

Bible Reading Outline

Assembly Principles



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I. **Assembly: An introduction**

Readings: Acts 1:6-9; 2:1-4,12-18,21-47; 16:5; 1Cor 12:12,27

A. "Assembly": Its meaning

1. "Assembly" = "Church" = "Called-out company"
2. In the local aspect, it is a group of believers *called out* from the world, gathering to the Lord Jesus Christ: to His Name, authority, and lordship.

B. "Church": Local vs Universal (Acts 16:5; 1Cor 12:12,27)

1. **Local**—found in the singular ("company") and in the plural with ref. to churches in a district. "A company consisting of professed believers" (Vine p42) "Church of God"
--Matt. 18:17; Acts 9:31,16:5,20:28; 1Cor 1:2; Gal 1:13
2. **Universal**—"The whole company of redeemed throughout the present era" (Vine p42)
--Matt. 16:18; Eph 1:22-23; 5:23
 - a) From the day of Pentecost to the rapture (Acts 1:5; 1Cor. 12:13)
3. **Distinctions** between the body and an assembly

C. Descriptive Names for an assembly: ²

(Provided not necessarily for discussion, but for consideration as we study the different aspects of an assembly)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Golden lamp stand, Rev. 1:20 | Its profession |
| 2. Church of God, 1Cor. 1:2 | Its purpose |
| 3. Building of God, 1Cor. 3:9 | Its pattern |
| 4. Tillage of God, 1 Cor. 3:9 | Its planting |
| 5. Little flock, Acts 20:28 | Its pathway |
| 6. Pillar of truth, 1Tim 3:15 | Its proclamation |
| 7. Body of Christ, 1 Cor 12:27 | Its provision |
| 8. House of God, 1 Tim 3:15 | Its principles of rule |
| 9. Temple of God, 1 Cor 3:16 | Its praise |
| 10. Chaste virgin, 2 Cor. 11:2 | Its purity |

Quotes in this outline are taken from the following sources:

1. An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words by W.E. Vine
2. Gathering Unto His Name by Norman Crawford
3. Worship: The Christian's Highest Occupation by A.P. Gibbs
4. The Strongest Strong's by James Strong

II. The Person in the Center of the Assembly

Readings: Psalm 50:5,14; Matt. 18:20; Heb. 13:13; Rev. 1:12-13,19-20; 2Thes. 2:1-2

A. **Christ the center:** Our common ground is salvation and a love for Christ. We share a Person and our fellowship depends upon Him and “those things which are most surely believed among us.” (Lk 1:1)

B. Gathered to the **Name of the Lord Jesus Christ**; Matt. 18:20

1. What does it mean to be gathered “to His Name”?

a) A name implies:

- (1) Identity—confession of His name
- (2) Authority— *Jn 16:23* Ask in His name; *Matt 18:20* Gather in recognition of His authority
- (3) Character
- (4) Rank
- (5) Majesty, Excellence
- (6) Power— *Acts 3:6* Healed through His name

2. **Denominations:** Why no other name? (*1 Cor. 1:10-13*)

- a) What is a denomination?
- b) Divisions between groups of believers
- c) Is “Gospel Hall” a second name?

C. Place of **His coming** in our thoughts

(John 14:2-3; 1Cor 11:26; 1Thes. 4:13-18; 2Thes. 2:1-2; Tit. 2:11-14; James 5:7-8; 2Pet. 3:11-14)

III. The Purpose of the Assembly: *Why do we gather?*

Readings: Matt 18:20; 1Cor. 11:24-26; Eph. 4:15-16, 5:19-20; 1Tim. 2:1, 3:15, 4:13; 1Pet. 2:9

- What makes the assembly and its coming together so meaningful? Why should we appreciate it? Why does God desire His Saints to **come together** as an assembly?

A. We gather for God:

a) The Lord is **present**- to meet with God (*Matt. 18:20*)

- How is the Lord’s presence in assembly different than His continual presence with us?

b) To **worship** (*1Pet. 2:9; Heb. 13:15...*)

- Consider the past: The disciples gathered to see and **worship** Him: (*Matt 28:7,16-17*)
- Consider the future: The eternal purpose... worship (Are there parallels between what we are doing now and what we will be doing in eternity?) (*Rev. 5:9-10; 19:5-7...*)

c) To **Remember** Him, and in **obedience** to His word (*1 Cor 11:24*)

d) To **Proclaim** the Lord’s death (*1Cor 11:26*)

e) We are God’s **testimony** collectively in the world (*1Cor. 14:24-25; 2 Cor. 5:20; Phil. 2:14-16*)

B. We gather for one another:

- a) For **Fellowship** with one another (*see later*)
- b) Gathering together promotes **joy and thanksgiving** (*Eph. 5:19-20; Col. 3:16*)
- c) To meet **physical needs** of the assembly and others (such as evangelists) (*see later*)
- d) To meet **spiritual needs** (*2Cor. 1:4; Eph 4:15-16*)
- e) Provides an environment suitable for spiritual **growth and development** (*1Tim. 4:13,16*)
- f) To **Pray** collectively (*see later*)
- g) To **Preserve** truth (*1Tim 3:15*)
- h) For **Safety** from spiritual downfall (*Acts 14:21-23, elders have a role in this; Gal. 6:1*)
- i) For **Strength** in persecution (*John 20:19-20; 1Thes. 3:1-8*)

C. We are a lesson to angels (*see later*)

IV. The Pattern of the Assembly

Readings: John 17:14-17,20; Acts 16:4-5; 20:32; 1Cor. 11:1-2; 13:10; 15:3-4; Eph. 2:19-22; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

- A. Our sole authority: the Word of God (Bible)
 1. The Lord's directions: Gospels
 2. The practice of early assemblies: Acts
 3. The apostles' doctrine: Epistles
 - Why are the Scriptures our only authority?

V. The Planting of the Assembly

Readings: Acts 11:19-26; 1Cor 2:1-5; 3:5-11; Eph. 2:19-22

- A. Gospel preached
- B. Souls saved
- C. Principles taught
- D. Assembly formed
- E. *Questions to consider:*
 - What marks the forming of an assembly? How do you know when it begins?
 - Who plants an assembly? Christ is its foundation-- what does this mean?

VI. The Place of Assembly Gatherings

Readings: Deut 12:1-2,10-14; 1Cor 14:23

A. Questions to consider:

1. Must it be a specific location? Is it scriptural, for instance, to alternate meeting in different houses?
2. Would it be right to meet temporarily in another location (for a picnic, assembly vacation, ... also remodeling, etc)?

VII. The People of the Assembly

A. Fellowship:

Readings: Acts 2:41-47; 1Cor 1:9-10; 10:16-21; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Eph. 4:1-6, 5:11; Phil. 2:1-4; 1Jn 1:3-7

1. What is Fellowship?— “*A Sharing in Common*” (Vine p233)
2. *Examples:* Fellowship...
 - of ministering: *2Cor 8:4*
 - of work of the Lord: *Gal. 2:9*
 - in the gospel: *Phil 1:5*
 - of His sufferings: *Phil. 3:10*
 - with the Father and the Son: *1Jn 1:3-7*
3. What is the basis of fellowship with God?
4. What things does God share with us? Fellowship with God is wonderful! (John 17)
5. How can I maintain fellowship with God? When and how should sin be confessed?
6. What can I do to better the fellowship between fellow believers?
7. What should my relationship be like with co-workers?

B. Assembly **Reception** and relations between assemblies

Readings: Acts 2:41,47; 9:26-28; 15:1-6; 18:27; Romans 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 3:1

1. Saved
2. Baptized
3. Accepted by the whole assembly:
 - a) Reception upon conversion:

Consider:

- (1) What takes place?
- (2) Why a meeting with the elders only?

- b) While traveling:

Consider:

- (1) Is this any different from reception upon conversion? (Can less care be given?)
- (2) Relations between assemblies “in fellowship” with each other: what does this mean?
- (3) Relations with denominations, chapels, etc.
- (4) Letters of commendation; *Phil. 2:29-30; 2 Cor. 3:1, 8:16-24...*
 - Always necessary?

- c) Relocation
- d) Restoration
- e) Visiting Preacher
- f) Denominational systems have membership lists, etc.— Why don't we?

C. “In Fellowship”: Distinction between “**within**” and “**without**” of the assembly

Readings: 1Cor. 5:11-13; 14:23-25; 2Cor 6:14-16; Eph 5:11

1. Who must be “without”?
 - a) Unsaved; *Eph 5:11; 2Cor 6:14*
 - b) “Seat of the unlearned”; *1Cor 14:23*
 - c) Discipline (see discipline meeting) *1Cor. 5:11-13*
2. Why are they “without”?
3. How should this distinction be manifested, and why?

D. Priesthood of New Testament believers and Worship

1. Priesthood of all New Testament believers:

Readings: Heb. 13:15-16; 1Pet. 2:5,9; Rev. 1:5-6, 5:9-14

- a) Old testament priests were *called, cleansed, clothed, consecrated, and compassionate*. They offered, burned incense, trimmed lamps, etc. (from Ontario outline 1994)
- b) What does it mean to be a New Testament priest? (1Pet. 2:5,9; Rev. 1:5,6)
New Testament priests are a (*from outline*): **Holy Priesthood**—Sacrificing (1 Pet. 2:5)
Royal Priesthood—Serving (1Pet. 2:9)
- c) New testament sacrifices (*from outline*):
Persons (Rom 12:1-2), Purses (Phil. 4:18), Praises (Heb 13:15), Possessions (Heb. 13:16)

2. Worship:

Readings: Ex. 34:14; Ps. 5:7, 29:2, 95:6, 99:5; Matt 4:10; Jn 4:21-24; Phil. 3:3; Heb. 10:19-22, 13:15-16; Rev. 4:9-11, 5:9-14

- a) **What is worship?**
“More easily experienced than described” (Gibbs p15) but the following are definitions or descriptions some have given:
 - (1) “It is not confined to praise; broadly it may be regarded as the direct acknowledgement to God, of His nature, attributes, ways and claims, whether by the outgoing of the heart in praise and thanksgiving or by deed done in such acknowledgement.” (Vine, p 686)
 - (2) “To pay homage, show reverence, to kneel down (before)” (Strong's #4352)
 - (3) “The overflow of a grateful heart under the sense of Divine favor.” (Gibbs, p 15)
 - (4) “The outpouring of the soul at rest in the presence of God.” (Gibbs, p 16)
 - (5) “The occupation of the heart, not with its needs (*prayer*), or even with its blessings (*praise*), but with God Himself.” (Gibbs, p16)
 - (6) The English word, “worship,” denotes the worthiness of the person receiving special honor due to his worth (Zondervan Bible Dictionary)
 - (7) Giving back to God what God has given to me. (example: Deut. 26:1-11; 1Chron. 11:18)
- b) **Examples of worship**
 - a) Abraham and Isaac, Gen 22
 - b) In type: Leviticus, Deut. 26:1-11
 - b) Wise Men, Matt 2:11
 - c) Blind Man, John 9
 - d) Mary, John 12
 - e) Rev. 4:9-11, 5:9-14, 19:1-8
- c) **Who do we worship?**
 - a) Not men, Acts 10:25-26
 - b) God only: Ex. 34:14; Rev. 19:10
 - c) The Father: John 4:23-24
 - d) The Lord Jesus, Luke 24:52; Heb. 1:6
 - e) We are not told to worship the Holy Spirit directly

- d) **Where** do we worship?
- Not just at the breaking of bread meeting, and not just collectively.
 - In the holy place (Heb. 10:19-20)
- e) **How** do we worship?
- “By Him”—through Christ our Great High Priest (Heb. 13:15)
 - “In Spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24; Phil. 3:3) What is the Holy Spirit’s role in worship?
 - With assurance, a pure conscience, washed (Heb. 10:22)
 - With reverence (Ps. 5:7)
 - With joy (Deut. 26:11)
 - “In the beauty of holiness” Ps. 29:2
 - In a certain posture? (Psalm 95:6)

VIII. Participation of the Assembly

A. Participation in Assembly Meetings

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...” *Heb. 10:25*

“They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and [in the] fellowship, and in [the] breaking of bread, and in [the] prayers.”
Acts 2:42

1. General Conduct and Character of our gatherings

“That thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave *thyself* in *the* house of God...” 1Tim. 3:15

Readings: Ps 89:7, 93:5; 1Cor 14:30-40; Eph. 5:17-21; 1Pet. 3:3-5

a) *Possible questions to consider:*

- Should there always be a specific reason for gathering?
- What constitutes an “assembly meeting”? Is there a **formal** and **informal** gathering of the assembly? If so, what makes it formal? Why is this important? Is there different conduct connected with formal vs informal gatherings? Does “formal gathering” tend toward religion, not fellowship? How can we guard against formalism, ritualism, etc.?
- What does it show when we use words like “Thee” and “Thou” in prayer and worship?
- How should we **dress** for meetings? (*Deut. 22:5; 1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1Pet. 3:3-5...*)
- Why don’t we use **instruments** in assembly gatherings? What is their place?
- What preparations should we make before coming? What should our state be?
 - For preparation for the Lord’s Supper (1Cor. 11:28), see #3 following

VIII. - A. Participation in assembly meetings, cont.

2. Headship (as expressed in the local church)

Readings: 1Cor. 11:1-16; (14:34-35); Gal. 3:28; 1Tim. 2:8-15; Titus 2:1-5; (1Pet. 3:5)

a) Headship and its **expression**—1 Corinthians 11:1-16

- **Why** are head coverings worn by the women? Why are they not worn by the men? What principles are we declaring?
- **When** should they be worn?
- **What** should be worn?
- **Long hair** of sisters: what does this show?

b) Headship and its **distinction** between male and female: Our different spheres and roles

(1) **Men:** A public sphere (*1Tim. 2:8, 2 Tim 2:2-15; 4:2; Tit. 2:1-2, 6-8*)

- Public exercise of gift (*see later*)
- Responsibility of the man
- Work and place in the assembly... (*considered in more detail under gifts section*)
- Work and place in the home...

(2) **Women:** A private sphere (*1Cor. 14:34-35; 1Tim. 2:9-15; 5:5, 14; Tit. 2:3-5*)

- Godly **examples:** **Anna** (Luke 2:36-38), **Dorcas** (Acts 9:36), **Lois** and **Eunice** (2 Tim. 1:5, 3:15), **Lydia** (Acts 16:15,40), **Phoebe** (Rom. 16:1-2), **Priscilla** (Acts 18:2, 18, 24-26; Rom. 16:3-4)
- **Silence** of sisters during assembly meetings
- **Subjection** of the woman: what does this mean? What does this picture?
- Their place and work in the **assembly**... (*considered in more detail under gifts section*)
- Their place and work in the **home**...
- Only if Christ could be without His bride could we be without our sisters!

(3) What is the meaning of Gal. 3:28?

VIII. - A. Participation in assembly meetings, cont.

3. The Lord's Supper

Readings: It is mentioned 7 times in the N.T.—

Its Pattern: **Matt. 26:26-27**; (also in Mark and Luke)

Its Practice: **Acts 2:44-46; 20:6-7**

Its Principles: **1Cor. 10:16-17; 11:17-34**

- a) Its **purpose**: “in remembrance of Me” (1 Cor. 11:25)
- b) Its **period**: The time of the breaking of bread- 1st Day of the Week; (*Acts 20:6-7*)
 - What time of day on the 1st day? Does it matter?
 - Did they meet as a whole assembly during the week? Benefits in this? *Acts 2:44-46; 12:12*
- c) Its **preparation**: 1Cor. 11:27-32
 - What does it mean to drink unworthily?
 - Under what circumstances should a person not eat?
- d) Its **pattern and the emblems**
 - Figurative not literal— What do they represent?
 - Leavened or unleavened bread?
 - Wine vs. grape juice?
- e) Its **practice**:
 - Should a theme be followed? What role does the Holy Spirit have?
 - What takes place? Why is this a “worship meeting”? What content do we offer?
 - Direct address to the Lord Jesus—is it ok?
 - What about the sisters? Do they bring something to offer, too?

4. Prayer meeting

Readings: Matt. 6:9-13; Acts 4:23-31, 12:5; Eph. 6:18-19 (Col. 4:2-3); 1 Tim. 2:1,8; Jam. 5:13-18

- a) **Purpose**: “Supplications, prayers, intercessions, giving of thanks” (1 Timothy 2:1)
- b) **Value**: What is the value of the prayer meeting? Why can't we just pray at home?
- c) **Structure**: How should a prayer meeting be structured?
 - Why do the brethren stand to pray? (compare Acts 20:36, 21:5)
 - Should we say the “Lord's prayer”?
- d) **Subject**: What should we pray for? Is this a place for more personal things (such as confession of sin, personal needs, or individuals that we desire to see saved), or only public matters?

5. Ministry (Teaching) meeting

Readings: Acts 11:26; 15:35; 18:11

- a) **Purpose**: “Doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16)

VIII. - A. Participation in assembly meetings, cont.

6. Gospel meeting

Readings: Mark 16:15-16; Acts 13:38-39; 15:35; 1 Cor. 9:16, 15:1; 2 Cor. 5:20

- a) **Purpose:** "...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (1 Cor. 1:21)
- b) Is it important for Christians to be there?
- c) Why should there be a weekly, scheduled gospel meeting?
- d) Should this be held in the hall or some other location (since this is an "outreach" meeting)?
- e) Sunday school & children's meetings

7. Report meeting (including missionary report meetings)

Readings: Acts 14:27;15:4

- a) **Purpose:** "they rehearsed all that God had done with them" (Acts 14:27)
- b) **Time / Frequency:** When should this be held? Is this only for missionaries?

8. Discipline meeting

Readings: Matt. 18:15-17; 1Cor. chapter 5; 2 Thes. 3:6,14-15; 1Tim. 1:18-20, 5:20

- a) **Purpose:** Preservation of the assembly (sanctity and truth) and individuals (for restoration) (1 Cor. 5:6-7; 2 Cor. 2:1-11, 7:8-12)
- b) Why should there be a formal meeting for discipline? When should discipline be public?
- c) Reasons for putting out of assembly... 1 Cor. 5:11
 - Does one act of those in 1 Cor. 5:11 automatically put one out of the assembly?
 - How long should they remain out of the assembly? (When can they be received again?)
- d) Reasons for not companying with someone (vs. putting out); (2Thes. 3:6-15)
- e) Discipline and other assemblies
- f) Is there a "future after a fall"?

9. Elders' meeting

Readings: Acts 13:2-3; 15:5-6, 22-23; 20:17-18, 28-32; James 5:14-15

- a) **Purposes:**
 - (1) Meeting with someone desiring to be in fellowship (*though not really an elders' meeting*)
 - (2) Commendation to the work of the Lord (Acts 13:2)
 - (3) Discussion of truth or assembly needs (Acts 15:6)

10. Other meetings? (and final thoughts)

- Meetings for certain groups within an assembly? e.g. women (Acts 16:13)?, young?, etc.
- Final comments on assembly meetings...

VIII. - The participation of the assembly, cont.

B. Gifts and their edification, existence, enablement, exercise

Readings: Gifts: Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-10,28-30; 13:8-10; 14:1-33,39-40; Eph. 4:7-16; 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6-7; 1 Pet. 4:10-11

Gifted Men: Acts 5:42, 13:2-4, 15:36, 18:11, 20:28-31; Eph. 4:11-12; 1Thes. 5:12-15; 1Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-20; Tit. 1:5-9; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-4

Some gifts as listed in the New Testament:

| Gift | References | Definition: (Uplook Ministries ¹ , What the Bible Teaches ² , Vine ³) |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Wisdom | 1 Cor. 12 | Divinely imparted to supply guidance in a situation (Acts 5:3) ² Insight into the true nature and value of things. ³ (1 Cor. 6:5; James 3:13-18) |
| Knowledge | 1 Cor. 12 | Understanding, realization of spiritual truth. ³ |
| Faith | 1 Cor. 12 | Supernatural trust in God and His ways, stimulating others to trust Him more ¹ Endowed special faith to work miracles (Matt. 21:21; 1 Cor. 13:2) ² |
| Healing | 1 Cor. 12 | The conduit for the power of Jehovah Ropheka in physical restoration ¹ (Acts 3:6) |
| Miracles | 1 Cor. 12 | The conduit for the power of God in various manifestations of His character ¹ Acts 3:6; 9:40; 13:11; 19:11-12 |
| Prophecy, Prophet | 1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12; Eph. 4 | - Primarily fresh revelation through inspired men onto the pages of Scripture ¹ - Prophets spoke by direct revelation from God: message was foundational in doctrine or to meet a situation ² ; (Luke 1:67-79; 1Cor. 14:22-31; Eph 3:5) |
| Discerning of spirits | 1 Cor. 12 | Ability to see the truth of a situation (even when behind the enemy's disguise) ¹ "The ability to see whether the spirit prompting an utterance was of God" ³ Acts 13:9?; 16:16-18; 1Cor. 14:29 |
| Tongues | 1 Cor. 12 | Speaking in a language not known by the individual (Acts 2:11; 10:44; 1Cor. 14) |
| Interp. of tongues | 1 Cor. 12 | Revealing to listeners the message of God in a language unknown to them ¹ (1Cor. 14:27) |
| Apostle | 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4 | Authoritative directives in the infancy of the church ¹ (2Pet. 3:2) |
| Evangelist | Eph. 4 | Love for souls; ability in clearly declaring God's way of salvation ¹ (Acts 18:24-28) |
| Pastor | Eph. 4 | Leading, heeding, and feeding the sheep; bearing the care of the churches ¹ (Acts 20:28) |
| Teacher | 1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12; Eph 4 | Clearly explaining and applying the Word of God; showing others how to teach ¹ (Acts 20:7) |
| Helps | 1 Cor. 12 | The humble demeanor where one is willing to assist, though others get the glory ¹ (Acts 20:35; 1Cor. 16:15; 1Thes. 5:14) |
| Ministry | Rom. 12; 1 Pet. 4 | The spirit of the Master in serving others, perhaps by aiding other gifts ¹ (Acts 9:36) |
| Exhortation | Rom. 12 | Applying the Word to personal need in such a way that others want to change ¹ Supply encouragement. |
| Giving | Rom. 12 | The wise and timely redistribution of the Lord's resources ¹ (1Thes. 2:8) Imparting, sharing ³ |
| Ruling | Rom. 12 | Giving order and faithful consistency to church meeting and functioning ¹ Leaders, "to attend to", indicating care and diligence ³ |
| Governments | 1 Cor. 12 | Steersmen, act as spiritual guides, exercising oversight ³ |
| Showing mercy | Rom. 12 | A supernatural compassion displayed to encourage others to selfless service ¹ Feel sympathy with the misery of another; pity ³ (Word in Rom. 11:30-31) |

VIII. - B. Gifts, cont.

1. Gifts and their value: edification

a) **Definition of gifts** (see chart, previous): Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-10,28-30; Eph. 4:11-16

b) **Purpose of gifts**: Mark 16:15-20; 1 Cor. 14:1-33, 39-40; (Eph. 4:11-16); Heb. 2:3-4

“for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” Eph. 4:12

- **Apostles**: Spiritual guidance, receive revelation (Gal. 1:12; Eph. 3:5)
- **Prophecy**: 1) “Forthtell” to give direction: they had no New Testament (1 Cor. 14:31; Eph. 3:5)
2) “Foretell” the future (Acts 21:10-11)
- **Sign gifts**: Give validity to the message: this was new
- **Tongues**: Show coming of the Holy Spirit and salvation of the Gentiles; Sign of judgement to Jews
- **Pastors** (see later): Care for weak, sick, those gone astray; Counsels, Comforts

c) **Their value**: Is Christ exulted? (1 Cor 12) Is charity exercised? (1 Cor 13) Is the church edified? (1 Cor 14)

2. Gifts and their existence or exit 1 Cor 13:8-10; Eph. 2:20; 2 Pet. 2:1

a) We believe some gifts no longer exist, even though God still does the miraculous. Why? Which?

3. Gifts and their source: enablement

Acts 2:1-4; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; Eph. 4:7-8; 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6-7; 1 Pet. 4:10-11

a) When (how) do we receive them?

b) The “laying on of hands”... today? (*Some examples: Acts 28:8- healing; Acts 6:5-6; 8:17; 13:2-3; 19:5-6; 1Tim 5:22-identification?; Heb 6:1-2 – doctrine*)

c) All believers have a gift.

d) What is the effectiveness / profitability of our gift based on?

e) Can they be exercised at any time?

4. Gifts and their use: exercise

1 Cor. (12:4-6); 13:1-3; 14:23-33,40; (1 Tim. 4:14); (2 Tim. 1:6-7); (1 Pet 4:10-11)

a) How do I know my gift? (“Fervor, Faculty, Fruit” - Lloyd Cain)

b) How do we use/develop them?

c) Why no “one man paid pastor”?

5. Gifted persons: entrusted works

Readings: Acts 5:42, 13:2-4, 15:36, 18:11, 20:21,28-31; Rom. 16:1-2; Eph. 4:11-12; 1Thes. 5:12-15; 1Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-19; Tit. 1:5-9; Heb. 13:7,17; 1 Pet. 5:1-4

- a) **Elders:** Acts 20:17,28-31; 1Thes 5:12-15; 1Tim 3:1-7; 5:17-19; Tit. 1:5-9; Heb.13:7,17; 1Pet. 5:1-4
- i) They are termed (P. Harding): **Elders** (worth) / **Overseers** (“Bishops”-work) / **Shepherds** (“Pastors”-watchfulness) / **Leaders** (walk) / **Rulers** (ways) / **Governments** (wisdom) - *1Tim. 3:1-7; 5:17-20*
- ii) Their work (not position): *1Pet. 5:1-4; Heb.13:7,17* (A.J. Higgins)
- Provision of food (*John 21:15-17; 1Pet. 5:1-4*)
 - Vigilance for foes (*Acts 20:28-31, Titus 1:9*)
 - Encourage fruit-bearing (*1Thes. 5:12-15*)
 - Looking to the future (helping others to develop) (*2Tim. 2:2*)
 - Guiding the flock (and being an example, *1Pet. 5:3*)
 - Recovering the fallen (*Gal. 6:1; James 5:14-15*)
- iii) Their calling—how does one become an overseer? (*Discuss Tit. 1:5-6; Acts 14:23*) How many?
- b) **Ministers / “Deacons”:** Acts 6:1-6; Rom. 16:1-2; 1Tim. 3:8-13; 1Pet. 4:11
- i) Their appointment, work & examples
- c) **Evangelists:** Acts 13:2-4; 15:36,40; 20:21; 26:16-18
- i) Their calling/commendation: *Acts 13:2-4; 15:40; 26:16-18*
- ii) Their work: *Acts 20:21; 26:18; 15:36*
- d) **Teachers:** Acts 5:42, 18:11; Col. 1:28, 3:16;
- i) Their calling/commendation, work
- e) Others?

Elders: **Saints** on their heart
 Ministers: **Service** on their heart
 Evangelists: **Souls** on their heart
 Teachers: **Scriptures** on their heart

IX. Provision by the Assembly

Readings: Luke 6:38; Acts 4:34-35; 11:27-30; 1Cor. 9:13-14, 16:1-3; 2Cor. 8:1-6; Phil. 4:17-19; 1Tim. 5:9-10,16; 3 John 7

A. Assembly Collections:

1. From whom?
2. When taken?
3. For whom? How is this determined?

X. Principles of the Assembly

A. Other principles not previously discussed may be looked into here, if desired.

B. (If desired) **Baptism:** *Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38,41; 8:36-39; 22:16; Rom. 6:1-11; Gal. 3:27*

1. Not necessary for salvation.
2. When?
3. Immersion vs. Sprinkling; Infants?
4. What should be said when baptizing?
5. What does it signify?

This concludes our study on the local assembly.