

We should celebrate when...

Christ's servants are faithful to their calling. (1-2)

"Saints and faithful brethren" speaks to the Colossian Christians' identity as "holy ones" in a global spiritual family. Two of the best ways to determine your spiritual gifts are:

- Be in community with other believers; you will notice what people do, and they will notice it in you.
- Look at what God has been doing in your life since you became a Christian.

Christ's people pray regularly for other churches. (3)

Paul was not just praying for fellow prisoners in his cell, but also for a church he didn't start and had never been to. We should pray for Ridgeline Church (Salt Lake City), Beacon Church (Denver) and Fervent Church (Colorado Springs) As you drive by a church, pray for them. Remember: There is no "BRAVE Church" in heaven.

Christ's gospel is taking root in people. (4-5)

Christ Jesus is the object of our **faith**.

Our love is to be for ALL the saints, including Christians beyond our church.

Our hope is a certainty of a future treasure and reward, especially of Jesus Christ there, welcoming us.

Christ's disciples are bearing fruit and multiplying. (6-7)

The gospel is the same gospel – everywhere you go in all the world.

Much fruit is comparative to what you bore in the past.

Epaphras, no indication of being an apostle, was a faithful servant in preaching and praying for the Colossians (Col 4:12).

Christ's love is evident. (8)

We should have a genuine love for other Christians.

Questions for Discussion:

Do you have a sense of your spiritual gift(s)? If so, what is it (what are they)?

Can others in your group affirm your gifts by what they have observed in you?

Take time as a group to pray together for Ridgeline, Beacon and Fervent churches and their pastors.

What would a church that did *not* have faith, love, and hope be like to be a part of?

What goes into building up a church in faith, love and hope?

Are you able to communicate clearly the gospel with non-Christians?

What would be some important verses you could use in doing so?