

**Be Reformed** – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

**Be Charismatic** – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

**Be Community** – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

**Be Missional** – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

## 1 Corinthians 14

1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. 2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. 3 On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. 4 The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. 5 Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

6 Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? 7 If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? 8 And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? 9 So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. 10 There are doubtless many different languages

in the world, and none is without meaning, 11 but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. 12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church. 13 Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. 15 What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. 16 Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? 17 For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. 18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. 19 Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

CONTINUED IN 1 CORINTHIANS 14:20-25

## Study Guide 25 September 2011 The practice of the Spiritual Gifts



### Summary

After looking at the person of the Holy Spirit, and the purpose of the spiritual gifts, we now move on to look at how the gifts of the Holy Spirit should be practiced. In this passage, Paul says that the practice of the spiritual gifts should be characterized by eagerness, the desire to edify, and order.

The gifts are to be eagerly desired, not primarily to benefit the self, but the entire body of Christ. There is also an order for the practice of the gifts – some gifts are best practiced in private, while others are best practiced in public. Intelligibility is important in public meetings, and prophecies and interpretation of tongues need to be weighed by the appropriate persons in the church.

### Key points

Our use of the spiritual gifts should be characterized by 1) eagerness, 2) the desire to edify the church, and 3) order.

### Questions

>>What does the practice of the spiritual gifts tell me about God's character?

>>What is the difference between edifying myself and edifying the church?

>>What does this passage show me about myself?

>>What will happen if we fail to follow the bible's prescribed guidelines for practicing the spiritual gifts?

>>Is there anything about the way I use my spiritual gifts that needs to change?

### Final thoughts

Using God's gifts in a way that displeases Him is an insult to Him.