

# NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

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APRIL 2026 BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

## BEYOND THE CROSS

TUESDAY: 12 P.M. AND WEDNESDAY: 6:00 - 7:00 P.M.

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NEWHOPEBAPTISTCHURCHHAMPTON/](https://www.facebook.com/newhopebaptistchurchhampton/)  
WEBSITE [HTTPS://NEWHOPEBAPTISTHAMPTON.ORG](https://newhopebaptisthampton.org)

*Grace and blessings to you!*

As we reflect on the power and meaning of 'Living Beyond The Cross' we are reminded that it is not the end of the story—it is the beginning of a new life. Through Christ's sacrifice, we are not only redeemed, but invited to live in abundance—full of purpose, joy, and victory. Jesus declared that He came so that we "may have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). This is the life I pray each of you embraces daily.

Living beyond the cross means walking in freedom, extending grace, and boldly stepping into the calling God has placed on your life. It means growing deeper in His Word and stronger in community. I want to personally encourage you to remain committed to your spiritual growth by attending Bible study. It is in these moments of learning, discussion, and reflection that our faith is strengthened and our understanding deepened.

I also invite you to join us regularly for worship services, where we gather in unity to praise God, hear His Word, and be renewed in His presence. There is something powerful about coming together as a body of believers to celebrate the goodness of God.

Beyond attending, I want to encourage you to get connected in ministry. The life of the church is strengthened when each of us finds a place to serve, grow, and belong. If you are already connected—praise God! Keep pressing forward and deepening your impact by encouraging other church members to get connected and be involved! ***Upcoming we have Bowling, Men's Fellowship - April 11<sup>th</sup> -9 am, Women's Fellowship - April 24<sup>th</sup> The Spring Bazaar - April 25<sup>th</sup>*** If you are not yet connected, or participating in ministry activities or serving - this is your invitation. There is a place for you here, and your gifts are needed.

We are reminded of a powerful truth often echoed in our communities: we are stronger when we stand together. When we unite in faith, service, and love, we reflect the very heart of the Body of Christ.

As we grow, we are also called to go. Jesus gave us a clear mission—in the **Great Commission Matthew 28: 18-20:**

- Go and make disciples of all nations
- Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- Teach them to observe all that He has commanded
- Remember that He is always with us

This is not just a command, but a calling for each of us. I encourage you to daily share your faith, to be a light in your community, and to invite others into the life-changing love of Christ.

Let us live boldly, love deeply, stay connected, and walk fully in the abundance that has been made available to us. I look forward to seeing you at Bible study, in worship, and in ministry.

*With Love and Prayer - Dr. Christopher C. Carter, Sr., Pastor*

# NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

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## APRIL 2026 BIBLE STUDY SERIES - BEYOND THE CROSS

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### Lesson 1: The Cross Was the Beginning, Not the End

**Key Scriptures:** John 19:30; Luke 24:5–6; Hebrews 12:2

#### Introduction

The cross is central to our faith, but it is not the conclusion of the story. Many believers stop at Calvary, focusing only on forgiveness, without stepping into the fullness of what Jesus secured. The cross was the doorway—not the destination.

#### 1. “It Is Finished” Means the Debt Was Paid

- Jesus completed the work of redemption—sin’s penalty was fully satisfied.
- Nothing can be added to what Christ has already done.
- Salvation is not earned—it is received.

#### 2. The Resurrection Validates the Cross

- Without the resurrection, the cross would appear as defeat.
- The empty tomb declares Jesus’ victory over sin, death, and the grave.
- We serve a risen Savior, not a fallen martyr.

#### 3. Beyond the Cross Is a Living Relationship

- The cross restores us to God, but the resurrection invites us to walk with Him daily.
- Christianity is not just about what Jesus did—it’s about knowing who He is now.

#### Illustration

A prisoner released from jail who chooses to stay inside the cell is free legally, but not living free practically.

Many believers have been set free by the cross but still live bound because they have not stepped beyond it.

#### Life Lessons and Discussion Questions:

- Reflect: Are you living like the work is finished, or still striving to earn God’s love?
- Begin to cultivate a daily relationship with Christ, not just belief in His sacrifice.

1. What does “It is finished” mean in your personal life?
2. In what ways do people remain at the cross instead of moving beyond it?

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## Lesson 2: The Resurrection Brings New Life

**Key Scriptures:** 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:4–6; Colossians 3:1–3

### Introduction

The resurrection is not just something that happened to Jesus—it is something that happens in us. When Christ rose, He made it possible for us to live a completely new life.

### Teaching Points

#### 1. You Are a New Creation

- Salvation is not behavior modification—it is transformation.
- Your identity has changed, not just your status.
- The “old you” has been crucified with Christ.

#### 2. You Are Called to Walk in Newness of Life

- New life requires new thinking, new habits, and new desires.
- We must intentionally leave behind old patterns of sin.
- Transformation is both instant (spiritually) and progressive (practically).

#### 3. Set Your Mind on Things Above

- Resurrection living requires a heavenly perspective.
- What you focus on shapes how you live.
- A renewed mind leads to a renewed life.

### Illustration

A person who moves into a new house but keeps returning to their old address will never fully enjoy their new home.

God has given you a new life—stop revisiting the old one.

### Life Lessons and Discussion Questions:

- Identify areas where your old life is still influencing your new walk.
  - Replace old habits with godly disciplines (prayer, Word, worship).
1. What does being a “new creation” look like in everyday life?
  2. What are practical ways to “walk in newness of life”?

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# Lesson 3: Empowered by the Spirit to Live Beyond the Cross

**Key Scriptures:** Acts 1:8; Romans 8:11; John 14:16–17; Galatians 5:16

## Introduction

Jesus did not expect us to live the Christian life in our own strength. That's why He promised the Holy Spirit—the power source for everything beyond the cross.

## Teaching Points

### 1. The Holy Spirit Is Our Helper

- He teaches, guides, comforts, and convicts.
- He helps us understand and apply God's Word.
- We are never alone in our walk with Christ.

### 2. Resurrection Power Lives in You

- The same power that raised Jesus now works within believers.
- This power enables us to overcome sin and walk in victory.
- We don't fight for victory—we fight from victory.

### 3. Walking in the Spirit Produces Fruit

- The Spirit produces character (love, joy, peace, etc.).
- Spiritual growth is evidence of His work in us.
- A Spirit-led life reflects Christ to others.

## Illustration

A car with a full tank of gas won't move unless the driver engages it.

The Holy Spirit is present, but we must yield to His leading.

## Life Lessons and Discussion Questions:

- Spend intentional time listening to the Holy Spirit.
  - Practice obedience when you sense His prompting.
1. How do you recognize the leading of the Holy Spirit?
  2. What does it mean to live a Spirit-led life daily?

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## Lesson 4: Living on Mission Beyond the Cross

**Key Scriptures:** Matthew 28:19–20; Ephesians 2:10; Acts 4:20

### Introduction

Salvation is not the end goal—it is the starting point of a purpose-filled life. Beyond the cross, we are called to impact the world.

### Teaching Points

#### 1. You Are Created for Good Works

- God has already prepared a purpose for your life.
- Your gifts, experiences, and testimony are tools for ministry.
- Every believer has an assignment.

#### 2. The Great Commission Is Personal

- Sharing the gospel is not just for pastors—it's for every believer.
- Evangelism can happen through lifestyle, words, and service.
- Your story is a powerful witness.

#### 3. Boldness Comes from Encounter

- The disciples became bold after experiencing the risen Christ.
- When you truly know Jesus, you can't keep Him to yourself.
- Mission flows from relationship.

### Illustration

A lamp that is turned on fulfills its purpose by shining—not by hiding.

You were not saved to sit—you were saved to shine.

### Life Lessons and Discussion Questions:

- Identify one person you can impact this week.
  - Look for opportunities to serve and share your faith.
1. What is one way you can live on mission daily?
  2. What holds people back from sharing their faith?

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**The cross saved you—but resurrection living transforms you, empowers you, and sends you.**

# PRAYERS FOR ABUNDANT LIVING BEYOND THE CROSS

**Challenge: Pray one of the prayers each day for one week of the month**

## **1. Prayer of Gratitude for the Cross {John 3:16, Rom. 5:8, Col. 2:13-14, Eph. 2:8-9}**

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the cross—the place where love met sacrifice and mercy overcame my sin. Thank You for the gift of salvation, for the forgiveness I did not earn, and the grace freely given. Because of the cross, I am no longer bound by guilt or shame. I stand redeemed, restored, and renewed.

Help me to never take this gift for granted, but to live each day in deep gratitude for what You have done. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## **2. Prayer for Freedom & New Identity {2 Cor. 5:17, Gal. 2:20, John 8:36, Rom. 8:1}**

Lord, Because of the cross, I am a new creation. Old things have passed away, and all things have become new. I release every lie, every fear, and every burden that tries to pull me back into bondage. Teach me to walk in the freedom You secured for me—to live as someone chosen, loved, and set apart. Let my identity be rooted not in my past, but in Your truth. I declare that I am free, whole, and restored. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## **3. Prayer for Abundant Living {John 10:10, Eph. 3:20, 2 Cor. 9:8, Ps. 23:5}**

Gracious God, You did not just save me—you called me to abundant life. Help me to live beyond survival and step fully into the life You promised. Open my eyes to opportunities, purpose, and joy that flow from Your presence. Let abundance overflow in my spirit, my relationships, and my calling—not just for my benefit, but so I can bless others. Teach me to trust You as my provider in every area of my life. I receive the fullness of life You have prepared for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## **4. Prayer for Purpose and Impact {Mat. 5:16, 2 Cor. 5:18-20, Eph. 2:10, John 15:8}**

Father,

Because of the cross, I am not only redeemed—I am sent. Use my life as a vessel of Your love, grace, and truth. Let my words and actions reflect the power of transformation that comes through You.

Give me boldness to share hope, compassion to serve others, and wisdom to walk in my purpose. May my life point others to the freedom and abundance found in You.

Let my life bear fruit that lasts. In Jesus' name, Amen.