



## Experiencing Life at Its Best!

Pastor Doug Heisel – May 21, 2017

Ephesians 3:16-21 — I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.

And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. **Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.**

Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. **Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever!** Amen.

Ephesians 4:13 — God's goal is for us to become mature adults—to be **fully grown**, measured by the standard of the **fullness of Christ**.

Life at its best is when I am  
**BECOMING, DOING, and ENJOYING**  
everything Jesus destined me for,  
partnered with a vibrant **LOCAL CHURCH**,  
committed to doing the same.

Church at its best is when ...

1. ... people, who are far from God, find our gatherings curiously **INVITING** and **LIFE GIVING**.
2. ... new attendees are encouraged to be on the **RECEIVING** end of the good things of God, and are invited into **COMMUNITY**, to become more like Jesus.

3. ... joy-filled **SERVERS** model a spirit of **GET TO**, and create a contagious environment that inspires a constant flow of attendees to step out of the **BLEACHERS** and onto the **PLAYING** field.
4. ... faithful people are regularly invited to go **ALL IN**, so that they become **KINGDOM BUILDERS** — locally, regionally and globally.

**We are made for this!**

So ... let's stretch our faith to **RECEIVE** more,  
so we can **REACH** more.

#### **OUR MISSION:**

We exist to continually invite more people to be filled with New Life in Jesus Christ.

**Extravagant Grace** — We celebrate and share life that is saturated by the extravagant grace of Jesus. We fixate on His perfection not our performance. Our entire ministry overflows from this reality.

**Bold Faith** — When it's too big for us, it's just right for God. We do not believe the lie that "God will never give us more than we can handle." God will often give us more than we can handle so that we are forced to depend on His power and sovereignty. We will not insult a BIG GOD with small thinking or safe living. So we pray big prayers and keep stepping into the greater things God has for us.

**Ridiculous Generosity** — We will lead the way in generosity, out of recognition of how ridiculously generous Jesus is to us. We all start as spiritual consumers but soon we can't help but become spiritual contributors. We learn that we will never out give God, as His blessing will always surpass our giving. Our staff and congregation joyfully put God first, and we feel honored to watch Him advance His work through us: locally, regionally and globally. We believe that bringing our tithes and offerings is an act of worship and we do this with great joy.

## Upcoming Teaching Schedule

Don't miss our June, to early July, series called PURSUIT — based on the life of the Old Testament character, David! It will be led and taught by various members of our staff and teaching team. Both Alamo and Dublin will have a different communicator, live on their respective campuses, each Sunday of this series. During this time, Pastors Doug & Crystal will be away on an annual Study Session and vacation — gearing up for NLC's ministry year of 2017-18! Exciting days are ahead at NLC.



### Life Group Discussion & Questions

**BREAKING THE ICE:** Share one or two blessings that you are thankful for. Why are those significant to you?

**DIGGING IN:** The Apostle Paul has spent the past number of years starting churches. Now he is writing a letter back to one of them. In this letter he prays one of the most significant prayers in the Bible.

1. Read Ephesians 3:16-21, along with Ephesians 4:11-13. Highlight something that stands out to you, and share why it is meaningful to you.
2. Paul didn't write this letter to an individual christian, he wrote it to a Church (a group of christians). Looking at this prayer through the lens of "WE" ("WE," as a Church), does it change anything about how you see this prayer; if so, what?
3. Review the points, from these notes, regarding "Church at its best." Discuss how you (or your group) can continue to help reinforce those values, at NLC.

**BRINGING IT HOME:** Spend some time this week, in your group, praying over NLC and the future things God has for us — to BECOME, DO, and ENJOY.