

Word notes Sunday 21/04/13 Simon Matthews
The Gifts of the Spirit

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Texts: Matthew 1 Cor 12:4-11

Here's an interesting question: When did the disciples become Christians - as they learnt from Jesus, when he died and rose or when they received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost? There are many different experiences of individuals and so different answers.

One thing is certain, when we receive the HS there is some evidence of change as we start to speak out or do other things in the Spirit (Acts 8:14-19, Acts 19:1-7). What God seems to be more concerned of is not the theology of which came first etc but that we Get It. What's more God doesn't give us the HS so that we can shake in a meeting but so that we can witness - empowering us to do the job.

Here's another question: If you receive the HS can you "use" any of the gifts of the Spirit? When the HS comes into and fills a person, then within them is the HS and hence all the gifts that they need to do the job. We're not talking about specific ministry gifts here but gifts enable us to live as he wants us to. The important thing is to make ourselves available.

When we read 1 Cor 12:4-11 we could ask: What is the greatest gift? - The one needed in the moment! The gifts are not just to be confined to meetings but are to help us live the life we are called to - a supernatural toolbox to get things done for example:

- **Wisdom** - help in making decisions, plans etc.
- **Knowledge** - direct information to help, warn, or inform us to make a difference.
- **Faith** - for when things seem impossible or unlikely yet God has plans.
- **Healings**. Christ died not just for the forgiveness of our sins but also for the healing of our diseases. As a result we often pray generally for healing yet at times we just have that understanding that God wants to heal someone specifically and clearly.
- **Working** of miracles. eg healing of the human heart in broken relationships.
- **Prophecy** - for edification, exhortation and comfort - for encouragement! Sometimes we don't know but simple words spoken in season will speak prophetically into someone's life.
- **Discerning of Spirits**. This can make the difference between rebuking the devil and accepting negative situations and rising above the through perseverance in Christ - which is it?
- **Different kinds of tongues**. First often just to be able to praise Jesus in a way that goes beyond what we can do in our own minds. Helps us to plug into the supernatural gifts of God.

With prophecy and tongues we can't do it without using our mouths. This may leave us with concerns or doubts - what if it's me, what if it's the devil. Well if we're willing to step out we may make some mistakes but we'll not grow unless we are willing to try. Can't do it with your mouth shut!

Interpretation of tongues - both in context of a message given but also in knowing what God is saying in our lives.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Which, if any, do you think is the greatest gift? Why might Paul emphasise prophecy (1 Cor 14:1)?

Do you agree that the gifts of the Holy Spirit were not meant to be confined within Church meetings? Which scriptures will you use to back up your position?

How often are you aware of using the gifts of the Spirit in everyday life, if not often how open are you to move forward in this and what might hold you back?

Prayer time: Share and pray for specific individual needs in moving forward in using the gifts in everyday life.

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Plan a Cell outreach activity.