a list of goals for this year).
2. **Remember** so that you can get it done (remind yourself daily).
3. **Get the goals done** so that you can fulfill God's will for your life and for your potential.

To Be a Better Member, we must answer these important questions:

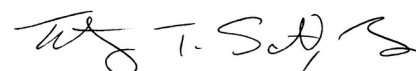
For now and throughout this year, ask yourself and begin to answer these questions:

1. Do I **value** my church home?
2. What God given **resources** do I have which can be used in my church to make me a better member?
3. What portion of **time** can I commit to the work of the Lord to make me a better member?
4. What **talents and abilities** do I have that my church could use and make me a better member?

We are praying for you.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you. We are praying for you and your family that our God will strengthen us to ***PRESS INTO BETTER this year.*** If you need help in any way, please feel free to contact your pastor. He is here for you.

In His service for Better, I am,



Timothy T. Scott, Jr.