

Earnestly Desire Spiritual Gifts (Part 1)

1 Corinthians 12-14 — September 20, 2009

Introduction

The church will only accomplish its mission if its firing on all its cylinders.
One cylinder it's easy to neglect is spiritual gifts.
Paul calls us to earnestly desire spiritual gifts (1 Cor 14:1)
What barriers keep us from doing this?

Not being sure that spiritual gifts are still part of God's plan.

Acts 2:14-18

The outpouring of the Spirit includes supernatural spiritual gifts.
The outpouring of the Spirit continues throughout the Last Days.
Just as the outpouring of the Spirit continues throughout the Last Days, so does the giving of supernatural gifts.

Not being sure of the purpose for spiritual gifts.

One purpose is to build up God's people (1 Cor 12:7)

Another purpose is to save those who don't know Jesus (1 Cor 14:24-25)

Not understanding when gifts are received.

Some think gifts are only received when you first trust Jesus.

But that doesn't fit 1 Cor 14:13 or 1 Cor 14:1.

Gifts can be received at any point in the Christian life — as we earnestly desire and pray for them.

Not understanding how gifts are received.

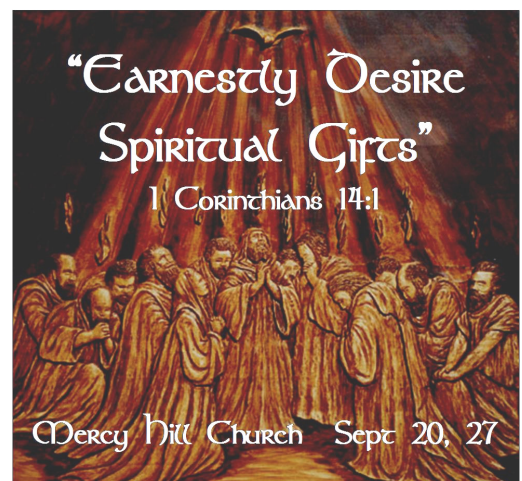
1 Cor 14:29-31 shows that gifts are always under the control of the one receiving them.

Thinking I'm not good enough to receive spiritual gifts.

1 Cor 12:4 — gifts are "works of God's grace"

We never earn or deserve them.

We receive them freely as we trust Jesus and His death on the Cross



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

How much have you been desiring spiritual gifts? What objections get in your way?

How much have you been praying for spiritual gifts? What objections get in the way?

Does it make sense that as a church we need to be firing on all cylinders to accomplish Jesus' purpose for us? Why or why not?

Was there one objection we covered which is an issue for you? Which one? Did the Scriptures used overcome it? Why or why not?

Talk about how you can earnestly desire spiritual gifts as a home group — Sunday mornings, at the home group meeting, with neighbors.

What's your take-away from this passage? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

