

the first letter to the CORINTHIANS

The Gospel shaped community

What is the series about?

We'll be working our way through the 1st Letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. This series will cover what a Gospel shaped community looks like in many areas of life including relationships, sex, food, the gathered church, and the resurrection.

Listen to the audio

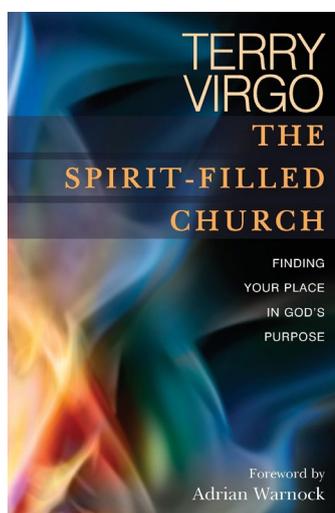
On the King's Norwich app or at: kingsnorwich.com/1corinthians

Check out the blog

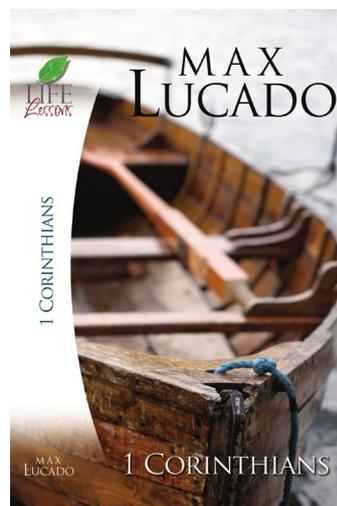
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Recommended Reading

The Spirit Filled Church
Terry Virgo



Life Lessons: 1 Corinthians
Max Lucado



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Title: Wide open doors

Speaker: Marcus Tutt (C.C. & M.C.) Bible Ref: 1 Cor 16:5-24 (focus on verse 9)

Overview

A wide door: This speaks of opportunities Paul had in Ephesus to share with people the good news about Jesus. Doors can open through love (*1 Cor 16:14*), prayer (*Col 4:3*), prophecy/visions (*Acts 18:9-10; 16:9*) but ultimately its only when we share the gospel that we find out how open they are.

Effective working: speaks of a wonderful effectiveness in sharing the gospel. When wide doors open there is lots of work to be done (*Acts 19:9*), lots of repenting (*Acts 19:19*), lots of turning from idols to Jesus (*Acts 19:26*) and lots of unusual miracles (*Acts 19:11-12*). We work effectively by faith in God's working (*1 Cor 15:10; 3:6; 2 Cor 1:11*), being in team (*2 Cor 2:12; 1 Cor 16:19b*), and building the church (*1 Cor 16:19a*).

There are many adversaries: (*Acts 19:9; 19:23-34; 9:29; 13:6-8; 13:48-52; 14:1-7 etc*). We persevere under such fire by not being surprised at it (*John 15:20; Matt 16:24*), having a big view of God (*2 Cor 1:8-10*), and finding joy in Jesus (*Acts 13:48-52, Acts 16:25*).

Questions to help your group understand the truth preached

On Sundays we hear God's word preached and as we listen well we trust that God is changing us in the moment. Use these questions to further explore the truth that was taught.

1. What doors were opening to Paul?
2. How did he go through them?
3. What opposition did he face?

Questions to help your group apply the truth preached

When applied, God's Word will enable us to love God and to love others. These questions will help your group apply the truth understood in a way that leads to transformed lives.

1. How can we "draw doors" of opportunity to share the gospel?
2. How can we work effectively in going through these doors?
3. How can we keep our nerve under fire when we come under attack?

Questions to help your group dig deeper

Having understood the truth preached, and explored how it can be applied to your lives why not dig a little deeper and ask your group the following questions:

1. Does God ever shut doors to the spread of the Gospel? If so why?
2. Can God work through us even when we work ineffectively or with mixed motives etc?
3. Does the Church sometimes experience times of peace with little or no opposition to the spread of the Gospel?