

Life Group Notes 23rd May 2021

God is not Mute – The Spirit speaks and moves amongst us

What did God speak to you about on Sunday? What can you remember from Si's message?

God is not mute: he is not silent; the living God speaks. The Spirit of God not only empowers us to live for God, but he wants to speak through His Spirit filled people into the lives of others.

Read through 1 Corinthians 12 and discuss what you notice about the following

Hinting at the doctrine of the trinity or deity of Christ? (v3, v4-6 compare v11 with v18 etc.)?

The role of the Spirit in the giving of spiritual gifts? (given by Spirit, empowered by him, apportioned according to his will, etc.)

The purpose of the gifts? (Common good, building up, caring and honouring each other, etc.)

Our responsibility with gifts? (Use what God has given us for common good, recognise who has given them to us, deal with any pride that may come our way, earnestly desire them, etc?)

Read Romans 12:6-8 and Eph 4:11-16 (but just focus on gifts in v11). On the next page is a list of the different gifts given to the church. Talk through the lists given and check people understand what each mean then ask people to share testimony when they have been blessed by someone responding to the Spirits prompting and using their gift?

Finally discuss what gifts you would like to grow in or God to give you and then pray for each other?

Recommended book to read – Tom Wright, “Paul for everyone 1 Corinthians”

1 Corinthians 12	Romans 12:6-8
Prophecy– <i>Hearing what God is speaking into a situation or persons life, as God is sovereign it sometimes has future implications</i>	Prophecy
Ability to distinguish between spirits	Teaching
Utterance (Word) of wisdom - <i>God given wisdom of what someone should do in a situation, sometimes given without even knowing about the situation.</i>	Exhorting
Utterance (Word) of knowledge – <i>God given knowledge about someone or a situation that you naturally don't know anything about.</i>	Serving
Working of miracles – <i>v28 imply some may be given this gift to regularly perform miracles in the power of the Spirt as a ministry</i>	Leading
Healing – <i>v28 imply some may be given this gift to regularly perform healings in the power of the Spirt as a ministry</i>	Giving
Tongues – <i>speaking through the power of the spirit primarily in an angelic/spiritual (not earthly) language to God, sometimes God does give people the ability to speak a human language not their own</i>	Mercy
Interpreting Tongues – <i>Spirit given interpretation of the heavenly tongue</i>	Ephesians 4v11
Faith	Apostles
Apostles – <i>Those called and gifted by God to help start churches, lay foundations of correct theology and practice enabling healthy churches to be built on them and godly leaders raised up and fathered in the faith; whilst catching the church up in the great commission to reach the nations.</i>	Prophets
Prophets – <i>Those called and gifted by God not only to prophesy regularly but enable and encourage the prophetic to grow within a local church, whilst helping to bring prophetic direction to what God is calling local churches into.</i>	Evangelists – <i>Those gifted not just to see people saved but to help the church grow in its evangelism.</i>
Teachers – <i>Those called and gifted by God to expound and apply the word of God to peoples lives. Within the local church setting this is one of the primary calling of the elders not just to teach but to be shepherds of what teaching is promoted within the church, as not all teaching is sound doctrine!</i>	Pastors - <i>Those who guide and care for the church helping them grow into all God has for them, warn of unhelpful behaviour/activities and help them recover from the mistakes, knocks, bumps and attacks that happen as we live for Christ. In a local church the elders are primarily tasked to ensure this is happening.</i>
Helping – <i>Spirit inspired ability and emotional capacity for this to be a way of life that inspires other to engage in helping others.</i>	
Administrating – <i>Spirit inspired ability to administer natural and spiritual activities that help the growth of the church and spread of the gospel.</i>	Teachers