

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Discover. Pursue. Engage.

→ Spiritual Gifts, Lesson 6 - 1 Corinthians 14

Read the Entire Chapter 14 aloud.

Last week we studied the nature and quality of the spiritual gifts and their purpose in the life of the church. Specifically focusing on the gift of tongues and its purpose and intent within the life of the church. This week we will focus on the gift of prophecy and its relationship to the other gifts as well as what it tells us about the nature of the gifts in the life of the church overall.

What did you apply from last weeks study?

What's one take-away from the message this week?

What are areas where you serve that 'give you life'?

What spiritual gifts do you use when serving in those areas?

The context is placed within two powerful statements at the beginning of Chapter 14.

1. Pursue Love.
2. Desire the Spiritual Gifts.

Why must love precede the pursuit of spiritual gifts?

What can happen when the pursuit of the spiritual gifts precedes love?

Read Chapter 14:3-5

What is the difference between the gift of prophecy and the gift tongues as they are being practiced in the life of the church at Corinth?

Paul offers that a gift used to grow the church is distinct from the gift that grows the individual. How is this applicable to our church today? In your small group? Your personal life?

Using a Bible dictionary, define the spiritual gift of prophecy.

How does Paul describe the gift of prophecy in this chapter?

How is different than other gifts? According to Paul, Why is it more important?

Read Chapter 14:20-25

Here Paul makes two other distinctions. The first distinction is between the mature and immature. In many ways this is a continuation of the first part of the chapter.

How is Paul encouraging the believers to think, live, and act more mature as believers?

As you look back on your spiritual life, how has maturity affected how you think, live, and act?

What are areas where you need to mature as a believer? How will maturing affect how you think, life and act?

The Gospel inherently teaches us something basic about our humanity...it must be transformed and put back into its place. It must be surrendered and restored by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul makes the case that the spiritual gifts are to edify the church. Then our community is compelling to the outside world. To the person who has not yet believed the case is to be made that there is something different, something more whole, about the community of Christ here on earth than any other community.

What does Paul say about the outcome of the person who has yet to believe and their experience in the mature church, the church exercising the gifts properly?

Vs. 25 is this remarkable picture of the Gospel at play in our lives. Take a moment to share with your group when you first understood the gospel. What were those moments like and how did it impact your next several weeks and months?

Read Chapter 14:26-40

In this section of Scripture Paul speaks to the expression of these gifts in the context of the church at Corinth.

According to v. 26, what is the purpose of spiritual gifts?

What are the 3 groups of people instructed to remain silent in verses 28-35?

Paul is making the case that when disruption occurs the parties causing disruption should be silent. Now there are other implications that could be considered, specifically regarding the text about women, but for the purposes of this discussion the point we are studying is why Paul was telling these groups to be silent.

Their silence is encouraged because the purpose of the gift of prophecy is to bring glory to God and build the church.

What are ways that we disrupt the church and the building up of the body of Christ?

What are ways we steal glory from God, in the use of our spiritual gifts?

What would it look like for our spiritual gifts to be used to bring glory to God and to cause others to want to know him more?

Paul strongly encourages the believers to grow in their maturity. What are some areas where you can mature in your spiritual life? What are practical steps you can take in this next week to grow in maturity?



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