

HOLY SPIRIT

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S EMPOWERING PRESENCE PART IV: GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Reading Assignment

Have students read 1 Corinthians 12-13.

Intro Discussion:

How has your understanding of the Holy Spirit changed or been clarified the past few meetings?

Have you spend time thinking about what it means that the presence of the living God dwells within you?
How does this have the potential to change our approach to life?

Content:

Who read the reading for today (1 Corinthians 12-14). What are some of the themes and subjects of this passage that stood out to you?

1 Corinthians was written to the church in Corinth. They bragged about being super-spiritual, yet were filled with fighting, divisions, and sexual immorality. They failed to LOVE. Paul both affirms the importance of Spiritual gifts, but explains that it all needs to be grounded in LOVE (1 Corinthians 13). The gifts are not given that we might look cool, they are given for the building up of the church!

Who can be used in the gifts? Those who have the Holy Spirit! He is the one who works in and through us to build up believers.

Here are the gifts listed in 1 Corinthians:

- **Wisdom:** when God gives specific insight into a situation that requires an increased amount of help navigating.
- **Knowledge:** when someone has a certain knowledge (often of someone else) that they would not know naturally.
- **Faith:** an extraordinary amount of belief and trust a person has in God.
- **Healing:** God will use people to heal various diseases and ailments.
- **Miracles:** when people are used to do things that are contrary to nature.
- **Prophecy:** at it's most basic level prophecy is proclaiming God's Word. God can give specific words for a specific group in a specific time, for their encouragement and edification.

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- Distinguishing between spirits: the ability to discern between what is the Spirit of God or when something is a demonic spirit.
- Tongues and interpretation of tongues: this is distinct from the private use of tongues (which we receive when baptized in the Holy Spirit). This is a public gift, where someone speaks in tongues, followed by an interpretation of what was just said, so that people can know what was said and be built up.

Have you ever been used in any of these gifts? Have you seen these gifts used before? What was it like?

Group Exercise:

If there is anyone in the group who needs healing, pray for them.

Spend time praying over each other. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. He may give you a word of knowledge or prophecy to speak. If he does, speak it out in humility and boldness.

Challenge:

What gifts would you like to be used in? Ask God for it! We are to earnestly desire these gifts (1 Corinthians 14:1). Then, look for opportunities to be used in the gifts.