

"Planted"

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. **Ephesians 2:19 (NLT)** 

Father to the fatherless, defender of widows this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families; He sets the prisoners free and gives them joy. **Psalm 68:5-6 (NLT)** 

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others". **Romans 12:3-5 (NIV)** 

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. **Ephesians 4:11-13 (NLT)** 

Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. Ephesians 4:14-16 (NLT)

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. **Galatians 6:9-10 (NIV)** 

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, 'The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in Him.' Psalm 92:12-15 (NIV)

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I PLANT MYSELF IN HIS HOUSE?

- 1. It gives <u>me</u> a place to <u>belong</u>. (I don't ever have to be lonely again)
- 2. It grows me up.
- 3. It teaches me how to live.
- 4. It helps me to become all that <u>God intends</u> me to be.
- 5. It helps me live, and be apart of, a much bigger life.

**Going deeper on your own.** Pastor Jay said it is "risky" to plant yourself in a church. Do you agree, why or why not? Pastor Jay said he has never grown through comfort and safety, yet only in times of discomfort and risk". In your personal experience would you agree or disagree with that statement? In a presentation, Jossy Chacko states, "Do not let the fear of losing what you have cause you to lose what God has for you". So go ahead, take the risk and plant yourself in God's House.