

ENCORE Discoveries

1. We have learned that I Corinthians is about having a healthy church body and worshipping God in a way that pleases Him. We learned last week that the most important area of service in our Christian walk is learning to love others. Now, what two words does Paul begin chapter 14 with to re-emphasize this point?
2. Though the Holy Spirit doles out spiritual gifts, can we pray to be used in greater ways with greater gifts (v. 1)?
3. Go around the room and discuss what your spiritual gift(s) might be. Consider: Do you know yet what your spiritual gift is, and if so, will you ask God to use you and your gifts for His glory?
4. The Corinthians were consumed with the miraculous gift of “tongues.” Not only were they ignoring the “greater” gifts of prophecy and others, but they also may have been practicing the “ecstatic utterances” they once engaged in during heathen rituals. According to verse 12, what reveals whether we are using a gift to honor God or not?
5. This whole chapter emphasizes *edification*, *understanding*, and *order*. How did this set parameters on the use of the gift of tongues in the Corinthian church?
6. Clarity is the essential component of the speaking gifts. Why?
7. As human beings, who or what usually appeals to us in a speaker? List several things. Can you think of historical or biblical examples of people who were exceptional speakers or had a dynamic stage presence but were not God-honoring?
8. Why is discipleship and spiritual maturity important in our use of spiritual gifts (v. 20, 37, 38)?

Theme: Worship with Clarity

Monday

Why is it important for me to continue to grow in Christ? How does this apply to the use of my spiritual gifts in the body of Christ?

Tuesday

Do I have a good grasp of the Word, so as not be “tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine” (Ephesians. 4:13, 14)? If not, what can I do to work on this?

Wednesday

Do I seek to be as simple and clear as possible when sharing my faith with others? Do I boldly, yet with meekness and simplicity, tell others what God is doing in my life? If not, why not?

Thursday

How can I more effectively use my spiritual gift(s)? Is it an issue of *edification*, *understanding*, or *order* that I need to work on? In other words, should I be trying to edify others more (instead of pleasing or drawing attention to myself), making myself more clearly understood (either by studying more, simplifying more, or adhering to the Word more closely), or be more flexible (orderly) in my use of the gifts God has given me?

Friday

Spiritual gifts are necessary and good. But love is even more important. How can I balance out the two even better in the days ahead? (List some specifics.)

Saturday

“Thank You, LORD, for giving us the unique abilities to serve You through spiritual gifts. May we honor You in our use of them: keeping love a priority, edification of others our desire, clarity of understanding our aim, and orderliness in the use of the gifts our focus.”
