

## **Bio of Rev. Dr. Ernestine Howell Battle**

Reverend Dr. Ernestine Howell Battle is the Pastor of New Hope Free Will Baptist Church located on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. In October 1998 the membership unanimously voted for her to serve as interim pastor and elected her pastor on October 1, 1999. Reverend Battle made history as the first female to be elected as leader of a congregation in the Northeast Conference of the Free Will Denomination. Prior to her election she served as Associate Minister, New Member Orientation Instructor, Bible Class Teacher, Christian Education Director, Missionary, and Sunday School Teacher.

As a much sought-after guest preacher, teacher, conference speaker, revivalist, workshop and seminar leader, Reverend Battle has been ministering the Word of God throughout the East Coast Region of the United States, East and West Africa, Dominican Republic, and Jamaica for more than 38 years. She also traveled to Israel, Jordan and Greece for educational studies. She has served as substitute instructor of New Testament Greek classes and Executive Assistant to the President of Maple Springs Baptist Bible College and Seminary. In April 2016, she was honored by the Roy and Mary Taft Organization with the Ministry of Excellence Award. She was selected by Lott Carey in 2019 as one of twenty-five female pastors to participate in their Pilgrimages of Striving and Thriving for Women Lead Pastors— A Pastoral Development Program.

As Pastor of New Hope Free Will Baptist Church, her leadership has been exemplary as the church continues to progress spiritually, physically, and financially. She has been instrumental in organizing and developing several ministries and educational opportunities at New Hope that provoke and inspire change, that challenge and motivate God's people to allow Jesus Christ to have "first priority" in their lives while continuing to uphold His standard of holiness: Heavenly Lights Ministry (Seniors), Daughters of Destiny (Women's Ministry), Outreach Ministry, Pastoral Care Ministry, Overcomers Ministry (for individuals and their families suffering from or coping with various types of abuse), Culinary Ministry, Family Life Ministry, Library, Enrichment (tutorial) Program, and a Standard Bible Study Program.

Reverend Battle is a native of Rocky Mount, North Carolina where she received her spiritual foundation and formal education. She received a four-year Theological Diploma from the Washington Baptist Seminary (1989); Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies from Maple Springs Baptist College and Seminary (1992); Master of Divinity Degree from Howard University School of Divinity (2003); and the Doctor of Ministry Degree (Excellence in Leadership) from Wesley Theological Seminary (2008), Project Title: "A Training Model for Empowering Servant-Leaders in the New Hope Free Will Baptist Church— A Prototype." She is the author of "Training Leaders for Service: A Standard

Curriculum and Leader's Guide for Ministers, Deacons, Mothers/Deaconesses, and Trustees."

Reverend Battle has been married to Deacon Clinton Battle, Sr. for 56 years, and they are blessed with three children, eleven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.