



the spiritual gifts

Small Group Guide: **The Spiritual Gifts, Week 1**

Key Takeaways:

1. Spiritual gifts, as listed in 1 Corinthians 12:7-10, are still active and operational in the church today.
2. The phrase "that which is perfect" in 1 Corinthians 13:10 refers to the second coming of Christ, not the completion of the Bible.
3. Spiritual gifts are temporary and will cease when Christ returns, but love is eternal.
4. Operating in spiritual gifts is not necessarily a sign of spiritual maturity.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding that spiritual gifts are still active today change your perspective on their role in the church?
2. Discuss the analogy Paul uses in 1 Corinthians 13:11-12 comparing spiritual gifts to childhood and adulthood. How

does this help you understand the purpose and limitations of spiritual gifts?

3. Pastor Allen mentions that the Corinthians were placing a higher priority on spiritual gifts than on Christian character. How can we ensure we maintain the right balance between developing our character and exercising spiritual gifts?

4. How does the knowledge that spiritual gifts will cease when Christ returns impact how we view and use them now?

5. Reflect on the statement "Love never fails" (1 Cor 13:8). How should this shape our priorities in the Christian life?

Practical Application:

1. This week, intentionally focus on growing in love rather than seeking spectacular spiritual experiences.

2. If you've been skeptical about spiritual gifts, prayerfully consider opening yourself to how God might want to use them in your life and in the church.

3. Study 1 Corinthians 12-14 this week to gain a fuller understanding of spiritual gifts and their proper use in the church.

4. Reflect on how you can use any spiritual gifts you may have to build up others in love, rather than for personal recognition.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit and the spiritual gifts you give to your church. Help us to use these gifts wisely and in love, always remembering that they are temporary tools to build up your body until Christ returns. Grow in us a deeper love for you and for others that will last for eternity. Amen.