

Faith Christian Fellowship
November 1, 2015
Strong Foundations: The Local Church

- ♥ The local church is established by the Lord as **the** mechanism for carrying out His plan in the earth. 1 Timothy 3:15
 - Evangelism:.. Mark 16:14-18 Our own community and the world. Acts 5:11-14 / Philippians 2:14-16 / Acts 13:1-3 / Philippians 4:14-20
 - The focal point of theological debate and decision. Acts 15
 - Training disciples and ministers. John 8:31 / Matthew 28:19-20 / 2 Timothy 2:1-2
- ♥ The church is governed, the saints are taught, and the Body of Christ is edified by God-appointed gifts
 - 1 Peter 4:10 Amp. ...As each of you has received a gift (a particular spiritual talent, a gracious divine endowment), employ it for one another as [befits] good trustees of God's many-sided grace - faithful stewards of the extremely diverse [powers and gifts granted to Christians by] unmerited favor.
 - Every Christian has at least one gift = charisma - a (divine) gratuity, a (spiritual) endowment, miraculous faculty:
 - Each of us is to serve (deacon) others with our gift.
 - The purpose: bless, not impress them.
 - Given by grace, not merit. ***You don't deserve to be as wonderful as you are!***
 - As good stewards entrusted with a precious item. Faithful, blameless, diligently prepared. 1 Corinthians 4:2 / Titus 1:7 / Luke 12:42-48 / Luke 16:8-12
- ♥ Different gifts, different jobs, different settings.
 - Verse 11 two general types: Oracle gifts and Serving gifts
 - Ephesians 4:11 "doma " gifts. Gifts who stand to speak.
 - Service gifts. Practical assistance to the Body
 - Note Acts 6:1-7 There were important duties which need to be fulfilled in order for all to be ministered to. Note especially V.2-4
 - Some "deaconed" the Word while others "deaconed" the tables, the Word of God was the thing which increased.

- Romans 12:4-5 All gifts are necessary. Different parts, one body. Each different function needs a different gift, or ability. 1 Corinthians 12:12-26
- Doma gifts Ephesians 4:11
- Manifestation gifts 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- Charismata, or work/talent gifts Romans 12:6-8. These are special talents and inclinations given by the Spirit to individuals to equip them for their calling in the Body.
- Note: We all have gifts and callings. The gifts are given for the fulfilling of the calling.
- ♥ Finding your spot. Romans 12:1-3 Consecrate / Educate / Evaluate - Make a realistic assessment of your gifts and functions
 - **UBU:**
 - What do you like to do? Psalm 37:4 / Acts 7:23
 - What are you good at? God will use natural talents if they are consecrated.
 - What do others comment on? / What has God been preparing you for?
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 God uses our experiences
 - You will not start out in the job you are called to. There is training and apprenticeship for everything
 - **FRUIT TEST.** John 15:1-8
 - God calls us to situations where there are results.
 - He gets glory when we bear fruit in obedience to Him.
 - If there is no fruit after a time, cut it off. Luke 13:6-9
 - **PASSION PLAY**
 - What breaks your heart? Matthew 9:35-38. This may indicate a burden or a call. If it's a burden, pray and give. If it's a call, prepare.
 - What inflames your passion? John 2:17
 - What burns in you and won't go away through time? Jeremiah 20:9 / Isaiah 28:16

FIND IT, DO IT, KEEP AT IT,
IT IS YOUR PLACE OF SATISFACTION AND FRUITFULNESS.