



NEW COVENANT CHURCH

Growing Faith & Abounding Love

*We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting,
because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one
of you all abounds toward each other,*

2 Thessalonians 1:3

PASTOR BRYAN HUDSON, D.Min.

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What Does Growing Faith Look Like?

Your faith is two things:

- 1. What you believe based on God's word
- 2. Acting on God's word and promises

Jude 3-4

*Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you **exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith** which was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who **turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.***

Contend earnestly for the faith

A firm foundation in life requires understanding of the core principles of being a Christ follower.

∴ Cults and false Christian movements capitalize on the ignorance of church people.

When you know the truth, no one can lie to you.

THE NICENE CREED

This is a statement of the faith developed by the early Christian church in opposition to false teachings which disturbed the church during the fourth century, concerned the doctrine of the trinity and the assertion that Christ is not divine. Was Jesus a created being or pre-existent with God.

Councils of leaders met to discuss, debate, draft, and adopt a concise statement of faith. Councils occurred in A.D. 325, 381, 451, and 589

https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/First_Council_of_Nicaea

<https://urbanfaith.com/the-faith-of-our-fathers-reclaiming-the-north-african-church-fathers/>

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance
with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was
incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,

and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

⋮ And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

I believe one holy catholic [universal] and apostolic Church. I
acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look
for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to
come. Amen.

Growing Faith Requires Freedom from Hindrances

Galatians 5:1

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and **do not be entangled again** with a yoke of bondage.*

Do Not Become Entangled

Entanglement often starts with slack and looseness, not paying attention to the health of our heart, mind, and body.

We allow too many non-essential things to come into our lives, creating entanglement and bondage.

Faith Works by Love

Galatians 5:6

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, **but faith working through love.***

Faith Works by Love

Two of the most important factors to an authentic and fruitful life in Christ are **FAITH** and **LOVE**.

⋮ We cannot only “SAY” we have faith and love. It is only as real as we “PRACTICE IT.” ⋮

One of my mentors used to say:
“It’s not a ceremony, it is a **do-emony**.”

James 1:22

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the **perfect law of liberty** and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*

James 2:8

*If you really fulfill **the royal law** according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well;*

**You will never go any deeper in divine
faith than you go in divine love.**