

WELCOME

Our Mission is to . . .

- Connect you to Jesus
- Connect you to His community for discipleship
- Connect you to your mission and purpose in life

We are not here to tell you what to wear, eat, listen to, vote for, or even believe. These are things you must determine for yourself if you want to have real faith. We are here to give you truth, facts, tools and point out that every choice, every belief, and every action you make is tied to an outcome in your life. You can't do life without developing a strong foundation and becoming a person of substance. This is your journey, your discovery, and you will reap the benefit of the work you do.

FHNew - Our mission as a church is to do everything we can to help you grow your faith. If you would like to get to know us a little better or begin or continue your journey of faith, text **FHNew** to **53123** and we will send you a link to a few short videos about Foothills Church, or stop by the **Connection booth in the Atrium.**

You can also fill out a **Connect card** using the QR code on the screen or the actual card on the back of the chair in front of you. If you have a **PRAYER REQUEST**, this is a good place to write it out and place in the ORANGE offering box in the back of the Sanctuary.

FHBaptism - One important step in your faith journey is being baptized. To learn more about baptism, text **FHBaptism** to **53123** and we will send you the teaching on Believers' Baptism.

ONGOING/UPCOMING

- MomCo - [Foothills MomCo - Foothills Church \(churchcenter.com\)](https://churchcenter.com)
- Small Groups - [Foothills Church \(churchcenter.com\)](https://churchcenter.com)
- Serve Day - <https://foothills.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2543284>

INTRODUCTION: ALL IN – Growing Your Faith

We are in a series titled “**All In.**” The point of this series is about **what happens to you spiritually when you are “all in” in your faith.** Do you “lose” yourself? Do you become weird and socially awkward? Or does something else happen in your life . . . something remarkable?

Being “all in” is discussed in the Bible and referred to as “devotion,” meaning being committed to a single purpose in your life. When you are “all in” with Jesus, the **promise** is a strong, vibrant, powerful faith that overcomes the world in which we live and struggle.

I kicked off this series by sharing the basic equation of how we grow strong in the faith. It goes like this:

1. Jesus has a specific will for your life
2. Jesus has a specific will for the church
3. When I understand His will for my life and His will for the church, that is when I grow strong in my faith

Last week, Kent focused on the specific will of Jesus for the Church: Everyone filled with the Spirit.

Today, we are going to dig into how these two important Biblical principles come together and impact the **growth of your faith**.

The best place to see how this works is in the instruction Paul gives to the Ephesians.

Bible Study: Ephesians 4:11-16 (NASB)

1. Jesus appoints leaders in His church

¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, some as pastors and teachers,

- Leaders are not elected, they are appointed by Jesus
 - This means if you want to be a follower of Jesus, you are not at liberty to critique them; your job is to pray and follow
 - If they do a poor job, Jesus will judge them
 - *James 3:1 Do not become teachers in large numbers, my brothers, since you know that we who are teachers will incur a stricter judgment.*
- Leaders have different roles or gifts
 - We often expect our leaders to exhibit one gift -- the one we prefer
 - The modern Christian culture has adopted a belief that they get to decide what type of leader they want to have

2. A leader's job description is to equip you to do ministry

¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ;

- The specific will of Jesus for His church is that leaders coach you to do ministry
- When they do the ministry, they are not in the will of God.

3. When you follow the leaders, you mature

¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of people, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

- The greatest joy in your faith is when you learn how to follow
- Following matures your understanding of how Jesus specifically works in your life
- Following opens you up to discovery
- Following deepens your wisdom

4. This approach keeps us focused on Jesus

¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is, Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

- The greatest progress in faith is when you know Jesus: who He is and what His will for your life actually looks like

CHALLENGE

Main Principle: It is the convergence of what Jesus is doing in you and what He is doing in the world where you mature the most.

It does 2 things in your life:

1. It makes you realize how important you are to God's plan for the people of this world: YOU are the one who is called to ministry
2. It shows you how unimportant you are in God's plan for this world

Following Jesus is not a self-fulfillment path in life. Therefore, invest time in getting to know yourself as a follower of Jesus and what Jesus is doing in this world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What times in your life were you the most fulfilled? Is it when you were focused on yourself or when you were living for something bigger than yourself?
2. What is it about people that we experience more meaning when we live for something bigger than just ourselves?
3. What steps could you take right now to live fully for Jesus and what He is doing in this world?