

**Faith Christian Fellowship**  
**Sunday, March 22, 2015**  
**Why Go to Church? 3**  
**Receiving the Gifts**

**TEXT:** 1 Cor 1:2 / Act 2:42 / 1Th 5:12-13 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, (13) and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

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?

We saw the Church was created by God to be His holy 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: .Relating to the ministry gifts.

- ❖ God has set gifts in the Church for specific purposes.
  - There are gifts given for public ministry. Ephesians 4:11
  - There are gifts given to aid and support those in public ministry. 1 Corinthians 12:28 Helps and Administrations / Rom 12:6-8
  - Ephesians 4:7-16 Five offices of public ministry are equip the saints to do the work of the ministry. The Greek word for "equip" or "perfect" is "*katartizo*." It means:
    - Thoroughly equip 2 Timothy 3:16,17
    - Mend or repair Galatians 6:1 / Mark 1:19
    - To provide what is lacking in the life of faith 1 Thessalonians 3:10
    - To bring to Christlike maturity Luke 6:40
    - To bring people together in unity 1 Corinthians 1:10
    - To build or prepare Hebrews 10:5
  - **PLEASE NOTE:** The ministry of the five-fold received face to face by the believer is the only method given in the Scripture for the preparing of believers for ministry. 1 Thess 3:10 / Rom 15:29-33 / Rom 1:
  - Hebrews 13:17 God will hold the five-fold ministry accountable, He therefore gives them the authority to carry out their job.

- ❖ The local church is headed by a Shepherd, or Pastor
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14 gives an overview of the relationship between church leaders and the congregation. Notice the general characteristics of the ruler, or Pastor. Labor among, rule over, and admonish
  - The duties of a shepherd: Act 20:28-29 Feeding (Jer 3:15), leading, protecting
- ❖ Receiving your gift
  - You are here by the design of God to be exposed to the tools He has provided for your perfection. There is a purpose, both personal and corporate, every time you come to church.
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:12 Recognize (acknowledge), esteem, be at peace. **You are bonded together with your pastor in a divine union to complete the plan of God in you both.**
    - Don't keep your leaders busy dealing with the wounds of pettiness among the people. Gal 5:15 / Heb 13:17
    - The congregation can stop the flow of the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 14:1 / Mark 6:1-6 / Numbers 14:28
    - Hebrews 13:17 Be submissive, not argumentative.
    - Church government is practiced on the knees. If you believe you have a godly pastor, then you must believe he will follow God. 1 Timothy 2:1-5 / Rom 15:30-32 / Heb 13:18-19 / 2 Thess 3:1-2 / Col 4:3 / Eph 6:19-20
    - Submission is not the same as obedience. Maintain a submissive, respectful attitude while disagreeing about a particular course of action.
  - Gal 6:6-10 Sow to the Spirit by being involved in the support of the ministry. 1 Cor 9:13-14 / 1 Tim 5:17 /
    - Failure to tithe will prevent you from receiving the full benefit of the gift in your pastor. It demonstrates disrespect for the gift of God.
    - James 1:17 Think spiritual. Receive the gift without looking at the package. The gift is perfect. I'm still working on the wrapping.

**A church is an incubator, a nursery, a grade school. You start where people are and move them to where they need to be.**

Adrian Rogers