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# ENABLE 3.6

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**Gifts of the Holy Spirit  
Small Group Session Fourteen  
Week Beginning 10th March**



# What about Spiritual gifts?

Over the last few weeks, we have been thinking about the person and work of the Holy Spirit. We have thought about the work of the Holy Spirit in: a. giving life; b. showing us Jesus and c. teaching us to know that we are children of God. We have also spent time thinking around some key teachings about the Holy Spirit: a. how to allow the Holy Spirit to fill every part of our lives and b. how not to grieve or resist His work.

This week, we come to the last of our sessions on the Holy Spirit and we are thinking about spiritual gifts. As with the other sessions, there is much more to say about this topic than we could ever cover in one session. Survey a church like ours and you will find lots of questions about spiritual gifts and sometimes discussions have led to contention. It is really sad when that happens because spiritual gifts are given to the church to build the church up (1 Cor 12:7) and they are always to be used in love (1 Cor. 13). In this session our focus will be on 'building up' and 'love' even as we touch on some of the more contentious questions.

Before starting, it might be helpful to say a word about the spiritual gifts that can raise more questions in church today - the gifts of speaking in tongues and of prophecy.

What does the New Testament teach us about the gift of speaking in tongues?

Looking at the small number of New Testament verses, tongues seems to be a gift of speaking 'mysteries to God' (prayer) in a spiritual language\* that cannot be understood unless someone interprets it. The person praying can not even understand what they pray. The gift encourages the person praying, but, unless it is interpreted, it can not encourage others because it can not be understood (1 Cor 14:1-19). Like all the gifts it is a wonderful gift, but when it comes to edifying and building up the church we should more desire prophecy because the whole church can understand the words of prophecy (1 Cor 14:1).

So what does the New Testament say about the gift of prophecy? They are words spoken that can be understood by those who listen and so can build up the church (1 Cor 14:3-5). Unlike Old Testament prophecy, they are not words of new revelation from God, rather they are words that testify about Jesus and the difference He makes in our lives (Revelation 19:10). Also, unlike Old Testament prophecy, New Testament words of prophecy don't come with the authority of God when He speaks, instead they need to be considered, or 'weighed', by others (1 Cor 14:29-30).

However, it is important to say that all gifts are important and that all gifts need to be used in love - and that is where we shall turn to now. Before you begin, why not pray for your time together...

\*A lesser held view is that tongues is speaking in other human languages, as in Acts 2.

**“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”**

**1 Corinthians 12:7**

# Love Never Fails

## Thinking about gifts

We are going to read quite a long passage, so that we can see the 'line of thinking' in this section. There is much to learn from this passage, so take your time as you read.

### Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-13:7

Now get a piece of paper and start to list out five or six of the main things which Paul is trying to teach the Corinthians about spiritual gifts. Especially think about:

- Who has spiritual gifts (12:7,11).
- The purpose of the spiritual gifts (12:7 [and 14:5]).
- The great diversity of the spiritual gifts and how we should view that (12:8-10, 12:15-20).
- The attitude we should have when we use our gifts (13:1-7).

## What about us?

Now review the list of 'main things' you have created. How should that challenge us in our church as we think about our spiritual gifts and about how we use our spiritual gifts? You might want to consider:

- Ways in which we might undervalue some gifts.
- Ways in which we might not use our gifts for the common good, building up the church.
- Ways in which we use our gifts that are not as loving as they could be.
- Ways in which we might be neglecting to use our gifts to serve our brothers and sisters in the church.

Try to draw some of your conversation together. What are the lessons we need to learn from the session so far?

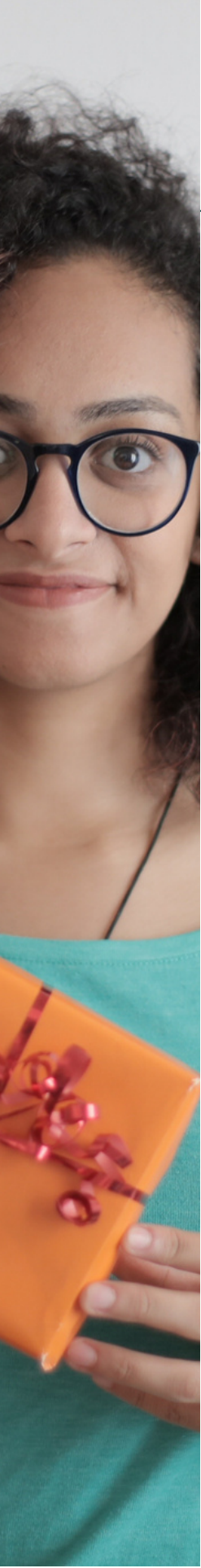
## Knowing your gifts

One of the things we have not explored so far is how we can discover what our gifts are. You can see from the next page that the lists of gifts in the New Testament are all different, which suggests they are all just example lists. There are likely many more gifts than we have listed in the New Testament. One way to discover what your gifts are is to give it a go and see how you get on. Another way to ask those who know you well what they think.

As you close this session, maybe spend some time encouraging one another to recognise the gifts that you have. Then why not spend time praying that you would put those gifts into practice, in love, for the building up of our church.



# List of gifts mentioned in the New Testament



<b>Romans 12:6-8</b>	<b>1 Cor. 12:8-11</b>	<b>1 Cor. 12:28-30</b>	<b>Ephesians 4:11</b>
prophesying	message of wisdom	apostles	some apostles
servicing	message of knowledge	prophets	some prophets
teaching	faith	teachers	some evangelists
encouraging	gifts of healings	workers of miracles	some pastors and teachers
contributing to the needs of others /giving	miraculous powers	gifts of healings	
leading	prophecy	those able to help others	
showing mercy	distinguishing between spirits	administration	
	speaking in tongues	speaking in tongues	
	interpretation of tongues	Interpretation (of tongues)	



# Spring Term Timetable

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**Introducing ENABLE - Central Meeting**  
7:30pm Thursday 11th January

**Prayer Meeting Week**  
7:30pm 17th/18th January

**Small Group Session 3.1**  
The Work of the Holy Spirit: New Life  
Week beginning 21st January

**Small Group Session 3.2**  
The Work of the Holy Spirit: Knowing Jesus  
Week beginning 28th January

**Small Group Session 3.3**  
The Work of the Holy Spirit: Adoption into God's Family  
Week beginning 4th February

**Half Term Break - Week beginning 11th February**

**Prayer Meeting Week**  
7:30pm 21st/22nd February

**Small Group Session 3.4**  
Being Filled with the Holy Spirit  
Week beginning 25th February

**Small Group Session 3.5**  
Resisting the Holy Spirit  
Week beginning 03 March

**Small Group Session 3.6**  
Gifts of the Holy Spirit  
Week beginning 10 March

**Prayer Meeting Week**  
7:00pm Trinity Church (Kenwyn) - 20th March

support and  
encouragement  
to live for Jesus