



Day 1

-  Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.
-  1st Corinthians is filled with substantive teachings about relationships, faith, and discipline. This is another chapter that is filled with important concepts – and hopefully thought-provoking questions. Please devote a little extra time to your Study this week.

Spiritual Gifts

¹ Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

Q1. What does “spiritual gift” mean?

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Q2. Why does Paul write that he does not want the Corinthians “ignorant” of spiritual gifts?

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Q3. Do you have a “spiritual gift(s)”?

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² You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols.

Q4. What is a “pagan”? Were you (or me) ever a “pagan”?

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 pa·gan: 3. A non-Christian. [© 2008 Farlex, Inc.; <http://www.thefreedictionary.com>]

Q5. What is an idol?

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Q6. Why did Paul add the word “mute” to describe “idols”?

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Psalm 115:2-8

² Why do the nations say, "Where is their God?" ³ Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. ⁴ But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. ⁵ They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; ⁶ they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; ⁷ they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. ⁸ Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.

Exodus 20:4-6

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

³ Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

Q7. Is the "Spirit of God" the same as "the Holy Spirit"?

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Q8. What did Paul mean when he wrote "one who is speaking by the Spirit of God"?

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Q9. Why did Paul give the Corinthians (and us) this test: "Jesus is Lord"? Is it meaningful, today?
Test?

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Q10. [Personal] Can you say aloud to another person, "Jesus is Lord"? (If no, or if it is uncomfortable, please pray about it.)

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Romans 10:8-11

⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. ¹¹ As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

Q11. Are we to take the teachings of preachers and people, who seem well-versed in the Bible – as if they are always speaking the Truth about the Gospel of Christ Jesus? About the Holy Bible?

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Q12. Can we rely upon our feelings to tell us if a teaching is accurate or true?

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Acts 17:11

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

2 Timothy 4:3-5

³ For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Q13. How should we best determine if a word is from God or contradicts God?

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⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

Q14. In verse 4, what is a “gift”?

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Q15. In verse 5, what is a “service”?

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Q16. In verse 6 what is a “working”?

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Q17. As we have studied 1 Corinthians, we have noted that the Corinthian church seems to split over inconsequential matters (see 1 Corinthians 1:10-17). Is it possible that some Corinthians were admiring (in pride) their God-given gift and, perhaps, belittling another’s gift?

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Q18. Paul writes in verse-4 “different... gifts” but the “same Spirit”; in verse 5 “different... service” but the “same Lord”; and in verse-6 “different... working” but the “same God”. Why the distinction?

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Gifts/Spirit?

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Service/Lord?

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Working/God?
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Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

Q19. What would you say is meant by “the manifestation of the Spirit”?

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Q20. What is meant by the “common good”? “Common good” from who’s perspective?

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Common good?

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Perspective?
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⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.


Q21. Why does Paul emphasize the “same Spirit” or “that one Spirit”?

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Q22. What is the difference between “wisdom” and “knowledge”?

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 Knowledge defined: “the state of fact of knowing; learning; awareness; sum of what has been learned or discovered” [Life Application Bible, NIV version, Tyndale/Zondervan Publishing, ©1986, Page 2468]

 Wisdom defined: “ability to make good use of knowledge; ability to recognize right from wrong; good judgment” [Life Application Bible, NIV version, Tyndale/Zondervan Publishing, ©1986, Page 2499]

Q23. What is “prophecy”?

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Q24. What is meant by the gift of “distinguishing between spirits”?

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Q25. Is it important to have a balance between someone who speaks in tongues and an interpreter? Why?

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1 Corinthians 14:27-28

²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, two — or at the most three — should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. ²⁸ If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.

Q26. In reading 1st Corinthians 14:27-28, why does Paul instruct that a speaker – in tongues – should be silent if no interpreter is present?

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Q27. There are many gifts. How should our gifts be used?

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1 Corinthians 14:12

So, it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

Day 4

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¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

Q28. Since it is human nature to compare ourselves against others, is it okay to compare my gift against another’s gift (or gifts)? Why? Is comparison-to-others easy (or difficult) to avoid/stop? Why? Compare?

Why?
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Easy (or difficult)? Why?
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Q29. How do we Believers discover our gifts of the Spirit?

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¹² The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So, it is with Christ.

Q30. We know that a typical human body has many parts: eyes, ears, nose, lips, fingers, toes, and even a bellybutton. So, what do you think Paul meant when he wrote, “So it is with Christ”?

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¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Q31. Again, what (or who) is the Spirit?

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Q32. What is the “one body”?

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Q33. In this “one body”, is preferential treatment given to the wealthy and celebrity?

James 2:1-4

¹ My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Q34. In the Gospel accounts, Jesus talked about “living water”. To what was He referring?

John 4:10-15, 23-24

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." ...

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."


John 7:38

"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

Revelation 22:16-17

¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." ¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

Day 5

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¹⁴ Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.

Q35. What is the point of Paul's description of the parts of the body that want to mutiny and cease to be a part of the body?

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¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

Q36. It seems silly to think of a human body consisting of all eyes or all ears. What is Paul teaching us?

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¹⁸ But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

Q37. Who arranged the parts of the body?

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Genesis 1:26a

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness

Genesis 2:7

Then the Lord God formed a man [Adam] from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.


John 1:3

Through him [Jesus, the Word] all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.


²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

Q38. What analogy (or symbolism) is Paul making?

Day 6


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²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,

 Weaker parts? My little toe came to mind; without it, I would not be able to find furniture in the dark.

²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.


Q39. What do we feel if one of our body parts suffers or hurts?

 This excerpt from the Book of Acts illustrates the one-for-all, all-for-one attitude of the early Church:

Acts 4:32-35

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Q40. How should we feel if one of our brothers- or sisters-in-Christ was injured, or depressed, or hurting?

 “. . . But it is by the Spirit, only by the renewing of the Holy Ghost [Spirit], that we are made members of Christ's body. And by communion with Christ at the Lord's supper, we are strengthened, not by drinking the wine, but by drinking into one Spirit. Each member has its form, place, and use. The meanest makes a part of the body. There must be a distinction of members in the body. So, Christ's members have different powers and different places. We should do the duties of our own place, and not murmur, or quarrel with others. All the members of the body are useful and necessary to each other. Nor is there a member of the body of Christ, but may and ought to be useful to fellow-members. As in the natural body of man, the members should be closely united by the strongest bonds of love; the good of the whole should be the object of all. All Christians are dependent one upon another; each is to expect and receive help from the rest. Let us then have more of the spirit of union in our religion.” [©Matthew Henry, Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible by Matthew Henry; Source: https://biblehub.com/commentaries/1_corinthians/12-22.htm]

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Q41. How do we know we are members – a part – of the “body of Christ”?

Romans 7:4

So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.

Romans 12:4-6

⁴ Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given us...

²⁸ And in the church, God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.

Q42. From what you know of the Bible, who are the apostles?

Q43. From what you know of the Bible, who are prophets?

Q44. From what you know of the Bible, who are teachers?

²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

Q45. What is Paul teaching us in verses 29 and 30?

³¹ But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

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