

# RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Community Group Discussion Guide – The Kingdom Week #6

Kingdom Gifts / October 4, 2020 / Pastor Paul Taylor



### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Icebreaker Questions: What's a favorite gift that you've received? What's a favorite gift that you've given? In general, do you experience greater joy when receiving gifts or giving gifts?
2. In a church the size of Rivers Crossing, people are likely to hold differing views and have had different experiences related to the spiritual gifts. Use the following set of questions to better understand the backgrounds with spiritual gifts of your group members.
  - a) On a scale of 1-10, where one is the least and ten is the most, how comfortable do you feel discussing the topic of spiritual gifts? Related to that, how much experience do you have learning about, operating with, and even asking God for spiritual gifts?
  - b) Certain spiritual gifts – namely speaking in tongues and prophecy – generate the biggest differences in Biblical interpretation. Regarding these gifts, there are four primary theological positions:

Cessationist	Charismatic	Charismaniac	Pentecostal
Supernatural gifts (i.e. tongues and prophecy) functioned only in the early church and are not to be practiced today.	Supernatural gifts are given to every generation and should be practiced today according to the limits of Scripture.	Supernatural gifts are given to every generation. Contemporary revelations are, in effect, equal to Scripture.	Essentially the same as the Charismaniac position, but only Christians who speak in tongues have the Holy Spirit.

Discuss your experience with any of the positions mentioned above. As a reference point, the official theological position of the Rivers Crossing elders is a charismatic view.

### DIVING DEEPER

3. The Bible records three different lists of spiritual gifts. Read through two of these lists – 1 Corinthians 12:1,4-11 and Romans 12:3-8. As you study, identify the following – the spiritual gifts, the Giver of the gifts, the purpose of the gifts, and the availability of the gifts. We've put them in **bold font** to help.

**1 Corinthians 12:1,4-11 (ESV)** – <sup>1</sup>Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed... <sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same **Spirit**; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of service, but the same **Lord**; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same **God who empowers them all in everyone**. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good**. <sup>8</sup>For to one is given **through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom**, and to another the **utterance of knowledge** according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of **miracles**, to another **prophecy**, to another **the ability to distinguish between spirits**, to another **various kinds of tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**. <sup>11</sup>All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

**Romans 12:3-8 (ESV)** – <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that **God has assigned**. <sup>4</sup>For as in **one body we have many members**, and the **members do not all**

have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup>Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup>if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;<sup>8</sup>the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

#### 4. Community Group Activity | Spiritual Gifts Assessment

There is no perfect assessment to identify a person's spiritual gifts. With that said, we hope that taking a spiritual gifts test and discussing the results with others will grow your awareness and desire to pray for spiritual gifts. Below are two tests that Rivers Crossing recommends:

##### 1) SpiritualGiftsTest.com – Spiritual Gifts Test

This test pulls from the full list of spiritual gifts found in the Bible. It can be completed electronically with internet access, but a free account needs to be set up before taking the test. Total time to set up the account and take the test electronically is about 20 minutes. The test is also available to be printed and taken on paper (see link below). Test takers have their top three spiritual gifts identified and defined and then a ranking is provided for the remaining gifts.

Electronic Test Link: <https://spiritualgiftstest.com/spiritual-gifts-test-landing/>

[Printable Paper Test](#) [click to view, download, and print]

[Spiritual Gifts Definitions and Descriptions](#) [click to view, download, and print]

##### 2) Gateway Church – Spiritual Gifts Survey

Gateway's survey focuses on the spiritual gifts listed in Romans 12:3-8 – prophecy, serving, teaching, encouragement, giving, leading (i.e. administration), and mercy (i.e. kindness). For an understanding of this limited focus, read Gateway's explanation by clicking [HERE](#). The survey can be completed electronically with internet access and should take no more than 15 minutes. Survey takers are provided a primary gift, partner gift, and then a ranking of how they scored on the remaining gifts.

Survey Link: <https://spiritualgifts.gatewaypeople.com/instructions>

Once you've completed a spiritual gifts test, discuss your results with the group:

- Which assessment did you take and what were your top spiritual gifts?
- Did you learn anything new about how God has empowered you?
- What questions, if any, do you have about your results?
- What might be a good next step for you when it comes to spiritual gifts?

## TAKING IT HOME

#### 5. Prayer Exercise | Spiritual Gifts Activation

Pastor Paul and Josh Pocock closed Sunday's service by praying and asking for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be released in the lives of our church members. As you close out your group, we encourage you to pray for one another in this same manner. Below are areas with spiritual gifts that you can pray for:

- 1) Greater use of spiritual gifts that individuals are already aware they've been given by God
- 2) God to release new spiritual gifts for the benefit of building His Kingdom. If any one of your group members desires a new spiritual gift, this would be a great opportunity to pray for that.
- 3) Deeper understanding and lessening of any fear or anxiety related to spiritual gifts
- 4) That the increased use of spiritual gifts would bring increased unity to the body of Christ

1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV) – Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts...

**2 Timothy 1:6-7 (ESV)** – <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup>for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

**1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)** – God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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## RIVERS CROSSING – THINGS TO KNOW

1. Additional Study – For anyone looking to dive deeper into spiritual gifts, especially those of tongues and prophecy, we recommend starting with an earlier Rivers Crossing sermon series called [Gifted](#). The entirety of that series is available on the Rivers Crossing website in the On Demand tab under sermons.
2. 2021 Discipleship School. Discipleship School is a one-year program that helps Christians from all backgrounds become fully engaged followers of Christ. The school helps students learn to hear God's voice clearly, experience a full and free life, develop intimacy with God, develop Christlike living, and understand their spiritual gifting. For more information, or to register for Discipleship School, click on the link below. <https://riverscrossing.com/discipleship-school/>
3. Volunteer Opportunity – Cleaning Team. As we continue regathering as a church, we need your help to maintain our buildings and ensure their cleanliness for all who attend. Our Cleaning Team is looking for volunteers to serve on Sunday mornings. If you're interested, reach out via the link below. <https://riverscrossing.wufoo.com/forms/z1rnyqjl03kz5jz/>