

## **Oak Grove Bible Fellowship**

### **What is an Elder?**

- **The primary responsibility of an elder is to serve as a manager and caretaker of the church (1 Tim. 3:5). That involves a number of specific duties. As spiritual overseers of the flock, elders are to determine church policy (Acts 15:22); oversee the church (Acts 20:28); ordain others (1 Tim. 4:14); rule, teach, and preach (1 Tim. 5:17; 1 Thess. 5:12; 1 Tim. 3:2); exhort and refute (Titus 1:9); and act as shepherds, setting an example for all (1 Pet. 5:1-3). Those responsibilities put elders at the core of the New Testament church's work.**

### **Why should a church be Elder led?**

- **This is the only pattern for church leadership given in the New Testament**
- **Paul established a council of Elders in the churches he planted (Acts 14:23, Acts 20:28)**
- **To lead in the context of a team – Doesn't burn out the Leader**
- **Gives the church more than one man's gifts**
- **Provides mutual accountability – No one has absolute power**
- **Weekly / Biweekly Elder Meetings**
- **Quarterly Elder Meetings w/church**