

## PLUG IN: I Believe It

Scripture used: [John 15:12-16 \(NLT\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

Today, Pastor Hurmon began a new series “Plug-In” with the sermon titled “I Believe It”. In [Matthew 4:19](#), Jesus invites us to come follow Him or in other words, plug into Him who is the source of all power. The secret to blooming flowers is great soil. In order to be plugged into Jesus, we need to be planted in a faith-nurturing community that is Jesus-centered. Pastor Hurmon encouraged us to view NBCC as that community. Will you accept the invitation to plug into Jesus and into the faith-nurturing community found at NBCC?

### KEY POINTS

- 1. Jesus invited us to plug into Him.** The first step to plugging into Jesus is to accept that He is the Son of God who came into this world, paid the price for our sins through His death on the cross, and rose again so that through faith in Him, we can join Him one day in eternity. Where is your faith in Jesus currently? Have you put your faith in the only One who can save? [Ephesians 1:21](#) tells us that Jesus is above all rulers and authority in this world and in the world to come. Do you accept Jesus has the highest authority and the highest source of love in your life? Do you have a Jesus-first faith?
- 2. When we have a Jesus-first faith, we are given five gifts from God.**
  - a. We are radically loved without conditions.** [Romans 5:8](#) tells us that God loves us so radically that He sent His only Son to die for us even while we were still sinners! God did not require us to be clean and whole to love us. He puts absolutely no conditions on His love for us.
  - b. We are freed from guilt and shame.** [Ephesians 1:17](#) explains that God is so rich in His kindness towards us that He purchased our freedom through Jesus’ blood and forgave us. Our freedom was purchased at a very high price, and that price was paid in full. We are free to live without guilt or shame. [1 John 1:9](#) is confirmation of His complete forgiveness.
  - c. We need not fear death.** [Romans 10:9](#) tells us that if we believe that Jesus is Lord, we will be saved. Another word for saved is safe. Even death itself cannot separate us from God’s love.
  - d. God’s Holy Spirit fills and guides our life.** In [John 20:22](#), the resurrected Jesus breathed on His disciples and told them to receive the Holy Spirit. This breath is the same that God used in [Genesis 2:7](#) to bring Adam to life. God does the same today through the breath of the Holy Spirit. He fills us and brings us to life and empowers us to live a life full of love, mercy, joy, and courage.
  - e. We have a new purpose and meaning.** *Plugging into Jesus involves accepting His partnership invitation.* In [John 15: 14b-16](#), Jesus promotes believers from slaves to friends who are privileged to be His partners. *Plugging into Jesus involves a commitment to transition from being radically loved to radically loving.* In our partnership with Jesus, we have a new purpose and meaning.
- 3. Plug into partnerships with other believers in a Jesus-first community.** [Acts 16:13-34](#) records the incredible story of Paul and Silas in Macedonia and the three Jesus-first communities that developed there. These communities stand as evidence to us today that when two or more are gathered in His name, ([Matthew 18:20](#)) radical love transforms lives. Pastor Hurmon pointed out three characteristics of a Jesus-first community: they engage good times and painful times together; they are uncommon in diversity and strength; and they are a “new beginnings” community where people can find a fresh start and grow in new ways. Are you ready to partner with Jesus in radically loving others?

### DISCUSSION

- 1) HEAR** - Take a few moments to pray and ask God to show you the true state of your faith. Are you plugged into Jesus and the power He has to offer? Or have you felt drained, overworked, and not able to produce the long-lasting fruits Jesus promises?
- 2) UNDERSTAND** - The first step in plugging into Jesus is to believe He is the Son of God who paid the price for our freedom through His death. Where are you in your faith walk? Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior? If so, is Jesus the highest authority in your life? What do you need to do so He can hold His rightful place in your life? How does life get dysfunctional when we stop being “Jesus-first”?
- 3) DO** - Pastor Hurmon encouraged us to move from being radically loved by God to radically loving others. What can you do this week to start that process? How can you plug into NBCC’s faith-nurturing community? How can you radically love someone in your home and/or workplace?