

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: November 11th 2018

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Now About Spiritual Gifts

Introduction: This talk gave an introduction to Paul's lengthy discussion of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, covering 1 Corinthians 12-14.

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

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

- Ask the group what thoughts, questions or images come to mind when they hear the words 'spiritual gifts'?
 - Is there any sense in which any feel "ignorant" about spiritual gifts? (v1)
 - Why do you think Paul does not want the Corinthian Christians to be ignorant about spiritual gifts?
- In Corinth it appears that they had made a hierarchy of the gifts - with tongues being at the top of the pile (is this why Paul puts it last in v30? Some commentators think so!).
 - Is there any way that we can give the impression that some spiritual gifts are more important than others?
 - What does Paul's teaching in vs 4-6 say to those who want to create such hierarchies?
- In verse 4-6 we read three different words that describe spiritual gifts.
 - v4 - 'Gift' (charismata) - something that God freely gives to individuals as he chooses.
 - v5 - 'Service' (diakonia) - something that God inspires and enables us to do to serve and build up others.
 - v6 - 'working' (energema) - God's power working through us.
 - Think about some of the gifts mentioned in vs 8-10. How do these three words help us understand these gifts better?
 - Still thinking about these three words: what happens if people do not use their gifts?
- Ask the group to share about their own gifts:
 - in what ways do you think God has equipped you to serve him?
 - how did you discover what your gifts were? And how would you help someone else discover their gifting?

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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- did anyone struggle to discover or accept their gifting?
 - what has helped people use their gifts? And what has got in the way?
 - do people have ambitions to receive different gifts from God (v31)? If so what are they? (Perhaps the group could pray for one another about these 'spiritual ambitions')
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Reflect :

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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