



THE CITY
CHURCH

Small Group Notes

Sermon: 13 November 2022

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SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 14:1-5, 13:1-13, 12:4-11

OVERVIEW

The Apostle Paul challenged the church in Corinth in many ways.

One of these challenges was 'Hyper-Spirituality', where they abused the spiritual gifts. They made a hierarchy amongst the gifts, creating chaos in their gathered meetings and missional obstacles.

So Paul's answer to this problem is threefold:

1. Pursue Love

When approaching the topic of spiritual gifts, we must ensure we begin with a foundation of love. These are gifts given to us from a loving Father through the Spirit. He is generous and knows what's best for us, so we can trust Him. But also we pursue and exercise our gifts with a focus on loving God & loving others.

2. Earnestly desire the spiritual gifts

We are called to want the gifts, to see them as essential to our personal and corporate walks with Christ. To earnestly desire them means to have our eyes fixed on God. These gifts are for His glory and fame, not our own. We also seek them for the good of others. There are many gifts, all equal value and worth that come from the one Spirit. And all for the common good.

3. Especially that you may prophecy

Paul draws our attention to prophecy. The gift of hearing and sharing God's heart is something we should pursue in particular. Prophecy is for the building up of the church, and for the building up, encouragement and consoling of others. It is also for unbelievers, bringing conviction

of sin and the disclosing of the secrets of their hearts. Paul contrasts tongues and prophecy. Paul encourages all to prophesy, showing that tongues are about 'me to God', whereas prophecy is 'me to others'.

QUESTIONS

1. Work through the spiritual gifts booklet and consider both what your basic gifts are and what spiritual gifts God has given you.
2. What challenges do you face in stepping out in spiritual gifts?
3. How do you hear God?

Spend some time praying for one another and prophesying over one another.