

## How to Show Thanks to God for Your Pastor

# ENCORE Discussion

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1. Why should we express thanks to God for our pastor?
2. What does it mean to “recognize” or “know” our pastor?
3. How can we develop this kind of relationship with our pastor, and have this kind of viewpoint?
4. Read I Thessalonians 5:12— “And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you...” Can we be obedient to what we are commanded in this passage by keeping our distance from our pastor?
5. What are some special spiritual strengths that you’ve observed in pastors?
6. Are you concerned about whether you are a source of joy or grief to your pastor? Why should you be concerned?
7. What do you do when you hear criticisms about your pastor from an individual? What *should* you do?
8. How should you respond if your pastor sins or encourages the church to do so? What should you do if he rejects your biblical appeal?

Guest Speaker Jerry Woychik

## Read: Acts 5

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### Monday

1-4 — Does this passage teach that we should give all we own to the church (v. 4)? We can usually identify a religious cult in that most of them deny the deity of the Holy Spirit. Where in this passage do we have absolute proof that the Holy Spirit is, in truth, God?

### Tuesday

5-11 — How serious is God about hypocrisy and sin within His church/the body of believers at Blair Ridge? Does this passage instill a righteous fear in you? Should it? (It did for those who experienced it!)

### Wednesday

12-16 — What a time it must have been, seeing the apostles perform numerous miracles, “wonders,” and “signs,” from healing critically ill people to releasing others from spiritual bondage. Is the same God ruling in heaven today as He was then? Obviously we live in a different age, where miracles are not needed to authenticate the gospel message, as it was back then; but we do serve the same God. Take a moment and worship Him for Who He has revealed Himself to be.

### Thursday

17-20, 32 — An angel sent by God released the apostles from prison for one express purpose; what was it? How high a priority does God put on this act? And what personal provision does He give us to accomplish it (v. 32)?

### Friday

33-39 — Was Gamaliel's advice Bible-based or opinion-based? i.e., was it objective (based on the facts they all knew about Jesus Christ), or subjective (“arising from, or influenced by, his own thoughts and feelings; not objective or impartial”)? This is important because good advice is not always Biblical advice, though Biblical advice is *always* good advice.

### Saturday

40-42 — How did the apostles suffer for their faith in these verses? How did this persecution affect them? How does it affect *us*?