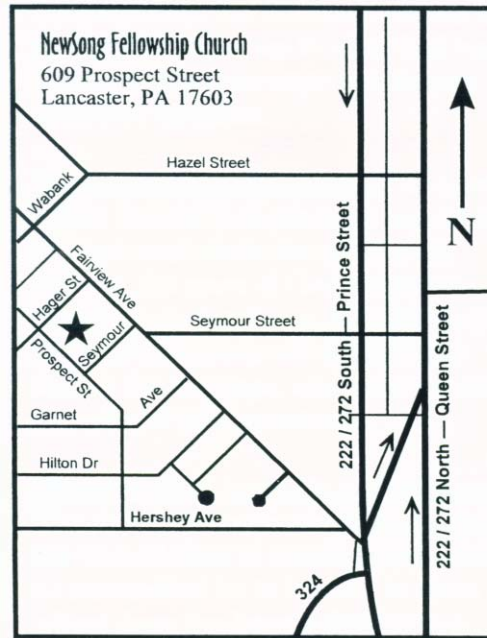


The best word in the scriptures for counseling comes from the Greek word

nouthesia, which implies *scriptural direction*. In *Nouthetic Counseling*, God's Word is used as the standard and guideline; not any secular textbook; not Christian self-help manuals; not psychotherapy; not personal enlightening or *words from the Lord*; not the personal opinion of the counselor. We are committed to giving people spiritual direction, pointing them to God's Word; and assisting them in seeing scripture uncover how their lives need to line up with His Word and discover the changes that need to take place in their lives. The Apostle Paul helps us envision what a church counseling ministry should look like: "...we preach, admonishing every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." (Colossians 1:28, 29)

Our goal is not just to "fix a problem" – but to help you grow in Christ! ***We pray that we will be able to present you whole, mature in Christ!!***

NewSong Fellowship Church



BIBLICAL COUNSELING &
SPIRITUAL DIRECTION



Biblical Counseling & Spiritual Direction

609 Prospect Street
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www.newsongfellowship.net

Sphere of Our Counseling

*We are NOT a professional counseling agency:
WE ARE THE CHURCH!*

That is why we call this ministry “*Spiritual Direction*.” Nevertheless, we believe that by using the Word of God as the standard, we can provide adequate counsel/direction in the following areas:

- ☞ Pre-engagement and pre-marriage
- ☞ Interventional and crisis marriage counseling
- ☞ Overcoming addiction
- ☞ Grief resolution
- ☞ Personal matters for career and life direction
- ☞ Financial/budgeting

We believe that there are three levels of counseling that the church can provide:

- *Encouragement*
- *Exhortation*
- *Education*

Steps to Being Helped

1. Acknowledge the need – this is 90% of the issue!
2. Make a commitment to connect with the church and ministries available, therefore

attendance at church services is essential.

3. We will enter into on-going counseling only if a person or couple is making an effort to regularly attend a small group.
4. Attend *Connections* and apply for *Associate Membership as soon as possible (normally within 60 days of initial contact)*.
5. Schedule a time to meet with a counseling staff member to provide preliminary intake information.
6. Sign the *Spiritual Guidance Release* form.
7. Faithfully keep appointments and do the homework assigned.
8. Follow through on guidance given by pastors/counselors.
9. Do not seek other counseling options while being counseled by NewSong, unless referred.

There is no fee for counseling, but costs may be incurred for testing and needed resources, or referral made to an outside Christian counseling agency, if necessary. Financial assistance may be provided.

“Most counseling problems are due to one or more of the following: a lack of spiritual maturity or personal discipline; the absence of vital relationships and accountability; or the consequences of bad decisions.”

– Rev. Dr. Jamie Mitchell

Standards of Our Pastoral Counseling

1. We will attempt to cultivate maturity and self-discipline in the counselee, instead of simply solving a problem.
2. Our counseling will attempt to promote the counselee to take responsibility for his/her soul.
3. We will hold to, not usurp or replace, the biblically defined authorities in a person’s relationships.
4. We will refrain from counseling if a lay person can adequately provide proper care for a person.
5. We will counsel only those who are utilizing the other shepherding resources the Body has to offer.
6. We will counsel only those who are not receiving counsel from multiple counselors.
7. When counseling someone in the Body, we will keep confidences while rejecting **absolute** confidentiality.
8. We will counsel alone only with the same sex.
9. Our counseling will be short-term as opposed to *long-term counseling*.
10. We will suggest referral counseling for any long-term needs.