

Our vision and purpose here at Next Level Church is to lead people to become fully engaged followers of Jesus and how we do that matters!

1 Peter 3:8 NIV

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

1 Corinthians 1:10 NIV

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

As you lead here at Next Level Church, we want to be united in mind and thought; we want to be united in what we believe and how we are leading others in that.

1 Peter 3:15 AMP

But in your hearts set Christ apart [as holy—acknowledging Him, giving Him first place in your lives] as Lord. Always be ready to give a [logical] defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope and confident assurance [elicited by faith] that is within you, yet [do it] with gentleness and respect.

We want you to be able to give a logical defense to anyone who asks you to account for your faith. We want you to be able to point out Scripturally why you believe what you believe.

Spend time reading each of the Scriptures for yourself and ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate the truth of His Word in your own heart.

We Believe In...

1.GOD

Matthew 28:19 NIV

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

We believe...

- There is one eternal God who is the Creator of all things.
- God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving.
- This world and all humanity began with God and it is all held together by God.
- God is eternally existent in three persons: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God, also known as The Trinity.

This belief about God should give us hope and confidence in any circumstance, knowing that God is our loving Father, He sent His one and only Son, and He gave us His Holy Spirit to guide us in our everyday lives.

Reference Verses:

Genesis 1:1 NIV

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:26-27 NIV

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."

Genesis 3:22 NIV

And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."

Psalms 90:2 NIV

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

1 Peter 1:2 NIV

...who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with His blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV

May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2. JESUS

John 1:1 NIV

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

We believe...

- Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity.
- Jesus was born of a virgin – God as His Father and Mary as His earthly mother.
- While Jesus was on earth, He was 100 percent God and 100 percent man.
- Jesus is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life.
- Jesus died on the cross for humankind and thus atoned for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day and ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory.

This belief about Jesus will allow us to continue to point to the Name above all Names and in that, we can proclaim that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives inside of us!

Reference Verses:

Isaiah 9:6 NIV

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

John 1:14 NIV

The word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 20:28-29 NIV

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Philippians 2:5-6 NIV

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in the very nature God did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage;

1 Timothy 2:5 NIV

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,

1 Timothy 3:16 NIV

Beyond all question, the mystery from which godliness springs is great: He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

3. THE BIBLE

2 Timothy 3:16 NIV

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...

We believe...

- The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God.
- The Bible alone is the final authority for determining all doctrinal truths.
- In its original writing, the Bible is inspired, infallible, and inerrant and therefore fully reliable and relevant to our lives today.

With this belief about the Bible, we can be assured that His Word is the source of absolute truth in a constantly changing culture and is to be seen as the authoritative directive of our life.

Reference Verses:

Proverbs 30:5 NIV

Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

Romans 16:25-26 NIV

Now to Him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God so that all Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith...

2 Peter 1:20-21 NIV

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

4. SALVATION

Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

We believe...

- Each of us can come to a saving knowledge of Jesus, but we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.
- In order to receive forgiveness and “new birth,” we must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and submit to His will for our lives.
- Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human effort.

With this belief about salvation, we do not have to live and work from a place of performance or striving, but we get to live from a place of acceptance and receive His grace and salvation for us.

Reference Verses:

Romans 10:9-10 NIV

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Acts 16:31 NIV

They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.”

Galatians 2:16 NIV

...know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

Galatians 3:18 NIV

For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in His grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

Titus 3:5 NIV

...He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Hebrews 9:22 NIV

In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

5. REPENTANCE

Acts 3:19 NIV

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord

We believe...

- Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ.
- In order to receive forgiveness, we must repent from our sins, which allows us to receive His redemption and to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

With this belief about repentance, it allows our life to be in a constant state of brokenness and surrender before God, where daily we recognize that we are nothing without the forgiveness that comes through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Reference Verses:

Acts 2:21 NIV

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

1 John 1:9 NIV

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

6. THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 1:5 NIV

For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

We believe...

- The Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost and is the promise of the Father, sent by Jesus after His ascension.
- The Baptism in the Holy Spirit gives us the “Dunamis” (power) of God to live how He wants us to live and to be witnesses of Jesus Christ to the whole earth.
- The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to empower the Church to preach, teach, and spread the Gospel throughout the whole earth.

With this belief about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, we know that we have power to be and do what God is calling us to be and do. It is not by us, but by the work of the Holy Spirit through us.

Reference Verses:

Joel 2:28-29 NIV

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit on those days.

Matthew 3:11 NIV

I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Mark 16:17 NIV

“And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues...”

Acts 2:1-4 NIV

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:17 NIV

In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people, your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

Acts 2:38-39 NIV

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 8:14-17 NIV

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:38 NIV

...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him.

Acts 10:44-47 NIV

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

Acts 11:15-17 NIV

As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as He had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So if God gave them the same gift He gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?

Acts 19:1-6 NIV

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

7. THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1 Peter 4:10 NIV

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

We believe...

- The Holy Spirit is manifested in our lives through various spiritual gifts, or tools, that are meant to build and sanctify the Church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection, and confirm the power of the Gospel.
- The Bible's list of these gifts is not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations.
- All believers have a combination of the gifts working in their lives on a daily basis and that, on certain occasions, believers who are baptized in the Holy Spirit have access to all the gifts or tools as needs arise in their world around them.
- These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters.

With this belief about spiritual gifts, we can have the confidence that we have all that we need to be used by God to minister His grace, love and healing to people around us.

Reference Verses:

Hebrews 2:4 NIV

God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.

Romans 1:11 NIV

I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong...

Romans 12:4-8 NIV

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith: if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Ephesians 4:16 NIV

From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

1 Timothy 4:14 NIV

Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

2 Timothy 1:6-7 NIV

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

1 Corinthians 12:1-31 NIV

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongue^s? Do all interpret? Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

1 Corinthians 14:1-40 NIV

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. For anyone who speaks in a tongue^a does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would

rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified. Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the pipe or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and the speaker is a foreigner to me. So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church. For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer, say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue. Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. In the Law it is written: "With other tongues and through the lips of foreigners I will speak to this people, but even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord." Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is not for unbelievers but for believers. So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!" What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God. Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord's people. Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. Or did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command. But if anyone ignores this, they will themselves be ignored. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

8. ETERNITY

Hebrews 11:16 NIV

Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

We believe...

- People were created to exist forever.
- We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation.
- Heaven is the eternal dwelling place for all believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- After living one life on earth, the unbelievers will be judged by God and sent to Hell where they will be eternally tormented with the devil and the fallen angels.

With this belief about eternity in mind, it makes inviting others into a saving knowledge of Jesus even more real and important. We can begin to shape our mindset with the Kingdom and eternity in mind in all we do even more.

Reference Verses:

Matthew 5:3 NIV

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:12 NIV

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:20 NIV

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 6:20 NIV

But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 19:21 NIV

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Matthew 25:34 NIV

Then the King will say to those on His right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world..."

Matthew 25:41 NIV

Then He will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels..."

John 17:24 NIV

“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”

2 Corinthians 5:1 NIV

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

1 Peter 1:4 NIV

...and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you...

Mark 9:43-48 NIV

If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where “the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.”

Hebrews 9:27 NIV

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...

Revelation 14:9-11 NIV

A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of His wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.”

Revelation 20:12-15 NIV

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8 NIV

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

9. RESURRECTION

Acts 24:15 NIV

... and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

We believe...

- Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death on the Cross. As a result, both the saved and the lost will be resurrected.
- Those who are saved, are saved to the resurrection of life; and those who are lost, are lost to the resurrection of eternal separation from God.

With this belief, we recognize that our God is alive and our hope of heaven fuels us to want everyone to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, so we can spend eternity together with the Lord.

Reference Verses:

Luke 24:15 NIV

As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus Himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing Him.

Luke 24:36 NIV

While they were still talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Luke 24:39 NIV

"Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

John 2:19-21 NIV

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple He had spoken of was His body.

John 20:26-28 NIV

A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

John 21:14 NIV

This was now the third time Jesus appeared to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:42 NIV

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable...

1 Corinthians 15:44 NIV

It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

Philippians 1:21-23 NIV

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far...

Philippians 3:21 NIV

...who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.

10. CHURCH

Ephesians 2:19-22 NIV

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.

We believe...

- The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission.
- Every person who is born of the Spirit is an integral part of the church as a member of the body of believers.
- There is a spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

With this belief about the Church and its divine appointment, it can give us hope and confidence that our lives will have eternal impact on others for the Kingdom.

Reference Verses:

Ephesians 1:22 NIV

And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church...

Hebrews 12:23 NIV

...to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect...

John 17:11 NIV

"I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one."

John 17:20-23 NIV

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."