

Series - Be Wise (19 of 22)
Topic - The Proper Use of Our Spiritual Gifts

Date - 27 Oct 2019
Speaker - Pastor Lionel Goh

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Spirit Touch Your Church
2. Come Holy Spirit

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Earnestly desire spiritual gifts.
2. Understand the nature and functions of spiritual gifts.
3. Use spiritual gifts appropriately to build the Body of Christ.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. Our spiritual gifts are to be used properly to build up God's people.
2. Speaking of tongues is for a private setting.
3. In a public setting, it must be accompanied by an interpretation which then becomes a prophetic word for the Body of Christ.
4. Spiritual gifts must be used in an orderly fashion.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

This is the fourth instalment of the topic on spiritual gifts. The earlier 3 sermons touched on understanding spiritual gifts, understanding love in the context of serving, and using our spiritual gifts to serve others in love. In this week's sermon, Pastor Lionel touched on the proper use of spiritual gifts.

The abuse of spiritual gifts

1 Corinthians 12 describes how the members of the Corinthian church had gifts, but didn't see the need to serve others with their gifts. Instead they flaunted their spiritual gifts to draw attention to themselves. The Corinthians abused the spiritual gifts that they had. In chapter 14, Paul addresses this not by restricting the use of spiritual gifts, but by teaching

them the nature of these gifts (1 Cor 14:1-25), and their proper usage (1 Cor 14:26-33). This passage touches on 3 gifts: tongues, interpretation and prophecy.

The gift of tongues

A “tongue” (Greek: *glossa*) is a language inspired by the Holy Spirit, not learnt by the speaker. It can be a human language (*xenoglossa*) or an angelic language (*glossolalia*) (1 Cor 13:1). In some cases, it may be a mysterious utterance understood only by God Himself (1 Cor 14:2).

The proper uses of tongues, as taught by the apostle Paul, are as a private prayer language, as a prophetic word to believers, and as a sign to unbelievers.

Tongues as a private prayer language

Tongues can be used in private prayer, when one is praying alone to God (1 Cor 14:4a). Pastor Lionel listed these advantages of praying in tongues:

- It edifies the speaker.
- It connects the speaker with God intimately, helped by the Holy Spirit.
- It helps the speaker to pray in accordance with the will of God.
- It sharpens the speaker’s spirit.

Importantly, the apostle Paul endorses the use of tongues as a private prayer language (1 Cor 14: 18, 39).

Tongues as a prophetic word to believers

The speaking of tongues, if used in a public setting, can be God’s prophetic word to believers, after it is interpreted (1 Cor 14:13, 27).

Tongues as a sign to unbelievers

Tongues can also act as a sign to unbelievers (1 Cor 14:22), particularly when the tongue is a foreign language that the unbeliever understands, and he/she knows that the speaker did not learn the language (Acts 2:7-8, 11).

The gift of interpretation

The gift of interpretation is the supernatural ability to interpret a spoken tongue without having to learn the tongue. When the tongue is interpreted, it becomes a prophetic word (*rhema*) from God to the listeners. It is useful to note that an interpretation is not a word-for-word translation of the tongue that was spoken, but rather a general description of the meaning of the tongue that was just spoken.

The gift of prophecy

Prophecy is the supernatural ability to speak forth the *rhema* word of God to others. It can be a foretelling of an event to happen in the future, or a telling of God’s heart and purposes for His people. The gift of prophecy can be used to strengthen, encourage, or comfort people (1 Cor 14:3), as well as for instruction (1 Cor 14:31).

The orderly use of spiritual gifts

Pastor Lionel pointed us to 1 Corinthians 14: 26-33 where Paul instructs on the orderly use of these gifts in the church. In summary, all gifts are to be used in an orderly fashion to build up the Body of Christ. If anybody wants to speak a tongue out loud as part of the prophetic ministry, they should queue and wait their turn to speak. A maximum of 3 persons are to speak aloud in tongues and after each person has spoken, someone must

give an interpretation to the tongue. If there is no interpretation, the speaker must keep silent and pray quietly to God. When a tongue is interpreted, the interpretation is to be weighed and deemed whether valid for the Body of Christ, or not.

In closing, Pastor Lionel exhorted us with 1 Corinthians 14:1 – to earnestly desire spiritual gifts.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Do you have the gift of speaking in tongues? Share any experiences you have about speaking in tongues or how you received it. How did it encourage/build up your spirit?** [15 min]
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 14:26-33 instructs the church on the orderly use of spiritual gifts. What do you think is/are the main principle of these instructions? Can these key principles be applied to other areas of our lives?** [15 min]
 - 3. Ps Lionel taught on the interplay of the 3 spiritual gifts, namely, tongues, interpretation and prophecy. In 1 Corinthians 14:1, the apostle Paul exhorts that we desire spiritual gifts to build up the church. Do you desire the gift of speaking in tongues or interpretation? Share with the cell how these gifts can be used in the church by you and others.** [15 min]
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WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. RiverLifers be eager to have spiritual gifts and desire to use them to build up the Body of Christ.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) Cell Outreach

- Start encouraging your members to think of people they want to reach this Christmas.
- Every cell will be planning a Cell Outreach this Christmas. So, they can start thinking of ideas on how they want to do their cell outreach.
- Encourage them not to underestimate what God can do through them!

2) 2019 Equipping Weekends (season 2)

Introduction to biblical interpretation

Sun, 10 Nov | 2-5pm | Victory Chapel

Registration can be done online at bit.ly/rfcequipping2019

3) Joining The Family

Sat, 16 Nov | 10am-1pm | Faith Chapel

Becoming a church member means making RiverLife your spiritual home and committing to what God is doing here. This is an invitation to a solid commitment and influence as we follow Christ together and share in God's movements in Singapore.

Sign up online at bit.ly/rlcjoiningthefamily by Sun, 10 Nov. For more information, please contact Karen Koh at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.

4) RiverLife Serves

Sign up to serve at bit.ly/riverlifeserves

Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.