

# Joyful Life Bible Studies

## I CORINTHIANS 14

Lesson 20

### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Recall and record one thing you learned about the *gifts* of the Holy Spirit from I Corinthians 13.
2. Review the facets of *love (agape)* described in I Corinthians 13:4-7. How have you had opportunity to *love (agape)* others this past week?
3. Chapter 13 of I Corinthians is *sandwiched* between Paul's discussion of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in chapters 12 and 14. Connect these chapters by completing the following verses:
  - a. I Corinthians 12:31b *and yet shew I unto you* \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - (1.) What one word describes a more excellent way?
  - b. I Corinthians 13:13b *but the greatest of these is* \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - (1.) Why is *love* the greatest?
  - c. I Corinthians 14:1a *Follow after* \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - (1.) List synonyms for the word *follow*.
4. Paul continues his discussion on the gifts of the Holy Spirit in I Corinthians 14 by giving instructions and guidelines for their usage in the church assembly. Mark the paragraph divisions and state the topic or the key verse in each:
  - a. I Corinthians 14:1-5
  - b. I Corinthians 14:6-12
  - c. I Corinthians 14:13-19
  - d. I Corinthians 14:20-25
  - e. I Corinthians 14:26-33a
  - f. I Corinthians 14:33b-36
  - g. I Corinthians 14:37-40
5. *Pursue love, be eager to have the gifts of the Spirit... I Corinthians 14:1a* Beck. If this is your heart's desire, write your prayer here.

**SECOND DAY:** Read I Corinthians 14:1-19

1. The believers in Corinth freely exercised their gifts (*came behind in no gift* I Corinthians 1:7a) in the church assembly without restraint thereby causing disorder and confusion. In order to remedy this problem Paul begins his correction with fundamental instructions. Write these from I Corinthians 14:1.
  
2. Throughout chapter 14 Paul discusses the spiritual gifts of *tongues* and *prophecy* and their value to the church when used properly. Identify and name which of these gifts Paul is speaking about in the following statements from verses 2-4:

Statement	Gift
a. <i>speakeeth . . . unto God:</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>vs. 2a</i></span>	
b. <i>speakeeth mysteries. . .</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>vs. 2b</i></span>	
c. <i>speakeeth unto men. . .</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>vs. 3a</i></span>	
d. <i>speakeeth . . . to edification, and exhortation and comfort.</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>vs. 3b</i></span>	
e. <i>. . . edifieth himself;</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>vs. 4a</i></span>	
f. <i>edifieth the church.</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>vs. 4b</i></span>	

Challenge: Define the words *edification*, *exhortation* and *comfort*.

3. When a believer speaks in *tongues* he is enabled by the Spirit to pray in an unknown (unlearned) language and is speaking to God. When a believer *prophesies* he is forthtelling God's Word prompted by the Holy Spirit and is speaking to the church. According to I Corinthians 14:5, (6-11), 12,19, why did Paul encourage the use of *prophecy* over the use of *tongues* in the church? Summarize in your own words.
  - a. Define the word *edify*.
    - (1.) Read Romans 14:19 and I Thessalonians 5:11 and write the instructions we are given.
  
  - b. For the gift of *tongues* to be valid (beneficial) in the church, what other gift must also be used? See I Corinthians 14:5,13,(16,17).
  
  - c. Print the guiding principle for the use of all spiritual gifts in the church from verse 12b: *seek that ye may excel to the* \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - (1.) Explain the phrase *seek that ye may excel*.
  
    - (2.) By observing others who are using their gifts, how are you encouraged to *seek to excel* to edify the church?

Challenge: In I Corinthians 14:7-11 Paul explains why tongues without interpretation is unprofitable to the church. Unless there is a clear understanding of what is spoken, the people gathered will not be edified. Identify the examples and their results that Paul used in these verses.

4. I Corinthians 14:14-18 covers additional information concerning the *gift of tongues* (praying in the Spirit). What do you discover about this gift in these verses:
  - a. verse 14
  - b. verse 15
  - c. verse 16,17
  - d. verse 18
5. Read Acts 2:(4-11a)11b and Acts 10:46 and record what was being spoken by those using the *gift of tongues*.

Personal: Paul spoke extensively in tongues in his private devotions and was thankful for this gift (I Corinthians 14:18). What is your attitude toward the *gift of tongues*? Write a prayer asking the Lord to give you a clear understanding of this gift and how it benefits the believer.

**THIRD DAY:** Read I Corinthians 14:20-25

1. *Dear brothers, don't be childish in your understanding of these things. Be innocent babies when it comes to planning evil, but be men of intelligence in understanding matters of this kind. I Corinthians 14:20 TLB* The believers in the Corinthian church were evidently misusing the gifts of the Spirit. According to this verse how did Paul exhort them?

Note: In verse 21, Paul quotes Isaiah 28:11,12. In the context it is obvious that Isaiah was not referring to the use of the gift of tongues. Thus, God uses tongues as a sign in different ways.

2. From I Corinthians 14:22 what is revealed about:
  - a. *Tongues* -
    - (1.) What example of this is found in Acts 2:(1-3),4-8,(9-11),12,13?
  - b. *Prophecy* -
    - (1.) Recall and record from I Corinthians 14:3 how this benefits the believers.
3. In I Corinthians 14:23-25 Paul presents a hypothetical situation to further explain the difference between *tongues* and *prophecy* and their proper use in a church service. What three groups of people are mentioned in verse 23? Use other versions if you desire.
  - a. What would be the result if the whole church spoke *with tongues*? Why? verse 23
  - b. How might *one unlearned* or *one that believeth not* respond if *all prophesy*? verses 24,25

*Oh that all might say of our church services  
"God is really among you".*

**FOURTH DAY:** Read I Corinthians 14:26-33a

1. Paul again reminds the Corinthian believers of the purpose in exercising spiritual gifts when they gathered. This truth is still relevant today. From the last sentence in I Corinthians 14:26 state this purpose .
2. List the guidelines given in I Corinthians 14:27,28 for the use of *tongues* in the church assembly.
3. I Corinthians 14:29-31 gives instructions for the exercise of the *gift of prophecy*. What should this gift accomplish when it is prompted by the Spirit of God? See verse 31b.
  - a. What is needful to exercise this gift? Romans 12:6b
    - (1.) What does this mean?

Advanced: How do we *judge* prophecy and what criteria should be used?

4. How does I Corinthians 14:32 refute someone who says, "The Holy Spirit took control and made me do it"? Use other versions if possible.
  - a. In what ways do the following verses indicate a believer has control over the use of his gift/s:
    - (1.) I Corinthians 14:15
    - (2.) I Corinthians 14:28
    - (3.) I Thessalonians 5:19
  - b. Write the one word used in verse 33a that describes the result of the misuse of the gifts in church.
    - (1.) List antonyms (opposites) for *confusion*.

*Wait on the Lord, let His Spirit move.  
Where the Spirit of the Lord is  
There is peace, sweet peace.  
Bob Cull*

**FIFTH DAY:** Read I Corinthians 14:33b-40

1. Paul now addresses another problem in the church in Corinth that resulted in chaos instead of the *peace* God intended for *all churches of the saints* (verse 33b). From I Corinthians 14:34a,35 record this problem.

Note: The Corinthian church followed the Jewish synagogue pattern by having the men and women separated and seated on either side of the assembly during services.

2. It would seem the women in the church couldn't hear or understand some things that were being taught so they would interrupt the services by calling out to their husbands for clarification. What did Paul instruct them to do? See I Corinthians 14:35a.
  - a. How do the following scriptures refute the belief that women should never speak out in church:
    - (1.) Acts 2:17
    - (2.) Acts 21:9
    - (3.) I Corinthians 11:5a

Optional: Share a time when God used a woman in a gathering of believers to bless you in prayer or with a prophecy.

3. How was the Corinthian believers' prideful attitude revealed by Paul's questions of I Corinthians 14:36?
  - a. Read I Corinthians 14:37,38 using other versions if possible. Then write Paul's stern remarks in your own words.
    - (1.) From Whom did Paul receive *the commandments*?
4. Paul summarizes this portion of his letter with three final instructions. List them and comment on each one.
  - a. I Corinthians 14:39a
  - b. I Corinthians 14:39b
  - c. I Corinthians 14:40

*Come Holy Spirit, I need You.  
Come sweet Spirit, I pray.  
Come in Thy strength and Thy power.  
Come in Thine own gentle way.*  
Gautier

**SIXTH DAY:** Review I Corinthians 14

1. Scan I Corinthians 14 and note the governing principle Paul repeatedly gives for the exercise of the gifts in the church.
  - a. How would *love* facilitate this goal being accomplished?
  
2. List five truths revealed about the *gift of tongues* from the following verses:
  - a. I Corinthians 14:2a
  - b. I Corinthians 14:2b
  - c. I Corinthians 14:4a
  - d. I Corinthians 14:16a
  - e. I Corinthians 14:17
  
3. According to the following verses what are the benefits of the *gift of prophecy*:
  - a. I Corinthians 14:3
  - b. I Corinthians 14:4b
  - c. I Corinthians 14:24
  - d. I Corinthians 14:25
  - e. I Corinthians 14:31b
  
4. In what way has this chapter enhanced your appreciation of the gift of:
  - a. *tongues*
  
  - b. *prophecy*
  
5. What new discoveries did you make as you did this lesson?

*Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me,  
fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.*

*D. Iverson*