

**THE LOCAL CHURCH – OPTIONAL OR ORIGINAL DESIGN?
(Do You Really Need to be Part of a Local Church?)**

• **An Opening Overview of the 20 Spiritual Gifts Recorded in Scripture:**

- A spiritual gift is a gift given _____ by God the _____ for the purpose of _____ or _____ within the Body of Christ during this present Church Age (Eph. 4:7,8,11-16).
- Every believer has at least _____ (I Pet. 4:10; Eph. 4:7,8; I Cor. 12:7,11,18).
- The believer is gifted on the basis of _____ the _____ he/she is _____.
- There are 20 such gifts recorded in I Cor. 12:8-10, 28; Rom. 12:3-8; and Eph. 4:8-11

Ten were _____ Ten are _____.

- Matthew 16:18 – Christ predicted ... “I will build my church”

- So what is Christ doing today?

- Is the church precious to Christ (Acts 20:28)

A. The DIVINE IMPORTANCE of the LOCAL CHURCH.

The local church according to God’s blueprint is vital for...

1. the saints to be _____. (Ephesians 4:7-16)

- What does this giving of gifts involve? And why?
- How long is this to go on?
- What happens when saints are not perfected?
- What is really needed today?
- How does ministry to the saved show itself?
 - 1) _____, by personal _____ in the ministries of your local church.
 - 2) _____, through the fulfillment of all the “_____” of the New Testament.
- How does ministry to the unsaved show itself?

2. the saints to be _____ and _____ spiritually. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

3. the saints to _____ their spiritual _____. (1 Corinthians 12)

4. the saints to enjoy together sound _____, _____, _____ and observing the _____ (Acts 2:41-47)

5. the saints to _____ the lost and _____ the saved. (Acts 13:1-5; 14:21-22)

Missions and the Local Church

These missionaries were...

- _____ their local church
- _____ their local church
- _____ by their local church
- _____ primarily by their local church
- specifically, _____ to their local church
- spiritually _____ back in their local church
- Thus, it is clear from Scripture that God has chosen _____ as the focal point of His ministry today (Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Timothy 3:15), including missions. Any missionary agency following this biblical blueprint must view itself as a _____ and not sovereign to those churches. The mission’s existence must serve to enhance and facilitate this divine _____ and mandate given to the local church, not vice-versa.