

Spiritual Gifts & the Church

I Corinthians 14 | Week Ten | Participant Guide

Preparing for the Session

Read: I Corinthians 14:1-40

Memorize: *“Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.”*- I Cor. 14:20

Looking at the Text

14:1-5

1. Paul reminds the Corinthians to “pursue love” in relation to all they do, then he compares the gifts of prophecy and tongues. Why does he say prophecy is more desirable?

14:6-25

2. Paul is concerned that tongues are being spoken in ways that are not building up the church, leading to greater understanding, or serving a broader purpose. How does this passage relate to church services today? Is there any application of these insights to your academic life and pursuits?

3. Verse 20 offers profound insights and advice. What does it tell you about the role of the mind in your daily life? About maturity? About evil?

14:26-40

4. Verse 26 says, “Let all things be done for building up,” but the way the Corinthians were holding their services was disorderly. What steps can you take in your life to build up others? What can you do to bring more order where there is disorder?

5. In verse 33 we read, “For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.” What sorts of Christian behavior today might give people the impression that God is associated with confusion? What can Christians do to overcome these misconceptions?

6. The reading concludes with these words: “But all things should be done decently and in order.” Although the passage is about church services, how would the advice Paul gives apply to your life outside of church—for instance, academically, in your work, or in your relationships?

- 1 | The Problem with Knowledge
- 2 | Wisdom of Man & Power of God
- 3 | Servanthood & Stewardship
- 4 | Sex, Holiness, and Worship
- 5 | Singleness, Marriage, & Calling
- 6 | Knowledge, Idolatry, & Surrender
- 7 | The Anatomy of an Idol
- 8 | All in the Family
- 9 | It’s All About Love
- 10 | Spiritual Gifts & The Church
- 11 | The Resurrection & The End

“With the principles explained in chapters 12 and 13, Paul moved on to apply them to church gatherings. Apparently these assemblies had become a bedlam. Brothers and sisters were shouting out in tongues at the same time; prophecy was discounted, and the prophet often interrupted; and apparently a group of women had become very aggressive about their gift of tongues. Paul told the church to correct these abuses. The principles he laid down are fascinating. First, all believers could contribute ... Second, order must be maintained. There were rules to follow. Anyone claiming to have been ‘swept away’ by the Spirit so he or she couldn’t help interrupting was *not* acting by the Spirit.”

The Teacher’s Commentary