

1 Corinthians 14:1-19 Study Guide

Small Group Guide: Understanding Spiritual Gifts and Love

Key Takeaways:

1. Love is the highest priority for believers, even above spiritual gifts.
2. Speaking in tongues is communication from man to God, while prophecy is communication from God to man through a person.
3. In church settings, gifts that edify the whole body (like prophecy) are more beneficial than personal gifts (like tongues).
4. The proper use of spiritual gifts should always be for building up the church, not for personal glory.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Paul prioritize love in relation to spiritual gifts? Why do you think this is important?
2. What is the difference between speaking in tongues and prophecy according to the sermon? How does this impact their use in church settings?
3. Pastor Jerry mentioned that "we can experience God's love and we can extend God's love without having to be a Bible scholar." How does this statement encourage you in your faith journey?
4. The sermon emphasized that spiritual gifts are tools, not goals. How might this perspective change the way we view and pursue spiritual gifts?
5. How can we ensure that our use of spiritual gifts is focused on edifying others rather than drawing attention to ourselves?
6. Pastor Jerry mentioned Charlie Kirk's passing and other recent tragedies. How can we as believers respond to difficult events in a way that demonstrates God's love?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, focus on pursuing love as your highest priority. Keep a journal of ways you intentionally showed love to others.
2. Reflect on your own spiritual gifts. How can you use them to build up the church body rather than for personal edification?
3. Practice active listening when others are sharing their struggles or grief. Remember the importance of comforting others before trying to solve their problems.
4. If you're unfamiliar with or uncomfortable about certain spiritual gifts, commit to studying Scripture and reliable resources (like the recommended book "Charisma vs. Charismania" by Chuck Smith) to gain a better understanding.
5. In your daily prayers this week, ask God to help you grow in love and to use your gifts in a way that honors Him and benefits others.

Scripture to Meditate On:

"Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy." - 1 Corinthians 14:1

Closing Prayer:

Lord, help us to prioritize love above all else. Guide us in using our spiritual gifts to build up the church and glorify You. May we be channels of Your love and grace to a world in need. In Jesus' name, Amen.