

Prayer Points

1. Please pray for pastor David as he spends four days in silent retreat this week. Pray that it will be a time of rest, reflection, and an opportunity to hear clearly from the Lord as his sabbatical nears its end.
2. Pray for our local CAP centre (Christians Against Poverty), for those who work and volunteer with the clients - that they will receive the help they need to become debt free.
3. Praise God that BMS workers Andrea and Ian are helping people in North Africa to hear the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray that Muslims would experience God's love through their online programmes.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

June 9th 2024

**Called, Gathered
and Sent. Part 4.
The gift of tongues.
1 Corinthians 14:6-25**

Every now and then it is good to do a 're-set', a mental 'turn off, count to ten and restart'. This is a good thing to do because it can reconnect us to the fundamentals of our life and faith, hopefully to enable us to re-examine the basics and refresh what we thought we understood about what we think we know.

Even when not on a sabbatical, ministers are advised to go on a retreat now and again so as to unclutter their minds and make them better, with God's help, at what they do.

Likewise, it is good for everyone to have that 'Spring Clean' of the mind to enable us all to be better Christians, not only for our own benefit but so that we can serve others better as Christians.

This series is not exhaustive, but will help us refresh our mindset.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001

In our reading today Paul really opens up on Spiritual Gifts. Not on all of them notice, but he does explain clearly the fundamental difference between speaking in 'tongues' and prophecy both in relation to the body of the Church and to the world outside.

It could be interpreted as Paul being dismissive of speaking in 'tongues' in favour of what he suggests is a 'greater' gift. I am not convinced that is exactly what he meant.

I would rather believe that Paul would like everyone to experience some Spiritual Gift, but more importantly that the whole Church AND anyone enquiring, or simply visiting, should also experience something of the power of God through the use of such heaven-sent gifts.

Imagine the offence that could be caused by someone turning up at, say, a wedding party without an invitation. They may have thought they had been, or should have been invited. The host either had forgotten or, perhaps, hadn't wanted them to come. However, they are there now. Do we welcome them, or call security?

Surely it is better to be gracious and include them, the Christian thing to do? That way we may both learn something to our advantage rather than, potentially, create a lasting animosity.

Read 1 Corinthians 14:6-25

Verse 20 is what I think of as a 'nutshell verse'. It contains a fundamental truth in a few simple words. What other verses can you suggest that do the same thing?

1. Somewhere between Acts 2:4 and today's reading, 'tongues' has moved from (other) languages to 'glossolalia' (heavenly language). Why would that be and is it right?

2. When people speak in 'tongues', should there be someone to interpret what was said? [See 1 Cor. 14 - 2,9, 13, 18-19]. How would that work? How could you tell if the interpretation is accurate?
3. Paul said, elsewhere, that prophecy is a better Spiritual Gift to have rather than 'tongues' because 'it builds up the Church'. He also said that 'tongues' is the 'least of the Spiritual Gifts'. What do you think? Do you speak in tongues? Or prophesy? Is it important to you/others?
4. Verse 9 should be written in bold capital letters for every preacher to read before beginning a sermon lest they fall foul of 'speaking into the air'. Apart from the end, what do you find is the 'best part' of a sermon? Why?
5. Look again at verse 6. Paul gives a partial list of Spiritual Gifts. What others can you think of and why would they be of benefit to the Church or others [even the non-churched?]
6. In verse 20, Paul says that 'tongues' is a sign for 'unbelievers'. How would that be and is that a contradiction of what else Paul said about 'tongues'?
7. Paul said [verse 18] that he 'speaks in tongues more than all of you'. That sounds dangerously like a boast. Is it? [Or why not?]
8. Apart from the gift of prophecy, what other Spiritual Gifts are likely to 'bring people to their knees'? What may we do, in Christ, to convict their hearts?