

# Earnestly Desire Spiritual Gifts (Part 2)

1 Corinthians 12-14 — September 27, 2009

## **Introduction**

In I Cor 14:1 Paul calls us to pursue love, and for the sake of love to earnestly desire spiritual gifts.

But we all have obstacles that keep us from earnestly desiring spiritual gifts.

We covered a couple obstacles last week — this week we'll cover some more:

## **Not being sure which gifts Paul had in mind.**

Paul gives a list in I Cor 12:8-10:

The utterance of wisdom and of knowledge (8).

Faith (9)

Gifts of healing (9)

The working of miracles (10)

Prophecy (10) — further explained in 14:29-30

Distinguishing between spirits (10)

Tongues and interpretation (10) — (Can everyone speak in tongues? No — see 12:29-30)

These are some of the gifts Paul wants us to earnestly desire.

## **Not being sure that God still works through supernatural spiritual gifts.**

Three reasons I believe God still works through these gifts:

In I Cor 13:8-12 he says that God will continue giving gifts until Jesus returns

In Acts 2:17-18 he says that he will continue pouring out His Spirit, with supernatural gifts, until the Second Coming.

The purpose of supernatural spiritual gifts is to build up God's people (14:12) and saving the lost (14:24f) is needed as much today as it was back in the time of the apostles.

## **Not being sure this should happen in church.**

I Cor 14:26 shows that supernatural spiritual gifts played a regular role when God's people gather.

## **Not being sure a gift is from God.**

How do gifts come? See I Cor 14:30.

They are a revelation from God — where He brings something to your mind spontaneously.

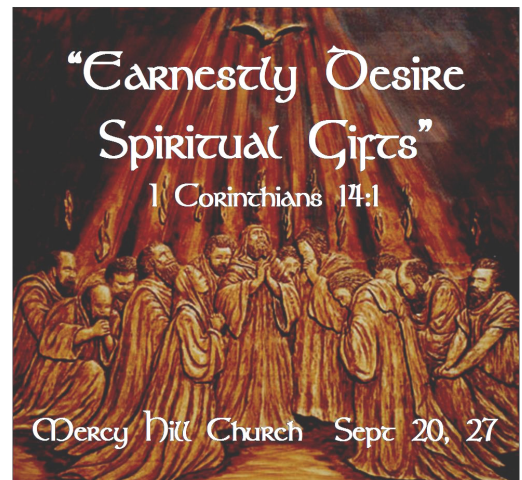
So if you have prayed for a spiritual gift, and something comes into your mind which is consistent with Scripture, go ahead and share it.

## **How we pursue gifts at Mercy Hill:**

Pray before home group and Sundays.

During the spiritual gifts time, pray again for a spiritual gift, and wait on the Lord. See if he brings something spontaneously to mind.

If he does, and if it's consistent with Scripture, go ahead and share it.



## **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?

Which of the listed objections was most significant for you? Why?

Are there objections you have that were not addressed? What are they? What does God's Word say about them?

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.

