**The Local Church “Expectations vs Responsibilities” - *(sjm 1-12-2025)***

**What are you believing for in 2025?**

 **The Only thing stopping you is your believing system Mark 9:23 *All things are possible to him who believes!***

 **Stretch goals** It's a goal set intentionally high to encourage exceptional performance and innovation.

**\*Hab 2:2** Write the vision, And make *it* **plain** on tablets, That he may **run** who reads it. **3**For the vision *is* yet for **an appointed time**; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie.

 **Run –** hurry with it: *That a Herald may announce or proclaim it!*

 **An Appointed Time:** *An actual date or when you finally rise up in faith and grab it!*

**\*Prov 29:18** Where there is no vision, the people perish *(Have restraint or are restricted)*

**Ecc 3:1** There is a time for everything & a season for **every activity** under the heavens:

 ***Expectancy*** *the Climate for Miracles Brings it into Today*

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**LET’S TALK ABOUT THE LOCAL CHURCH**

 **What’s the Purpose of a Church** *(Ecclesia*)

 **To bring people together to worship, to pray for each other, encouragement, be instructed in the word, receive sacraments, (baptisms, wedding’s, communion, celebration of life) giving’s, and to provide support:**

**Some Scriptural Responsibilities:**

 **1 Cor 14:26** What then shall we say, brothers & sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, a word, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

 **Heb 10:24-25** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love & good deeds, 25not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another & all the more as you see the Day approaching.

 **Acts 2:46** Every day they devoted themselves (being faithful) to meet together in the temple & to breaking bread in their homes.

 **2 Tim 2:15** Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

 **Matt 25** Wisely using your talents **1 Peter 4:10** As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

 **1 Tim 2:1** I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for those in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

 **Eph 4:1** Live your life worthy of the calling you have received **2** be humble, gentle & patient **3** Make every effort to keep unity & peace **4-5** There is One body, One Spirit & One Baptism

 **What are Some Scriptural Expectations & What has Jesus Provided for the Church?:**

 **Eph 4:11** And Jesus gave gifts *(spiritual endowments)* ***to the church*** that were varied. He Himself gave or appointed some as **Apostles**, some as **Prophets,** some as **Evangelists** & some as **Pastors &** **Teachers.**

 **Notice two things: *1) Gave these to the church 2) They are plural***

 **Why?**

 **12**  He did this to fully equip & perfect the saints for works of service, to build up the body of Christ **13**Until we all reach oneness in the faith & in the knowledge of the Son of God, growing spiritually to become a mature believer, reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ, manifesting His spiritual completeness & exercising our spiritual endowments in unity. **14**So that we are no longer children, [spiritually immature], tossed back & forth like ships on a stormy sea & carried about by every wind of shifting doctrine,

 **Apostles –** One who is sent: breaks new ground (establishes a work) Often has boldness & Power

 **Prophets –** Speaks inspired revelations of God(Edification, Exhortation & Comfort of the body of Christ)

 **Evangelists –** Special anointing to talk to & reach people, particularly outside of the church.

 **Pastors –** A Shepard, Leader, Guide, anointing to hold everything together: to Move the Church forward

 **Teachers –** Special insight into the Word & ability to articulate God’s principles to others

**1 Cor 12:27** 27**Now you are the body of Christ, and Each One of you is a part of it.** 28And God has placed in the church first of all **Apostles,** second **Prophets**, thirdly **Teachers*:***  *[THEN INSTEAD OF CONTINUING WITH PASTORS & EVANGELISTS HE SAYS IT SLIGHTLY DIFFERENTLY]* ***Then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.***

 **Instead of importance you could look at it as a progression of time!**

**1 Cor 12:27 AMPC** So God has appointed some in the church *(ECCLESIA)* [for His own use]: first **(or Earlier)** apostles (special messengers); second **(secondly in progression)** prophets (inspired preachers and expounders); **Next** third teachers; **Then [TODAY] wonder-workers; then those with ability to heal the sick; helpers; administrators ; [speakers in] different (unknown) tongues. (A physical tongue or different types of people)** *Mark 7:33 James & Rom 3:13 peoples*

**Rom 12:5 Though many we form One Body and we have Different gifts according to the grace given to us**

 **6** If your gift is **prophesying,** then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7if it is **serving**, then serve; if it is **teaching,** then teach; 8if it is to **encourage**, then give encouragement; if it is **giving**, then give generously; if it is to **lead,** do it diligently; if it is to show **mercy,** do it cheerfully.

 **11** Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

**Further Help for the Church or Body of Christ**

**1 Cor 12:1-11** Paul explaining about the Gifts of the Spirit **(Vs 7) Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (to One,** then continues before each gift **“to another** 8x in NIV**) *Emphasized we do not have them all) It is a Team game!***

**Each person here is very special, A child of God, with gifts or talents given by God. We are told not bury our talents but use them to get a return for the kingdom of God!**

***Matt 16:18 I will build my church & the Gates of hell w/not prevail against it! Says the Church!***