

**June 15, 2003**

**Week Thirty-two: "Spiritual Gifts"**

**Day One: Small Group Guide**

**Read: 1 Corinthians 12 (p. 1318)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 1319)**

**Reflect:** What special talent or spiritual gift do you have? What is the difference between a talent and a spiritual gift?

**Dig:** What is Paul's concern as he begins this chapter? (see verse 1)

What do you learn from the summary of this entire section? (see chapter 14, verses 39-40)

What do you learn by the placement of chapter 13 right between two chapters (12 and 14) about the use of spiritual gifts?

What is the purpose of spiritual gifts? (see verse 7)

How do spiritual gifts contribute to Freedom in Christ?

**Apply:** Ask God to give you more and more opportunity to operate in your spiritual gifts. Now go out today and determine to use your gifts.

**Week Thirty-two: "Spiritual Gifts"**

**Day Two: "Motivational Gifts"**

**Read: 1 Peter 4:7-11 (p. 1454)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 1455)**

**Reflect:** What motivates you to keep going when a task is difficult? In terms of serving God, what gives you joy?

**Dig:** According to this text, does every Christian have at least one spiritual

gift?

According to verse 10, what is the purpose of the gifts we have and what comes from God through our spiritual gifts?

Of the gifts and definitions listed in the commentary, which gift(s) seem to motivate you? How are you currently using those gifts?

According to the close of this text, where should the emphasis lie in any gift-conscious (charismatic) church?

**Apply:** Choose one of the gifts listed on page 1455 and ask God for an opportunity today to exercise that gift.

## **Week Thirty-two: "Spiritual Gifts"**

### **Day Three: "Public Use of Gifts"**

**Read: 1 Corinthians 14 (p. 1320)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 1321)**

**Reflect:** Is speaking in tongues real for today? Is it a sign of the Spirit? Is it a sign of Christian maturity? Should you pray for this gift?

**Dig:** What does the first verse command us to do? Are you obeying? Why or why not?

According to this text, did Paul speak in tongues? (see verse 18)

According to verse 24-25, what sort of worship services should we have to win unbelievers?

According to verse 26, how should we be prepared for small group or even large group worship? Why is passing the microphone, as we sometimes do in our church services, a biblical pattern?

**Apply:** Ask God to birth in you an eager desire for spiritual gifts.

**Week Thirty-two: "Spiritual Gifts"**  
**Day Four: "Life Endowments"**

**Read: Matthew 25:14-30 (1113)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 1114)**

**Reflect:** How have you seen the principle, "if you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in bigger things," put into practice in your life or the lives of others?

**Dig:** What is the main point of this parable?

How do we fit this teaching into the doctrine of the basis of our salvation (by grace alone)? Look up James 2:14-19 (p. 1443) for a biblical answer.

How might this story fit with the next one (Matthew 25:31-46) and help you to understand what a "talent" is?

**Apply:** Considering our relative (to the rest of the world) wealth and educational and other opportunities, what commitment should you make to God today since he said "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."? Luke 12:48

**Week Thirty-two: "Spiritual Gifts"**  
**Day Five: "Stewardship"**

**Read: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 (p. 1307)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 1308)**

**Reflect:** What usually happens when people inherit a lot of money but do not understand the responsibility that goes along with this money?

**Dig:** What might 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 have to do with the meaning of the phrase "must prove faithful"?

What does verse 5 have to do with healthy fear, the fear of the Lord?

How is stewardship different than ownership? According to this text and commentary, do you own anything?

**Apply:** According to study after study, most Bible-believing Christians give away , on average only about 4% of their income. Since the biblical starting point is 10%, what does that say about our "proving faithful"? Is God calling you to a higher commitment of what he has entrusted to your stewardship? What are you going to do about it?