

Word notes Sunday 17/5/09 Tony Hodge
Living in the Spirit – The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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

Spiritual Gifts are good but we mustn't focus on these alone like some spoiled child grasping gifts from a friend or relative not caring that they have come to the party. No we must welcome the bringer of the gifts, understanding that THE GIFT of the Holy Spirit in our lives – God living in us – is the most important gift of all. **1 Cor 12:1-33 is the core scripture this week.**

In vv1-6 Paul urges us not to be ignorant of spiritual gifts, meaning not just that we don't know about them but concerned that we are not aware of, not understanding, not experiencing these Gifts.

What are the Gifts for?

The Gifts given for common good (vv7-11), Paul identifies 8 specific gifts: knowledge, wisdom, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpretation. In vv12-26 Paul shows us that all parts (of a body) are needed work to common good, hence how we need each other and how the Gifts are meant to work for the body not just the individual. See also 1 Cor 14:19-33 and Hebrews 2:3,4

How do we receive these Gifts?

See 1 Tim 4:14 (Prophetic word), 2 Tim 1:6 (laying on of hands) and Romans 12:4-8 (by Grace)

How do we use them?

- We have an active part see 2 Tim 1:1-9 – fan them into flame and don't be timid.
- Don't neglect them - see 1 Tim 4:14
- Desire 'higher' gifts – you can grow in a gift or moving in others (1 Cor 12:31)
- And remember gifts are freely given (Rom 12:4-8) so give it away!

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

Starting to move in a spiritual gift can be scary yet we're not to be timid. When starting best to have smart goals, which are simple, manageable and achievable in real time, yet open to God to 'jump off that cliff'.

How to start to move (these things go alongside each other):

- Test any prophetic word
- Believe God said it
- Start small practice in cell
- Wait, listen, when God speaks obey - and listen to people too when they need to receive.
- It is Gods gift not my ability yet under my control (1 Cor 14:31-3).

On a piece of paper ask each person to write down:

1. What Gift do they believe God has for them and which they want to grow in?
2. On a scale of 1-10 where they are in using that gift?
3. What does the next step along the path to growth look like?
4. What can they do to achieve this, remembering that it's the Holy Spirit who moves, we're the conduit?

Now Do It – fan into flame the gift in you by getting connected with God, allowing the Holy Spirit to move and trusting in the One who gives these gifts.

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

Who are the people the Cell is seeking to reach and how? Devise an action plan for the time until Summer and into the holidays.