

Life Group Notes

Sunday 26th June 2022

Speaker: Scott Taylor

Title: A Community of the Spirit: Tongues & Prophecy

Passage: 1 Corinthians 14:1-5

On Sunday we looked largely at the gift of speaking in tongues with reference to prophecy.

This passage starts with pursue love, so we spoke about that. We wondered if Paul had Jesus in mind who pursued love to this earth and then to the cross. Are we pursuing love?

We talked about eagerly desiring the gifts. If we do, then we will be displaying the supernatural God that we serve by using the supernatural gifts he gives us.

Then we spoke about tongues being a language that helps us speak to God – they are praise and worship to him or petition to him about things that are on our heart. We don't have enough words at times to pray what's deep in our souls so he gives us the gift of tongues so we can fluently and passionately express ourselves towards him. This is so helpful when we consider spiritual warfare against the devil's schemes.

With tongues you need to do something – you can't just open your mouth and hope something comes out, we also need to engage our lungs and our voice box, to expel air, and move our tongue to form words that we haven't learnt!!! We need to engage our body, not just our faith.

If a tongue is brought publicly, it must be interpreted, either by the person bringing it, or by someone else in the congregation. Interpretation is a great gift, but when I have used this, it's not the same as interpreting French or any other earthly language. I have experienced it that your Spirit rises as you hear what's being said or sung and often you recognise the pattern of the tongue or the flow and you just know, what you have been praying or thinking in English, you feel like you can't keep it in anymore. There's a spiritual resonance as we hear the tongue.

As for prophecy, we didn't say too much but we recognised that it is manward – from God to man through women or men faithfully going for it. If someone tells you God has told you to marry them that's probably wishful thinking rather than prophecy! We only prophesy in part, so we bring what God has brought and trust that God will use that. Prophecy can come in the form of a word of knowledge or wisdom or encouragement. It can speak into the future or help us let go of the past.

Suggested questions:

1. What did you hear on Sunday that was new to you?
2. How would you describe the gift of tongues?
3. Why do you think it's to be eagerly desired?
4. Tell stories of where tongues has been helpful in your life.