



REDMOND CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# Small Group Discussion and Prayer Guide

May 29, 2022

## Gifts of the Spirit Part 2

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 14

This week we want to look at a couple of manifestations of the Holy Spirit that the Bible talks about and that are, sadly, somewhat divisive in the Church today. This chapter deals with speaking in tongues and prophecy. If you missed the sermon, here are a couple of important notes about tongues and prophecy.

Tongues:

- Are not required of Christians to prove their Spirit-filled-ness (1 Corinthians 12:29-30)
- Should not be forbidden (1 Corinthians 14:39-40)
- In 1 Corinthians 14, speaking in tongues appears to be a supernatural utterance, either vocalized or silent, given to people in prayer to help them experience the presence of God and articulate things they don't have words for (see Romans 8:26)
- Because they edify the individual believer, tongues are better suited to private times of devotion or small groups (and here only if there is someone to interpret what is being said)

Prophecy:

- In 1 Corinthians 14, prophecy does not appear to be future telling but rather authoritative preaching
- Prophecy is a message from God that brings conviction, accountability to respond, revelation of the inner things of the heart, and reverent worship of God (1 Corinthians 14:24-25)
- In the whole Bible (both OT and NT), prophecy is most often preaching from the written Word of God that speaks into the current lives of people
- Prophets and their messages are subject to consideration and weighing of the gathered body of Christ (1 Corinthians 14:29); i.e. they are not unaccountably authoritative

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#### Ask:

- Have you ever spoken in tongues? Have you ever been around someone else who has spoken in tongues? What was this experience like?
- Why do you think some parts of the Church recoil from these kinds of manifestations of the Spirit?
- What is the problem with overemphasizing manifestations of the Spirit of God?
- What is the problem with forbidding manifestations of the Spirit of God?
- Do you think we should desire for the Spirit to manifest Himself in extraordinary ways? Why or why not?
- What does prophecy look like in the Church today?
- How should prophecy work in the Church to build it up and edify it?

#### Pray:

- Praise God for working in the Church through His Holy Spirit to help us, encourage us, and build us up to maturity in Christ
- Confess that we are sometimes confused about how the Spirit is working in the Church
- Confess the division that exists in the Church over the work of the Holy Spirit and grieve the damage that has done to people
- Ask God to help us understand how and where the Holy Spirit is at work in our church
- Ask God to help us use whatever gifts, experiences, or manifestations of the Spirit we experienced for the good of His people