

**Faith Christian Fellowship**  
**Sunday, March 15, 2015**  
**Why Go to Church? 2**  
**A Get Together with God.**

**TEXT:** 1 Cor 1:2 **Unto the church of God** which is at Corinth, to them that are **sanctified** in Christ Jesus, **called** to be saints, **with all that in every place** call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: KJV 1Pe 2:9-10 / Act 2:42

It is fashionable today to say that we can be spiritual, even Christians, without going to church. Why is going to church such a big deal?

Last time we saw the Church was created by God to be His holy people. The above scriptures clearly indicate that there is a huge corporate purpose. We are not just individuals, **we are a people**. The gathering of the saints is designed to strengthen us in our purpose through building a three-legged relationship stool: Interaction with God, with the 5-fold ministry, and with each other. Today: A Get Together with God.

♥ He is here: **Presence**

- There is a tangible presence of God when His people are together in one accord:
  - OT: Ps 22:3 / Ex 40:33-35 / 2 Chron 5:11-14
  - NT Mat 18:20 NLT For where two or three gather together as My followers, I am there among them." / Heb 2:11-12
- Privileges of Presence:
  - Psalm 16:11 Cures restlessness and depression. Note 1 Samuel 16:14-23
  - Psalm 31:19-20 Our best defense against slander, gossip, and lies. Ps 8:2
  - Psalm 97:5-7 / 1 Samuel 5:1-6 The presence of God makes demons nervous
  - Psalm 9:3 Enemies turn back, fall and perish. Notice also 2 Chronicles 20:1-30.
  - Psalm 68:1-4, 8-10 The presence drives out the enemy and brings the rain to establish and refresh the people of God in the dry places. Note Acts 16:23-34.

♥ He hears US: **Prayer**

- Acts 4: 21-31 When we get in trouble, it is time to run to the Body corporate.
- Acts 12:1-18 Corporate prayer saves lives
  - The difference in James and Peter: the church prayed

- Apparently they prayed in tongues, dispatching angels, but not knowing exactly what they were praying for. (They didn't believe it when he showed up!)
- Note that Peter needed the church to pray for him to get him out of trouble. Even the greatest men of faith need artillery fire when on the front line.

♥ He ordained: **Practices**

- The table: 1 Cor 11:23-26 (Note v18 as a church)
  - Remember Him:
    - Body broken: Breaking bread brings His presence. Lk 24:30-35
    - Blood of the covenant.
  - Proclaim His death till He comes:
- The tub:
  - Matthew 28:18-20 Baptism is the first step after conversion – You cannot be a successful disciple without making this public act of consecration
  - Romans 6:3-4, 11, 16-19. Baptism is the moment when we identify with Him in His death and resurrection. It is more than our confession of faith; it is our act of identification. In it we offer our bodies to Him for service. The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead raises you to walk!!
  - Colossians 2:11-12. My personal moment of covenant marking, the circumcision of the heart, marking you as a covenant partner with God. Jesus bears the marks on His brow, hands and feet. You bear the marks on your heart.
  - Gal 3: 26-29. In baptism, you put on Christ, the same term used to describe putting on a coat. When you put on the coat you were taking the sign of sonship i.e., an upper coat reaching to the wrists and ankles, such as noblemen and kings' daughters wore, usually a statement that they were exempt from physical labor. It is the mark of full sonship. Relationship to God will never again be on the basis of performance. It is on the basis of blood.

**Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood to a sick man.**

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