



Tim Talk January 2010 Not Every Man Really Lives

As I begin to write this, the last *Tim Talk* of 2009, I am affected by so many different emotions. This past year has been a year of blessing and growth for so many of us, while at the same time our Family has been touched by tragedy and loss as well. I am proud of so much that I have seen this past year. I have seen lives literally changed by the power of God's love—people who will one day be in heaven with us because someone loved them enough to tell them that they were valuable to the Kingdom! I have watched as people have walked alongside their brothers and sisters who are enduring the shock and pain of losing a loved one, and they continue to walk with them through the grieving process. We have released more leaders into their callings, and have seen amazing growth in the precious lives of our children and young people. Through all that we have endured together, God is on the throne and God is good!

I want to appeal to each and every one of us to ask God to give us vision for our lives. I saw a quote written on a board at the gym the other day that said this: "*Vision without action is simply day-dreaming.*" So true! We need to focus our heart's attention upon Jesus Christ, asking Him to give us vision for this next season of our life. Once He shows us His vision for our life, we must ask for the wisdom and courage to begin to carry it out—to put ACTION to His purpose and plan for our lives. Don't worry about figuring it all out...just start with the first step. Muster up your faith, take that first step, and watch God move!

Maybe as you are reading this you feel lonely, isolated, and a bit left out of all God is doing in and through *New Hope*. Maybe you have been part of this Family for awhile now, but you just don't feel connected yet. On the other hand, maybe you do feel connected, but you just don't sense God's vision or call for your life. My appeal to any of you who may be feeling anything like what I've just written is this: please do not suffer through these feelings alone. Get together with someone, tell them what you're feeling, and let them come alongside you on your journey. You may be surprised to find out that you are not the only one feeling the way you are.

As we get ready to walk through the door of a brand New Year, I am asking all of us to take some time to prayerfully consider what God is asking us to get involved in during 2010. Are you struggling with not feeling connected? Then get involved in one of the many *LIFE Groups* (small groups) that are being offered, starting this January. Are you struggling with having vision for your life, or if you have vision, are you struggling with staying focused on the God of vision? Then join us for the 21-day fast beginning January 3rd. Here are some details about both:

LIFE Groups – These are weekly small groups that meet for 3 months at a time. *LIFE* stands for Love, Involvement, Friendship, and Encouragement. *New Hope* is not a mega-church, but the reality is that it's too big for any of us to know everyone else extremely well. Because of this, people can sometimes "fall through the cracks" in church life, unless we are all connected to a more intimate group than our Sunday Gatherings. If you attend *New Hope* and are not currently involved in a small group, please *get a LIFE!* ☺ Our goal is 100% involvement for all who call *New Hope* "home." *LIFE Group* menus are available in the lobby or on our website.

21-day fast – God is calling us to a congregational 21-day fast to help us focus on Him, and to give us one heart and one mind. This fast begins on January 3rd and ends on January 24th with our "Break-fast Gathering" (see below). At the minimum, we are asking people to partake in the Daniel fast for the entire 21 days, but each of us needs to ask God what He desires from us. Maybe He will call you to go without any food for 3 days, or even 7 or more, or maybe He will ask you to fast one particular meal or day each week. There are flyers in the lobby, or you can go to www.danielfast.wordpress.com for more information regarding the Daniel fast (Please be advised that if you have any medical issues, you need to see your doctor to find out what type of fast you should partake in. If your doctor determines that you cannot go without food or partake in the Daniel fast, ask God to show you what else you can abstain from for the 21 days...).

Break-fast Gathering – Sunday, January 24th at 10 am. *We will only have one Gathering that Sunday!* We will worship together, and we will share, hear, and celebrate testimonies of what God has done during our 21 days of fasting and praying. Then, we will partake of a meal together to officially celebrate the end of our fast.

Near the end of the movie *Braveheart*, William Wallace is in his cell the night before he is to be executed for treason. As he is faced with his beloved's brokenness over what is about to occur to him, he replies, "*Every man dies, not every man really lives.*" Jesus is holding open the door to life, and life abundant. Will we choose to enter in and let Him make our lives extraordinary? As for me and my house, we choose to *really live*.

