

A New Beginning: The Basics of Life

An examination of our core values and beliefs

Each New Year represents a new beginning... an opportunity to “start over” and begin afresh. At the start of each new year, we often reflect on past short-comings and look with hope to the future.

The truth is that *all* of us have a number of choices to make in the New Year, but no choice is more important than the choice between living in relationship with God or stubbornly going our own way.

We are going to begin 2010 by examining those things that lay at the foundation of our lives... those basic elements crucial to our very existence as human beings.

From the beginning of human consciousness, there has been an awareness of certain basic elements around the world and across cultures. The names may change, but the basic concept remains the same. As a framework for our study, we are going to use the classic Greek approach. The basic elements of all life are: Air, Earth, Fire, and Water. And there is a fifth intangible element which the Greeks called “ether” that somehow tied all the elements together.

Understanding what each element represents helps us evaluate where our individual strengths and weaknesses are... especially in our relationship to the “intangible” element we call God. What follows is a **Holistic Healing** (*from Wikipedia*) definition of each element and a “God-connection” for our consideration.



Air represents intellect, mental intention, and connection to universal life force.

God’s Mission is why the Church exists.

The Church is a movement, not an institution.

Every follower of Jesus is commissioned (called & sent) by God.

Earth represents grounding, foundation of life, substance, connection to life path, and family roots.

Structure must always submit to Spirit.

The Church is empowering, not controlling.

Every follower of Jesus is called and connected uniquely to serve.

Fire represents energy, tool for transformation, connection to personal power, and inner strength.

Relevance to culture is not optional.

The Church is incarnational, not esoteric.

Every follower of Jesus celebrates communion with God.

Creativity is the natural result of spirituality.

The Church is transforming, not conforming.

Every follower of Jesus grows in Christ-like character.

Water represents emotional release, intuition, and inner reflection.

Love is the context for all mission.

The Church is relational, not programmatic.

Every follower of Jesus is part of a larger community.
