

FOUNDATION SEVEN

THE MISSION

WORSHIP, EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

NEW NATURE CHURCH

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THE MISSION: W.E.D

In nature there is a type of wildfire called a firestorm. In a firestorm the heat becomes so intense that the fire begins to create its own weather. This is a prophetic picture of what it can be like when the Holy Spirit is burning in each one of our lives, and as the body of Christ we are pursuing Him together and living by faith. Just like a fire grows and grows until nothing can stand in the way, the love and power of God, stewarded by us, will transform the world around us and darkness will not stand a chance. We will set the 'Spiritual weather' to an atmosphere so charged with the love, power and presence of God that countless numbers will come into the Kingdom of God and are forever changed.

Imagine what continual revival looks like, to live fully from our identity in our Father. An army of sold out lovers of God releasing the Kingdom everywhere we go. We need to continually take the lid off our expectations and thinking, and expand our expectations.

How do we get there? How can we personally and together become this body of believers who know God and partner with Him to bring heaven to earth? There are obviously many answers to this question, however at New Nature Church we believe that there are three simple things which every believer is called to do with their lives: Worship, Evangelise and make Disciples (WED). These are three simple principles which we see both in the life of Jesus and his disciples.

Worship
Evangelise
Disciple

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WORSHIP

A pharisee asked Jesus which is the greatest commandment. His reply was simple

‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these.’
Mark 12:29-31

Loving God is right at the centre of worship, it is the greatest commandment. As we understand and encounter God’s love our response and the overflow of our hearts is to love Him in return.

The purpose of the Temple in the Old Testament, the old covenant with God, was to be a place of worship to God. In the New Testament WE are now the temple.

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies.”
1 Corinthians 6:19-20

So we live lives of worship to God, everything we do should bring worship and glory to God: the way we interact with our family, our speech to each other, our faith, deliberate songs and prayer in worship to God - everything! Our eyes, ears and mouth are all entry points for our bodies. What we watch (see), listen to (hear) and speak should all be worshipping God.

Read Romans 12:1

Worship is a response to God’s love for us as he continually pours out his power and love into our lives. We are made to experience his love and power.

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

Ephesians 3:16-19

It is from being continually filled with him that we are able to live lives which worship God.

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EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’ ”

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus spends three years with the 12 main disciples, and we also know that there were more following him because he sent out the seventy in Luke 10:1. What does he say to them? “Go and make disciples!” In other words: I’ve shown you, now you go and show others with the power and leading of the Holy Spirit. So Evangelism and Discipleship is for every believer. To go and find others who do not yet know Christ, preach the gospel of repentance, salvation and the Kingdom of God to them in whatever form that might take, Baptise them in water and the Holy Spirit and then disciple them. To show them how to know God; how to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and obey his leading; how to walk a life completely dependent on God, walking each day in relationship with him; to release the Kingdom of God everywhere they are, releasing signs, wonders and miracles; and how to make other disciples and to do the same with them! It is so simple.

We are all designed to know Jesus, to share Jesus and to teach others to know Jesus.

Jesus gave three main commandments for the disciples to change the world.

1. Love. First of all love God with everything you have and in doing this you will experience His love.

2. Then, with the love and truth of God in your hearts, love others.

3. Preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Read Matthew 6:10, Matthew 10:7-8 and Luke 10:9

These verses reveal God’s heart and intent that preaching the Kingdom is both the truth of Jesus and demonstrating the power of God (by inference the Gospel is not fully preached without the power of signs and wonders).

“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power.”

1 Corinthians 2:4

Read Romans 15:18-19

What a privilege, that God has called and equipped us to preach the Kingdom with His power, signs, wonders and miracles.

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MAKE DISCIPLES

In Matt 28:18 Jesus commands his disciples to go and make disciples.

In Acts 14:21 the disciples preached the gospel and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch.

But how did the disciples know what to do? Jesus had spent three years discipling them and sharing life together, then he left! Firstly, he came to live in each of them through the Holy Spirit, the same Holy Spirit who lives in each of us and teaches us. Jesus had shown and guided them in knowing God and living in the Kingdom as they shared life with him, but now they had better than Jesus in the flesh, they had the Holy Spirit living in each of them.

Acts 2:43-47 describes this,

“Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

This is how we are called to live with Christ and each other. Following God together as we grow in intimate relationship with Him and each other. Knowing each other and preferring one another. As we do this, evangelising people as we go, inviting them into our family of God and continuing the journey of love in God with them too.

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It is vital to live out all three of these elements in our lives otherwise something is always missing.

Look at the following combinations

Worship = Intimacy

Evangelism = Birth

Discipleship = Parenting

If you have Worship + Evangelism you get intimacy and impregnation/birthing but without parenting (discipleship) we end up with spiritual orphans.

If you have Worship + Discipleship without Evangelism you get intimacy and parenting without new children. This results in a shrinking, inward focused, self focused culture where no new births take place.

If you have Evangelism + Discipleship you get impregnation/birthing and parenting without intimacy, otherwise known as being driven by religion and lawfulness rather than relationship.

But when all three are combined in our lives individually and collectively:

Worship + Evangelism + Discipleship =
Passionate lovers of God, birthing and parenting passionate lovers of God who birth and parent passionate lovers of God.....and so on

This is very possible for every believer. If we all made one disciple per year and each disciple we made made another disciple each year following then the world would be saved in 33 years. We can all do that!

REFLECTION

How do you rate yourself in each area of WED?

What are your strengths?

What are the strengths you see in others in your group?

What would you like to improve in each of WED?

How might you do this?

How can you individually and as a group get going making disciples?

Worship Evangelism and Discipleship. This is our ‘core business’, it is why we are still on the planet. It is who we are created to be! To know Him and to make Him known.