



God's Church (Week 14/18: Building up the Church...)

Small Group Discussion Questions

Warm-Up

1. Have you ever had the experience of being in a church service in which you couldn't understand much of what was happening? What was it like? How did you feel?

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-12

2. What are the two gifts of speech that Paul describes in this chapter? Can you define them?
3. According to these verses, what is the intended purpose of our gifts? What does 'edification' mean?
4. Can you think of practical examples of what it looks like to build up God's Church?
5. Is Paul saying that the gift of tongues is unhelpful? Why does the context matter?
6. When we gather together on a Sunday, how often do you consider your role in helping to build up other brothers and sisters in Christ? How could we prepare more intentionally to do this?

Read 1 Corinthians 14:13-19

8. How does Paul describe the way that he would pray and speak? What does this mean?
9. What does using our gifts with our whole selves actually look like in practice?
10. Do we ever rank particular gifts as more 'spiritual' than others? How so? Why is this so unhelpful?
11. How can we help ensure that people are able to fully participate together on a Sunday?

Read 1 Corinthians 14:20-25

13. What does God say will be the reaction from the unbeliever present in the church service where everyone is speaking in tongues?
14. How does prophecy help those who do not yet believe? What does that look like in our context?
15. In what ways do you think our Sunday gatherings are mindful of those who do not yet believe?
16. Do you think there is a possibility an unbeliever could join us for church (once we are able to meet again) and conclude that God is really among us?

Apply *What are the key ways in which you could use your gifts more for the building up of God's church?*

What is the 'take home' significance of you from this passage and Mark's message?

Pray *Gracious Father, thank you for the gifts that you have entrusted to us for the building up of your church.*

Please help us to use these gifts always and increasingly for your good purposes. In Jesus' Name, Amen. P
SEP



GOING DEEPER

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On Your Front Line this Week

How is God using your gifts on your frontline? Maybe ask a colleague or friend if you're not sure.

For Families

Download some of the family resources to use at home: stbartskids.org

Listen, Watch, and Read

- AUDIO: "Prophecy then and Now" by Dick Lucas:
Part 1: <https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/talk/573/>
Part 2: <https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/talk/574/>
- AUDIO (Podcast): "Ask N T Wright Anything" on the gifts of the Spirit:
<https://askntwrightanything.podbean.com/e/77-gifts-of-the-spirit-how-much-should-we-valueprophecy-and-tongues/>
- AUDIO: "Gifted and Godly" by Hugh Palmer:
https://www.allsouls.org/Media/Player.aspx?show_popout=true&show_media=51071&show_file=53257
- AUDIO: "Tongues and Worship" by Tim Keller: <https://gospelinlife.com/downloads/tongues-and-worship-5879/>

Series Resources:

Some helpful resources for this series:

- St Bart's Series Overview: <https://bit.ly/37mixzC>
- Website: "First Corinthians" by the Bible Project: <https://bibleproject.com/learn/1-corinthians/>
- Course: "1 Corinthians" as part of the Ridley Certificate (6-week online course): stbarts.com.au/ridley
- For Families: Bookmark Reading Plan for Families (Weeks 1-9): <https://bit.ly/3uoz4gs>
- Access relevant books in the St Bart's Library: www.librarycat.org/lib/stbart/search/tag/1+Corinthians