

I'm Here!
January 7th, 2018

Virtually every decision you make at work and home is informed by certain ASSUMPTIONS

Often the things you assume are true are not, and so you make decisions based on FALSE assumptions

There is a spiritual assumption most people make that impacts us spiritually: God takes ATTENDANCE

We can think, from God's perspective, the most important thing is were you IN CHURCH?

Many go to church out of GUILT

Attendance is not the MAIN thing

When attendance becomes the main thing, it DISTRACTS from what is really the main thing

The real issue is not where you ATTEND on Sunday, but how you BEHAVE on Monday

It's the DOING and LIVING out of our faith that makes the biggest difference in us and in the world around us

Sunday is about inspiration and information, but Monday through Saturday is all about APPLICATION

If you don't do what the Scripture says, it doesn't make any PRACTICAL difference in your life

Matthew 7:24 (NIV) "[Jesus said] Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

The value of attendance isn't in what happens WHEN you attend; it's what happens with what you do AFTER you attend

James 1:22-24 (NIV) "22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like."

You don't get any CREDIT for looking in the mirror

You get credit when you look in the mirror, and you DO SOMETHING about it

Often in church there is a sense you FEEL something, and because you feel something, it seems like a religious EXPERIENCE, and we ASSUME there's value in that

James 1:25 (NIV) "But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do."

What drives our behavior more than anything else is not compelling motivational speaking – it's your community of friends & relationships that you spend the MOST TIME WITH

At New Hope we continually emphasize getting people into circles – SMALL GROUPS

We believe we need a bridge between CONCEPTS and the REAL world – that's small groups

We were created to be RELATIONAL beings

Genesis 2:18 (NIV) "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone.'"

We live life AROUND many people, but we experience life deeply with NONE

We believe we do BETTER with accountability

Coming to church each week will hopefully do you some good, but it's **NOT ENOUGH**
If you've had a bad experience in a small group, you don't **GIVE UP** – you try **ANOTHER** group
Your spiritual **HEALTH** hangs in the balance
Imagine how different your life might be if your **PARENTS** had been in a small group
This is your **OPPORTUNITY** for you and your family – please, don't miss it

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will be in a small group this session. If you know the group you'll be in, please write down the name of your leader: _____
- I will attend the Small Group Connection Event next Sunday, January 14th at 6 pm

Next week: Join us as we begin our new series "Nehemiah: Building Beyond Ourselves." Invite a friend!

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There is a spiritual assumption most people make that impacts us spiritually: God takes _____

We can think, from God's perspective, the most important thing is were you _____?

Many go to church out of _____

Attendance is not the _____ thing

When attendance becomes the main thing, it _____ from what is really the main thing

The real issue is not where you _____ on Sunday, but how you _____ on Monday

It's the _____ and _____ out of our faith that makes the biggest difference in us and in the world around us

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If you don't do what the Scripture says, it doesn't make any _____ difference in your life

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The value of attendance isn't in what happens _____ you attend; it's what happens with what you do _____ you attend

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At New Hope we continually emphasize getting people into circles – _____

We believe we need a bridge between _____ and the _____ world – that's small groups

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_____ group

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Imagine how different your life might be if your _____ had been in a small group

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