



## 1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-32

### Community Group Study Guide Week of August 11, 2019

This week we looked at 1 Corinthians 14:1-32 where Paul gives instructions for the orderly use of Spiritual Gifts in church services. The lack of love in the Corinthians' church had led people to misuse their gifts by drawing attention to themselves, and elevating certain gifts over others for their own glory. Paul encourages the church to "eagerly desire" the spiritual gifts, but more importantly to pursue love and use their gifts to build up one another.

For the Corinthians, the gift they elevated above all the rest was the gift of speaking in tongues. Paul's response is not to "forbid tongues" but to teach the church the proper place and usefulness of this gift. He does this by contrasting the gift of tongues with the gift of prophecy. Working with the definition found in Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology*, Tyler defined **Tongues** as "Speaking prayer or praise in syllables not understood by the speaker." He then defined **Prophecy** as "communicating something that God has spontaneously brought to mind."

Paul argues that the gift of tongues is good, but it is not the greatest of the gifts as the Corinthians had assumed. In fact, he says the one who prophesies is "greater" or more valuable than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone else is there to interpret what is said into the common vernacular. His reasoning is that the one who prophesies builds up the church, but the one who speaks in tongues only benefits themselves. Furthermore, the one who prophesies can convict an unbeliever of their sin and lead them to repentance, while the one who speaks in tongues simply appears to be "out of their mind" to any unbelievers who may be present. Finally, when we speak in tongues we worship with our spirit, which is good, but Paul reminds us we must also worship with our mind.

Paul does not dismiss the gift of tongues, but he does teach us practical ways to use our Spiritual gifts in an orderly fashion that is motivated by love. The most Spirit-filled and Spiritually gifted person to ever live was Jesus Christ, and he used his gifts to glorify His Father, serve others, and lovingly speak truth to people's hearts in ways that would lead them to repentance and help them grow in Spiritual maturity. Ultimately, God's gifts are less like toys and more like tools. He wants us to enjoy them not by seeking our own pleasure, but seeking Him as we selflessly and sacrificially work to build up the local Church in following Christ.

### DISCUSSION GOALS

#### Head

To understand the purpose and proper use of Spiritual Gifts.

#### Heart

To pursue love and eagerly desires the spiritual gifts.

#### Hands

To use our gifts to build up others in the church and point people to Christ.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Membership or Baptism:

Contact [admin@mosaicboston.com](mailto:admin@mosaicboston.com) to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

#### Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact [andy@mosaicboston.com](mailto:andy@mosaicboston.com).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

---

### **Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-32**

- How does the backdrop of 1 Corinthians 13 help us better understand this chapter as Paul gives us instructions for orderly worship?
- What stands out to you about the way Paul compares and contrasts the gift of tongues with the gift of prophecy?
- Look at verses 5, 18, and 19. What instruction does this give to those who have the gift of tongues, and those who don't? What do you find most challenging or encouraging about these verses?
- Look at verse 12. Why might we see more manifestations of the Spirit if we "strive to excel" at building up the local church, rather than merely striving for our own personal growth? Does this resonate with your own experience of seeing the Holy Spirit at work?
- Can you think of any specific examples where you've seen the Spirit work through you or someone else to "build up, encourage, or console" another brother or sister in Christ?
- Can you think of any specific examples where you've seen the Spirit work through you or someone else to bring conviction to an unbeliever that leads them to repent and worship Jesus?
- It is tempting to think of Spiritual gifts as things to wield from a platform of influence. At times that is the case, but most often these gifts are to be used in everyday community through our personal relationships. How should that understanding shape the way with think about using our gifts?
- Are you more naturally drawn to worship God with your mind or your spirit? Why is it vital to strive for both? Why is one always incomplete without the other?