

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

### Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

**Date of Sermon:** October 30th 2016

**Speaker:** Paul Ferguson

**Title:** Encounter 6: Spiritual gifts

**Introduction:** The talk focused on the gifts of grace that God has given to his church. These gifts are given for the encouragement and building up of the church. We can encounter God through the humble, accountable and sensitive use of the gifts of the Spirit.

**Review:** Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 12: 1 – 12; 14: 26

**Reflect:**

- Have members of the group experienced either 'moving' in a Spiritual gift or have they received a blessing from someone else using a gift of the Spirit?
  - How does it feel to step out in faith and response to the Spirit's nudge?
  - How does it make you feel to hear the gifts of the Spirit in operation in a meeting? (Prophecy, tongues, word of knowledge)
  - Why do think we can feel reticent about these things?
- The apostle Paul's vision of the church was of a single body - unity but with many parts – diversity.
  - All have a part to play in the life and worship of the church. What would it be like if we all came to our meeting with the intention to participate?
  - Paul F said that we are culturally individualist and therefore can interpret things like the gifts of the Spirit in terms one's own spiritual development or growth. Do we identify with this idea? What might be the implications for other areas of our church life by an individualistic approach?
  - We can fall into misunderstandings, viewing the gifts of the Spirit as a sign of spirituality or believing that God has given a gift for our own benefit. What would you say about this?
- 1 Corinthian's says: What then, friends? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

**Leaders:** feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect –

Respond and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

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- What does this say about how we come prepared to encounter God when we meet?
  - What might be the implications for this in a large gathering?
  - How would you feel about making space within your small group gatherings for the gifts of the Spirit to flow?
- Perhaps you could pray and expect God to give his gifts of grace.

**And finally:**

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**