

January 8, 2016
Thanking God for the Church
Ted Cunningham

1. When we sang “It Is Well,” was there a particular situation you were thinking of?
2. Read the following introductory verses in the letters to New Testament churches and find the two ideas that are repeated. Mention anything else that stands out to you in these verses from Paul’s letters. (**Paul is thankful for them and he prays for them.**)
Romans 1:8-10
I Corinthians 1:4
Ephesians 1:16
Colossians 1:3-4, 9-10
Philippians 1:3-6
I Thessalonians 1:2-3
3. Ted encouraged us to be grateful for the church and to pray for the church. Name one thing about WHFC you are thankful for and one thing you will pray for.
4. Ted listed ten difficulties the New Testament churches faced. Name as many of them as you can and do we face any of these today? (**National and cultural differences, sexual immorality, abuse of spiritual gifts, false teachers, slanderous accusations against the apostles, opposition to the Gospel, Abandoning the Gospel, lack of discernment, legalism, new believers with lots of questions.**)
5. Ted also said all churches have challenges, struggles, and room for growth. What are struggles and challenges facing the WHFC body of believers?
6. What are some “wins” of the church? OR what’s the best thing that happened in your church in 2016? What do you wish for your church in 2017?
7. Do you feel like you had a “win” in your Christian life in 2016? What was it?
8. How have you grown this year in your knowledge of the Lord?
9. In Philippians 1:4-6, why does Paul pray with **joy**? Is there anything you pray about with joy?
10. What are the five purposes of the church, which we reiterate at the beginning of each year? (**Worship, fellowship, discipleship, serving, evangelism.**) Do you feel weak in one of those areas? What can you do to strengthen yourself in that area this year?