

# Your Maximum Benefit in His Body

## Key Promise: Psa 92:13

Those who are **planted** in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. *NKJV*

### How you can get the most from the blessings God is channeling through the local church.

Those that are planted and rooted in the house of the Lord will flourish in the courts of the Lord. Many people do not have a sense of belonging in a local church because they don't know what the local church is. Know God's purpose for the local church and you will be able to get the most from the blessings that God is channeling through the local church.

## I. WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Eph 5:25-27

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's **word**. <sup>27</sup>He did this to present her to himself as a **glorious** church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be **holy** and without fault. *NLT*

Matt 16:18-19

<sup>18</sup>I will **build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. *NKJV*

John 1:16

From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. *NIV*

### 1. The local church is a

1 Pet 3:8

And now this word to all of you: You should be like one big happy family ... *LB*

Rev 2:1

To the **messenger** of the Ephesian assembly write. *YLT*

αγγελος *aggelos*: Messengers, angels, envoy, pastor, leader. *Strong's Concordance*

1 Cor 4:15

Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. *NIV*

## 2. The local church is the body of Christ and a of believers

1 Cor 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. *NIV*

1 John 1:3

That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have **fellowship** with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. *NKJV*

*The local church is not merely an ordinary  society.*

**Why is it not an ordinary society?**

*The local church is a body of believers with  functions and giftings.*

**How is the local church run?**

Rom 12:4-6

For as we have many members in **one body**, but all the members do not have the same **function**, <sup>5</sup>so we, being many, are **one body** in Christ, and individually members of **one another**. <sup>6</sup>Having then **gifts differing according to the grace** that is given to us, let us use them. *NKJV*

1 Pet 4:10

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. *NLT*

A committee discusses, a ministry acts. A committee discusses what they want other people to do. A ministry just does it. The last thing I want to do is turn you into some bureaucrat and put you on some flower committee. So we minimize meetings to maximize ministry. *Rick Warren*

What makes a business successful? Simultaneous loose-tight properties - that means there is a strong, central control that keeps the business committed to its vision but all the day-to-day decisions are made by the actual people doing the work. *Tom Peters, In Search of Excellence.*

## How do I know which ministry I should be in?

Acts 13:1-2

You are **confirmed** in your calling, **imparted** with gifts, **shaped**, **supported** and **empowered** for service **through** the **local church**.

## 3. The local church is a living and organism

Eph 4:11-12

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup>Their responsibility is to equip God's people to **do his work** and **build up** the church, the body of Christ. *NLT*

2 Chron 26:16 Uzziah

The local church leaders equip you in a  way.

Titus 1:1

I have been sent to bring faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know God's truth-- the kind of truth that changes lives. *LB*

## Character - Right values - Relationship skills

### Why do you need people to develop character?

Prov 19:11

A person's wisdom makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense. *NET*

Matt 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. *NKJV*

#### 4. The local church is a channel of blessings despite its

1 Cor 1:7

Therefore, you don't lack any gift as you wait eagerly for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. *GW*

## II. HOW TO BENEFIT FROM YOUR LOCAL CHURCH?

### 1. Flow with your Church's vision

1 Cor 12:5

And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. *NASB*

#### Why is it important to flow with the vision of the local church?

1 Cor 12:7

A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the ENTIRE church. *NLT*

Psa 133:1-3

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! <sup>3</sup>... For there the LORD **commands** his blessing, even life forevermore. *NIV*

### 2. your care group gatherings

#### What are some of the things we do in care groups?

Heb 10:24-25

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. *NLT*

<sup>25</sup>Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer. *TEV*

A **consistent habit** of meeting as well as a consistent starting and stopping time will make the group more attractive.

Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup>All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' **teaching**, and to **fellowship**, and to sharing in **meals**, and to **prayer**. *NLT*

<sup>47</sup>**praising** God and having **favor** with all the people. And the Lord **added** to the church daily those who were being saved. *NKJV*

One of the highlights is to enjoy the rich variety of simple food in each care group.

**Why is the study of the Word mentioned first?**

**Which group should I be joining?**

Acts 6:1

There can be a rich variety of homogenous care groups:

One of the best ways to enjoy the fellowship of the local church is through care groups. Through care groups, the church can be **large** but you **feel** it is the **smallest**!

**Through care groups:**

You **meet caring** friends, have them **pray** specifically for your *needs*;

Discuss how to **apply** Bible truths that lift you to your *high* destiny;

**Discover** your gifts and **develop** leadership skills.

**3. Be open to  the most in a care group and you will prosper**

**What are the keys to benefit most from a small group discussion?**

An  heart to learn.

You can learn from almost anyone if you ask the **right questions**.

Prov 18:15

Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge.  
*NLT*

Prov 19:8

Do yourself a favor and learn all you can; then remember what you learn and you will prosper. *TEV*

An atmosphere of warmth and .

Rom 14:1

Give a warm welcome to any brother who wants to join you, even though his faith is weak. Don't criticize him for having different ideas from yours about what is right and wrong. *LB*

2 Cor 12:9

I am not yet what I should be but praise God I am not what I used to be.

Be  and proactive.

Phil 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. *NIV*

Prov 15:15

When a man is gloomy, everything seems to go wrong; when he is cheerful, everything seems right! *LB*

Be of one  and **purpose**

Eph 4:3

Make **every effort** to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. *NIV*

Rom 14:19

**So let us concentrate** on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together. *Philips*

Phil 2:2

Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with **one mind and purpose**. *NLT*

## How can I be a good host?

Rom 12:16

... And don't think you know it all! *NLT*

**Qualification of a care leader or host:** You don't have to be a **great teacher**. Just:

1. Be **Christ-** and **Word-**centered.
2. Have a **heart** to **serve and care**.
3. Be **warm, gracious** and **positive**.
4. **Lead** the **discussions** with an **open heart** and one **mind**.

Prov 27:23

Be diligent to know (watch) the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds.  
*NKJV*

Phil 2:2

You can also teach the **Kingdom Series** in small groups in the **marketplace**:

Get your friends to listen to the lesson by WhatsApp or Podcast. Gather to discuss and interact.

Or

Teach with the Teacher's Guide and discuss.

## 4. reaching out

**Why is it important to keep reaching out and multiplying in the care group?**

Acts 20:24

The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me – to tell people the Good News about God's grace. *NCV*

One of the great soul-winning opportunities is when you take a newly trained leader, and find a new convert in your church who is excited about Jesus and excited about the church. Let the leader hold a care group in the new convert's house. Then you have an explosion of growth. *Church Growth Manual, No. 5*

Acts 6:1

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was **multiplying** ... NKJV

**Set the goal:** To multiply in 6 months or when the group reaches about 15.

**Pray** and Reach out **creatively**.

**Eating, listening** and **caring**, if possible in a **TEAM** of a few people.  
Luke 5:17-26

Luke 14:23

Go out to the country roads and lanes and make people come in, so that my house will be *full*. TEV

**NEVER GIVE UP: Keep** on praying, phoning, visiting, caring, watching and listening.

Dan 12:3

Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who LEAD many to (His) righteousness will SHINE like the stars forever. NIV

***Adventure this week:***



1. Memorize Psa 92:13 and write this verse from memory here:

2. Study the verses in Section II, Point 3 and see how you can benefit most from a care group and how to be a host.

3. Be passionate in **developing** your **life** and **gifting** by **getting involved** in a care group or by **hosting** a care group. And be **involved** in ONE of the ministries of the church.

See the previous lessons for a list of ministries you can serve in or start a new one!

... the opportunity is endless ... the limit is your creativity.

Fill in the **Special Update Card** and **add** anything not listed there!

Come to next vision hour

4. Plan an evangelistic function in your care group: birthday, anniversary, or any occasion that you may shine!

Revise the Today's Article in Lesson 10.

***Today's Article***

## ***Making Evangelism the Focus***

Adapted from the Church Growth Manual, No. 5, Yoido Full Gospel Church,  
Korea

Evangelism is one of the clear goals of the care group ministry. One of the most destructive things that can happen in a care group is when older, mature Christians begin to join together. They don't win souls. They have the same people in the meeting week after week, month after month.

After a while, they get bored with one another and that group becomes dead. There is no growing. There is no expansion. Then they begin to sit around and think of better ways to run the church. They come up with all kinds of plans on what the pastor should be doing. They become cancerous.

The care group ministry is designed for evangelism. One of the most powerful tools of evangelism is what we call in our church "friendship evangelism". When a person is first saved, (especially for the first six months), it is the most powerful evangelistic time in his life. Why is that? Why is a new Christian such a good soul winner? Because all of his friends are unbelievers.

One of the great soul winning opportunities is when you take a newly trained leader, and find a new convert in your church who is excited about Jesus and excited about the church. Let the leader hold a care group in the new convert's house. Then you have an explosion of growth. That convert will bring his unsaved friends to the meeting. They will get saved and in turn win more new people. We need to constantly be reaching people.