

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

DISCUSSION GUIDES

EVERY MONDAY

Discussion Guide Sunday Sermon 4.26.26



Spiritual Gifts: What You Must Know

This guide is designed to help your family or group take what was taught on Sunday and move from simply hearing the information to applying it in ways that build up and encourage one another. Feel free to adjust the depth and number of questions based on your time and the size of your group.

Access the Sermon on the Website & App:

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OLIVET
BAPTIST CHURCH

How to Access the OBC App?

- 1 Open your App Store
- 2 Search "Olivet Baptist"
- 3 Download the App
- 4 Open & Create an Account
- 5 Access all of our resources!

The smartphone screen shows the app interface with the following content:
- Top: 9:28 AM, OBC logo, search, share, and refresh icons.
- Main Content: A church building image with the text "Sunday Mornings" and "with us, that's how we're growing together".
- Below: A "PODCAST FEEDBACK FORM" icon with a microphone and headphones.
- Bottom: A red navigation bar with icons for Home, Search, Live, Podcasts, and Profile.

Opening Prayer

Pray that God would grow our love for Him and for one another in our body to where we are known as a body who is loving above all other things.

Sermon Summary

This week's message focused on Paul's instructions to the Corinthian church about spiritual gifts and love. The Corinthians were gifted and busy, but they were using their gifts for self-promotion rather than to edify the body. Paul reminds them (and us) that without love as our motive, even the greatest spiritual gifts are worthless. True biblical love (agape) is not a feeling—it's a selfless, sacrificial, unconditional action that seeks the highest good of others.

Discussion Questions

1. Understanding the Order of Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:28-31)

- Why do you think Paul lists the spiritual gifts in a specific order, with tongues coming last?
- The Scriptures challenge us to "earnestly desire the best gifts." Have you ever prayed for God to gift you in ways that would benefit others rather than yourself? Why or why not?
- How does our culture's obsession with flashy, visible gifts compare to what Paul emphasizes here?

2. The Motive Behind the Gifts (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

- Paul says you can have amazing gifts, great faith, and do good deeds, but without love, "it profits me nothing." How does this challenge our understanding of spiritual success?
- The sermon stated: "Love is the proof that someone is born again." How does this sit with you? What are the implications?
- In what areas of your life might you be serving, speaking, or giving without the right motive of love?

3. What Love Is and Isn't (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Read through the characteristics of love in verses 4-7.

- Which characteristic of love do you find most challenging personally? (Examples: not keeping a record of wrongs, not being easily provoked, being patient)
- The sermon defined agape love as "a selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional action that seeks the highest good of others." How is this different from how our culture defines love?
- Discuss the statement: "Agape love is not a feeling; it's a choice." How does this change the way we approach difficult relationships?

4. What Is Eternal (1 Corinthians 13:8-13)

- Why is love the greatest of faith, hope, and love?
 - How does knowing that spiritual gifts are temporary but love is eternal change how we prioritize our time and energy?
 - What does it look like practically to invest in what is eternal rather than what is temporary?
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Key Takeaways

1. **The Order Matters:** Not all spiritual gifts edify the body equally. We should desire gifts that build up others, not just ones that make us look spiritual.
 2. **Motive Is Everything:** You can have impressive gifts, knowledge, faith, and good deeds, but without love, they mean nothing.
 3. **Love Is Action, Not Emotion:** Biblical agape love is a selfless, sacrificial choice—not just a feeling.
 4. **Love Is Eternal:** Spiritual gifts will pass away, but love never fails. Invest in what lasts.
 5. **We Must Be Known By Our Love:** A church can be known for many things, but it should be known first and foremost for loving God and loving one another.
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Personal Reflection:

- Go through 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and honestly assess yourself against each characteristic of love. Where do you need God's help to grow?

Relational Action:

- Reach out to someone in the church body you don't know well and get to know them spiritually. Ask about their story, how they came to faith, or how you can pray for them.

Motive Check:

- Before you serve, give advice, or use your gifts this week, pause and ask: "Am I doing this out of love, or am I doing this for recognition, to feel good about myself, or to prove something?"

Forgiveness Step:

- Is there someone you're holding a grudge against? Remember: "love keeps no record of wrongs." Take a step toward reconciliation or releasing that grudge this week.
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Closing Reflection Questions

- How would our church be different if we were truly known by our love for God and one another?
 - What is one specific way you can demonstrate sacrificial love to someone this week, even if it costs you something (time, comfort, convenience)?
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Closing Prayer

Pray together as a group:

- For God to reveal areas where we lack genuine love
- For the Holy Spirit to empower us to love sacrificially
- For our church to be known by our love for God and each other
- For anyone in the group who may be uncertain about their relationship with God