

DISCUSSION IDEAS
BUILD UP THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 14:1-25

March 12th, 2017

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KEY TRUTH:

THE GOAL OF ALL GRACE-GIFTS IS TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHY ARE THE GRACE-GIFTS GIVEN?**

In order to keep clearly in mind God's purpose for the grace-gifts, review 1 Corinthians 12:7. What purpose does this verse make very clear?

As you look further into that chapter, how does the idea of our being diverse parts of a unified body help to understand God's purpose for each one of us?

What is the common theme throughout 1 Cor. 14:3-5?

What perspective should we keep in any discussion about any particular gift?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: THE ISSUE OF "TONGUES":**

Look at the first reference in the Bible to a supernatural gift of "tongues" in Acts 2:1-13.

Remember that this was the Jewish Feast of Weeks, 33 AD, which we refer to as "Pentecost".

What had happened just 50 days prior?

What foreign-language speakers were probably present in Jerusalem for that event and were now there for the Feast? Look at Acts 2:9-11.

Given the political/religious views in Jerusalem at that time, what do you suppose these folks thought about Jesus?

Look at the statement in 1 Cor. 1:22. What was it going to take to get the attention of these Jews, foreign or otherwise?

By the way, remember that Paul, the author of this letter, was a foreign Jew himself, a Roman citizen who probably spoke Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic.

According to Acts 2:5-6, what were these visitors hearing?

So how powerful a "sign" was it that these visitors suddenly were drawn to a group of "Galileans" (hillbillies)? Acts 2:6-8.

What gift does the Apostle Paul refer to most in 1 Cor. 13 and 14?

What appears to have been going on at the church in Corinth?

What does Paul state about the gift of "tongues" in 1 Cor. 14:22?

What is that gift's stated purpose?

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Note that in several modern languages, the word for "Language" is "Tongue". This is also true of the Greek language of the New testament.

Here is some fun language stuff:

How would you say, "HI, HOW ARE YOU?" in ...

Spanish: "Que tal? Como te vá?" (Kay tahl? Como tay vah?)

Literally, "How are things? How does it go with you?"

French: "Comment ça va?" (Cohmment sah vah?)

Literally, "How does it go with you?"

German: "Hallo, wie geht's dir?" (Allo, vee gates deer?)

Literally, "Hello, how does it go with you?"

Russian: "Привет, как дела?" (Pree-viet, kahk dee-lah?)

Literally, "Greetings, (or Hi), how are things?"

Hebrew: "שלום! מה נשמע?" (Shalom! Ma nishmá?)

Literally, "Peace, (or Hi), how is your spirit?"

in other words, How are you?

Greek: "γεια πως εισαι?" (Geeáh, pohs éesay?)

Literally, "Hello, how are you?"

What a variety! It is interesting that all the above languages except for Hebrew are from the same family of languages as our English.

♦ DISCUSSION POINT THREE: PROPHECY.

What was the purpose of the gift of prophecy, as stated in 1 Cor. 14:1-6?

Remembering that the New Testament did not yet exist yet, how did prophecy help build up the church?

By way of contrast, what did the gift of tongues accomplish?

What key point does the Apostle make in v. 12?

But what if there is an unbeliever sitting in your church meeting?

How should we use these two gifts, as instructed in verses 26-33?

What is the bottom line?

What are all gifts to accomplish?

♦ FOR MEDITATION AT HOME:

1. I do have a gift. Do I know what it is? How can I find out?
2. Jesus intends me to use my gift(s) for the building up of His church.
3. I will truly be held accountable for the use of this gift.
4. What am I going to do about this?

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♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Our Grace Church Elders: Pray for our elders as they seek how to do their part in God's plan.

Gettises: Pray for the Gettis family as they continue to get settled in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Cindy writes:

We are well and moving ahead poco a poco. David was encouraged by a visit to ESEPA, where he was able to sit in on a class and get to know some people he will be working with.

Steve and Andrew have been kind and helpful to us. Please pray for the tiredness factor...We are learning so much that we are exhausted by the end of the day! The most basic of errands is tiring and often unproductive (we learn we have to come back because we didn't do something.) Here despite great amounts of planning and researching one often learns there is some detail they didn't know.

Our health has been well but I can't eat any heavy food and have to eat small quantities. The kids' have been well and love the parks, the ice cream, etc.

Please pray the Lord provides us with a vehicle that is reliable and affordable.

Please continue to pray for Elba (*a friend Cindy has met*). She said she'd like to go to church and we found one we like so I'd like if she could come with us. We found a church that was extremely kind and welcoming and had solid Bible teaching and beautiful worship. They meet at ESEPA on Sundays.

Please pray we get to know some Ticos.

(NOTE: "Ticos" are Costa Ricans, so named because of a pronunciation that differs from most of the other Spanish speaking countries in Latin America.)

David's studies have been very intense for sure, but I think he's doing so well with the language. He's smart. He gets tired though. Please pray he picks up the language well.

Shelter Valley: Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there. Pray for Scott and Leslie Stevens as Scott heads up this ministry. Pray for continued growth in understanding among those who attend about God's Plan and what it really means to follow Him.

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Home Groups: Pray for our home groups.

Pray for the leaders to grow in understanding and skill so that those in each group will truly grow in their walk in the Spirit and in true agape love.

Pray that more folks will take part in a home group and be encouraged as a result.

Pray that each one of us would seek to learn how to use our individual spiritual gift(s) to build up the Body of Christ.

Pearsons: Continue to pray for John and Bobbie Pearson. John is working very hard this week to pack up and move his 101 year old mother to his brother's home until John finishes her granny suite at his home.

Their son, John Caleb, is dealing with severe cancer. Bobbie and the daughters are outfitting a rental condo for John Caleb, his wife, and four children on March 24th.

Barangonan Island: Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Barangonan Island.

Pray for wisdom and encouragement as both Ingvoldstads and Binders prepare to move off the island. The Ings are in Puerto Princessa taking care of business, before they move on to Manila for a March 19 departure. Pray for wisdom, clear understanding of God's Word and continued obedience to the Holy Spirit on the part of the island church leaders.

Praise and continued prayer: Continue to uphold the Tagbanwa believers who go to a neighboring island every Friday to teach about God. Pray too for the hearers to respond.

"Continue to pray for them as there continues to be a solid group listening and interacting with God's Word. We often get to go, and its exciting to see `the body' in action.

"Not only are there teachers, but others go to support and engage this new group who is hearing. If you can believe it, there are even some who catch fish for the families who go so they won't miss a meal!

"Continue to pray for strength and endurance for those who go, as well as understanding for those who hear."

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.

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Persecuted Believers:

Let's not forget to uphold our fellow believers around the world who are experiencing real and intense persecution for following Jesus.

THIS WEEK:

1. **Egypt:**

Kamel, a Christian man in Egypt's North Sinai region, was shot to death by Islamic extremists on Feb. 23 in front of his family, making him the seventh Christian to be martyred in the past month.

Pray for Kamel's wife and children as well as the other Christians who have lost family members.

2. **Laos:**

In early February, four Christian families were forced out of their village, upon threat of being beaten, because of their faith in Christ.

Because of sick family members, they are staying near a medical facility under plastic tarps.

Though they have nowhere to sleep, no food and no money, they want to remain faithful to the Lord.

3. **India**

Pastor Ramesh Patel and his wife were holding a prayer meeting on Dec. 20 at the home of a 60-year-old woman named Santhayama when a group of Hindu radicals raided the home. They beat the pastor, accusing him of forced conversions, tore off his clothes and dragged both him and the elderly woman to the police station where the pastor and the woman were arrested.

Though now released, they and the pastor's family are living in fear of new attacks.

4. **Nigeria**

Attacks continue on Christians in Kaduna state despite calls for peace and an increased army presence.

On the morning of Feb. 20, Fulani herdsmen began setting fire to Christians' homes and demanding that they renounce their faith. Gunmen killed 15 people, mostly women and children, and injured more than 50 others.

Uphold these fellow believers who are truly under fire.

5. **Pakistan:**

Asia Bibi, for whom many of us have prayed, was arrested in 2009. She now has one final appeal.

She has been in jail for more than seven years, separated by walls and bars from her husband and daughters. She has been threatened in jail, and must often cook her own food as a precaution against the

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possibility of poisoning, yet she has tenaciously held onto her faith in Christ.