

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

## "BUILDING AND BENEFITTING" | 1 COR 14: 1-19 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

### WARM-UP QUESTION:

What makes a church service impactful?

### *"Building Up the Church" 1 Corinthians 14: 1-5*

The gift of prophecy, which is sharing a specific message God brings to mind for specific people or situations, is important for church because it builds up the people. **How does that impact your view of church? What should change in the way you approach church?**

Prophecy should produce upbuilding/edification, encouragement, conviction, and consolation. **What are examples of messages producing these results in people today? What gets in the way of people sharing or receiving prophecy?**

### *"Benefitting the Church" 1 Corinthians 14: 6-19*

The Corinthians were eager for gifts of the Spirit, and so Paul reminds them to pursue and use gifts that benefit the church and not just themselves. **How can people be self-centered in their approach to church? How can people be focused on others in their approach to church?**

### REFLECTION QUESTION:

God gives gifts for people to grow in their knowledge and love of Him and others. Some are better used in private, and some are better used in public. God wants people to both be blessed and to bless others as they participate in church. **What has been your focus when you come to church? How can you use your gifts to bless others in church? Ask God to show you ways you can participate in building up your church.**

## Building & Benefiting

### I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those **online** and in the *Fellowship Hall*.
- B. **Slide1a Fellowship: 15 min** after service. Over the course of this year we are focusing on **Fellowship**. As a reminder, we define fellowship as, **Slide1b** *The common life shared among disciples of Jesus in which we reflect our relational God, leading to a deeper connection with God and with each other through loving, caring, and worshiping together. For the next month we are going to do a Fellowship Challenge* where we *focus on developing deeper connections with God and with each other*. I am challenging each of you to head out to the courtyard, **grab** some water or coffee, **and spend 15 minutes loving and caring for each other**. It will allow us all to *get to know each other more, share our lives a little bit, and pray with each other*.
- C. **\*Fit Out Catalog** - \$4,133 came in. *Keep shopping!* [QR for App or Web, or Catalog]
- D. **Slide2** During summer we are **changing** our **Wed night service times** (including Wed night refresh **and** our summer fellowship nights) to **6:30pm**. This starts **not this Wed, but the following (June 5th)**, when I start our new series: **Internal Focus: Approaching God through Prayer**. [Vertical - **Internal** - Horizontal]
- E. **Slide3 This Wed Night Service:** Join me for our **Wed Refresh**. **Guy Leibovitz**, my guide from Israel will be here. **Guy** was in the Special Forces IDF. *Many of you have traveled with me to Israel and have met Guy*. He will be sharing **his account** of what's been happening in Israel. [Gaza 24mi long (Tem, Mur, W, L.E.). But the tunnels under it 300-350 miles long]
- F. **Slide4 Office Closed:** tomorrow in observance of *Memorial Day*.
- G. **Prayer:** Lord, we pray for *Military Families who have lost Loved Ones. We weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn*. **Comfort** these **moms and dads, children and spouses** as only **You** can. You have collected all their tears in a bottle.
1. Help them feel Your **strong presence**, see Your **tender hand** all around them **and hear** Your **voice** directing them in these dark circumstances. **Draw them**

daily to Your Word to process their pain and grieve with hope. Bind up their wounds and heal their broken hearts.

## II. Slide5 Intro: Building & Benefiting

- A. I think as we talk about *gifts of the Spirit* we should simply **be 3 things**: **Earnest** (vs.1 *earnestly desire the sp gifts*), **Content** (you don't get all of them), **Discerning** (not blindly accepting every *alleged manifestation* of the Sp. *Test everything*).
- B. Remember, Paul is not writing *a definitive guide* for *gifts*, but *a corrective one*.
1. **Gifts** are not to be *paraded about*, but to **build up** the body.
- C. Let's remember that Paul is specifically concerned with *the order* of the gifts **in the church**, rather than used *privately*.
1. The word **church** pops up **9 x's** in this chapter (4,5,12,19,23,28,33,34,35).
- D. Paul deals with the **2 major objectives** for the church:
1. **The building up of the believers** (12). **The conversion of the unsaved** (25).
    - a) This is still the 2-fold purpose of the church. *CM let's not forget it.*
    - b) This chapter also shows what we should find when we go to church.
- E. **Slide6** *A worship service should lift up the Lord, and build up the saints, not puff up the participants!* Warren Wiersbe, *With The Word*, pg.753.
- F. **Outline: Building Up The Church and Benefiting The Church.**

## III. Slide7 BUILDING UP THE CHURCH (1-5) READ [build up 4 x's]

- A. **Purse love** - **Note**: this chapter was set up by, *I show you a still more excellent way/love* (12:31). **Then** we had all of ch.13/*love*. **And now** 14:1 reminds us to *pursue love* (to hunt, w/a habitual action).
1. (NLT) *Let love be your highest goal. or, (msg) Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it - because it does.*
- B. **Slide8a** Let's define our **2 main topics** being compared:
1. **Tongues** - directly speaking to God in prayer and praise (& thanksgiving).

a) **Language** is an agreement between people that certain sounds have certain meanings.

b) *Speaking in tongues is Prayer or Praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker.* Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

(1) **Prayer** (14) - [note, it is **to God** in vs.2]

(2) **Praise** (15) - **also in** Acts 10:46 [Pete/Cornelius/gentiles saved] **For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.**

c) Tongues add a rich dimension to your Prayer life.

d) *It is a gift whereby a person might be assisted in their worship of God, or in their communicating with God.* Chuck Smith

2. **Slide8b Prophecy** - a person who shares a word that God brings to mind, that serves to **build up, encourage, console, or teach** a believer.

a) It can also convict an unbeliever of sin, so the unbeliever recognizes the presence of God in the midst of a gathering and comes to faith in Jesus.

b) **But** this gift of prophecy is never on the level of Holy Scripture **and must always be tested.** This is **not** equivalent to OT prophets who gave a **thus saith the Lord** (directly from God).

(1) **So the prophet came and ministered the Word, until the Word came to minister prophecy.** Chuck Swindoll

c) **It seems directed to concrete situations.** Giving practical guidance in particular situations.

d) **Some believe it's the act of preaching.** I believe it can happen in preaching, when someone gives **a concrete practical application** to your situation, **but** it's **not limited to** preaching, **and not the same thing as** preaching.

e) It doesn't have to mean **foretelling** the future, **but** it is the **speaking forth** of the mind and counsel of God, **or** the will and message of God.

C. **Slide9** (3) Here's what **prophecy** produces & this should be the **3 arrow aim** of **all preaching**:

1. **Aim for Upbuilding** *construction* – to build up or increase a persons knowledge of Christian truth, **and** their ability to live the Christian life.
2. **Aim for Encouragement** – to lift another’s spirit.
  - a) In *every group* there are those who need to be encouraged.
  - b) In preaching, “*you may humble a man through showing him his sin, but it is a failure unless it ends by pointing him to the grace of God that can enable him to conquer it.*” William Barclay
3. **Aim for Consolation** – (a synonym of the previous word). To encourage one who is *depressed or in grief*. The act of giving relief in affliction. It’s comfort & consolation with a great degree of tenderness. [counselors]
  - a) Have you ever received a timely word for a believer? If you get one, **share it** with them. **Don't worry about what category to put it in** (labeling is unimportant). **And** you don’t have to say *God said!* - I think every believer needs to aim for these 3.

D. So don't minimize prophecy, **but** don't overemphasize it either.

1. We have a sure word in Scripture. It's authoritative, it has final say. **It is sufficient for salvation and godliness**. We have something that Corinthians didn't, the **whole** of scripture.

E. (4a) **Tongues** are for *self edification not church edification*. This **does not** make them **selfish**, because talking to God is not selfish. (eg. there is public prayer meetings **and** private prayer meetings. *Private prayer meetings are not selfish*)<sup>eg.Jn.17</sup>

F. Eg. If you like **walking and praying** that’s great, **but** when we come together to worship, **and** you get up and start walking around in the sanctuary during a service, that’s going to be *distracting*.

1. Commit to **not** worship God, **not** pray to God, and **not** approach God, in a way that is *distracting, is annoying, or is self-exalting*.

2. Now there is a balance to this. It doesn't mean you can't raise your hands unless everyone else is. **But whatever we do let's focus attention on God no on self.**

G. (5) **Interprets** - How would you be edified by somebody *interpreting tongues*? Well just like when we read David's prayers in the Psalms. We're **built up and edified** by him *talking to God, praising God, thanking God*. [these tongues need interpreting so diff than Acts 2]

H. I value my intellect and my understanding. Intelligible, knowledgeable.

#### IV. Slide10 **BENEFITTING THE CHURCH (6-19) READ**

A. (6) **How will I benefit you** - the rt question *when we come together*.

1. Don't come **to be seen**, **and** don't come as **consumers**. **We are participants not observers**. Don't come to church like you're coming to the movies. **Come to contribute**.

B. **Revelation** - information received. **Knowledge** - information we possess.

**Prophecy** - communicating a Word. **Teaching** - communicating knowledge.

1. You need **clarity, intelligibility**, for **change** to happen. [Illustrated w/**instruments** vs.7-9]

C. **Slide11 3 Analogies from ... (7-9)**

1. **The Music world**. if notes are not played **w/tone/pitch/time** they're only noises

a) **Eg.** our **Cockatiel Eli** *RIP*, trying to repeat **Jesus loves me** whistle.

2. **The Military world**. if the bugler just plays random notes, the troops wouldn't know to **retreat** or **advance**. [even if he whips out some **Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass**, they still wont know what to do]

3. **The Daily world**. a language must be clear and distinct for the message to be understood.

D. **Slide12a (12)** Here Paul steers their zeal in the right direction. **Don't squash zeal, steer it!**

E. (13-19) **He prioritizes this gift of prophecy** because it's *understandable, intelligible*.

1. The Bible is not a magic book that we rub and something happens. **No**, we need to understand it.
  2. **Slide12b** This is **why** the Protestant Reformation happened. The Gospel got into the language of the people, and they could understand it. **The gospel transformed the whole region.** William Tyndale, who translated the Bible into English, longed for *the plowboy to understand the Scriptures, more than the corrupt religious leaders.* [Woodcut, from Foxe's Book of Martyrs]
    - a) Before they they strangled and burnt him at the stake for that, in the middle of the city [Vilvoorde, Belgium]. He died saying, **Slide12c** “*Lord, open the King of England’s eyes.*” That’s how important clarity is. That people could understand the gospel.
      - (1) When I finish preaching, I want it to be **clear, & memorable.**
- F. (14) **My spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful** - *This is the ability to express ourselves to God w/o funneling our feelings through our intellect.*
1. Sometimes it seems, **words can’t express exactly what we feel.**
  2. I’m sure you’ve come to a place where your **feelings** are greater than your **capacity to express them?**
- G. (**Re-read vs.18,19**) **In vs.18** (& vs.5) Paul places the importance on **Tongues**. **In vs.19** (& vs.1) Paul places the importance on **Prophecy**.
1. It’s not about **prophecy good, tongues bad**. He said **prophecy** is better in our public life. **Tongues** is better in our private life (unless interpret). **It’s a matter of context and setting.**
- H. **Slide13** 10,000 verses **5**. *Read vs.19.*
- I. **Slide14a** 10,000 words in a tongue – we are not to come to display our spirituality.
- J. **But wait only 5 words? Yep, 5 would be enough!**
1. *For your sin, Christ died.*
  2. *Christ lived, died, buried, risen.*
  3. **Jonah did it in 5 words.** *Salvation belongs to the Lord!* **2:9** (actually 2 in Hebrew)
  4. *Creation. Fall. Redemption. Restoration.*

5. *God built it. We broke it. Jesus Fixed it.* (ok, that's more than 5 but you get the picture)

K. Slide14b Remember, *A worship service should lift up the Lord and build up the saints, not puff up the participants.*

L. Prayer: Lord, *where can we go?* You have the Words of eternal life.

M. Keywords: Tongues, Prophecy.