

Series - Be Wise
Topic - The Proper Use of Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

Date - 6-Oct-19
Speaker - Rev Vincent Lun

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Come Holy Spirit
 2. Spirit Touch Your Church
-

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Be reminded of the three pointers to ensure proper usage of spiritual gifts
2. Be reminded that we all have been given gifts and we can contribute to building God's Kingdom.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. We can only say "Jesus is Lord" when we have believed in Him as Lord and Saviour and received the Holy Spirit.
2. We ensure the proper use of spiritual gifts by ascertaining the Source, accepting the Giver's sovereignty and aiming to serve the common good.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Pastor Vincent shared about the Corinthian church – it was a charismatic yet problematic church. This church was planted by Paul and he did not give up on it despite the challenges. We can be caught in the myth of a perfect church – but it does not exist. Spiritual growth comes from being committed to relationships; at the same time, problems arise when we are together long enough. The challenge is for us to grow in love even when things get tough.

We can learn from the mistakes of the Corinthian church and how Paul taught and rebuked them in love. Church is and will continue to be messy. It is important for us to accept it for what it is and to belong to a community. Pastor Vincent exhorted for the church to work

through the difficult issues together and our character will be shaped through the journey. Discipleship is about character formation. We grow in Christlikeness as we relate to and sharpen each other.

How do we ensure the proper usage of spiritual gifts?

1. Ascertain the source

Paul shared with the Corinthians that he did not want them to be uninformed concerning the spiritual gifts God has blessed them with. In v2, Paul highlighted how Corinth was a very religious society with pagan beliefs and how some people had experienced the spiritual realm before they followed Christ (in various Greco-Roman religious rituals). Paul shared that the spiritual experiences the church had cannot be the determining factor of their faith and had to be based on the Word of God. We need to be grounded in the Word of God even as we continue to grow in the Spirit.

How would we know if this experience is of God, or of the flesh or of other spirits? The answer comes in verse 3 – “No one can say Jesus is Lord except in the Holy Spirit.” The following questions can be used to ascertain the source of the experience/gifts:

- Am I growing in my submission to the Lordship of Christ?
- Am I acknowledging God more?
- How am I stewarding what I have?
- How do I interact with others (in various relationships)?
- How do I manage offences?

As a church, we need to lift the lordship of Christ and grow in mutual submission and accountability. We need to grow in Him, to know what is of God and what is not. Ps. Vincent shared that one expression of lawlessness is when believers are focused on their own autonomy and there is a lack of openness to anyone. He encouraged us to grow in accountability with each other and we grow in it the more we practice it.

2. Accept the Giver’s sovereignty

God is the Giver of spiritual gifts and we can trust in His sovereignty. There is a variety of gifts from the triune God – “same Spirit, the same Lord, the same God”. All these gifts are empowered by the Holy Spirit. All are important and valued, similar to the analogy of the Body of Christ. We are exhorted to honour the Giver’s choice, accept His sovereignty, build on each other’s strengths and manage our expectations of each other’s weaknesses (note: not referring to character weakness).

3. Aim to serve the common good

Our role is to discover, develop and grow our spiritual gifts for the glory of God and to build each other up.

We need to be others-centred. The Church is not just a place where my needs are met – we will never be satisfied if our focus is on ourselves. The happiest people are the people who give.

Conclusion

Spiritual gifts are important and needful – We need to come together to function well and work together as the body of Christ. Start by serving somewhere!

Discussion Questions

1. **What is your understanding of spiritual gifts? OR We have all been given spiritual gifts and we need to learn how to properly use it – not to abuse nor hide it. As a cell, think of some real-life examples where people have used correctly or wrongly – how can we learn from these examples?** [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

The first question is for members to share about their understanding of spiritual gifts. Depending on the maturity of the group, leaders may also wish to briefly share a bit more on spiritual gifts for members to understand more. Leaders can also use this time to get members to ask questions/experiences about this topic – leaders can ask other members to answer the questions, or for the cell to search for answers together (from reliable sources). In 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, Paul gave examples of spiritual gifts. It may be important to clarify that the list is not a closed or exhaustive list. There are a few examples in the Old Testament that the Holy Spirit came upon individuals and gave them gifts, such as Samson – supernatural strength, Bezalel – craftsmanship (Exodus 31:3).

The second question is for members to share their observations about people who did or did not steward what they were given well (this can include Christians in the marketplace). The purpose of the sharing is for members to think about the lessons they can learn from the example, instead of passing judgment. It can be from real-world examples e.g. people from history or from other parts of the world. Members can also share their personal experiences with other Christians they were blessed with (e.g. a person who was hospitable, who blessed them in times of need, a preacher of God's word who spoke a word in season, a person who spoke a word of wisdom / knowledge / prophecy/ encouragement).

Some resources for leaders:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/spiritual-gifts>

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

As we learn more about spiritual gifts / discussed about our own personal experiences with others, Pastor Vincent also shared about three pointers to ensure the proper use of spiritual gifts.

2. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. Out of the three pointers shared, which of one(s) act as a new lesson or needed reminder for you in this season? OR What are your spiritual gifts? How did that guide your decisions to serve? What were some of the fears or struggles you had?** [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

Pastor Vincent shared the following three pointers: 1) Ascertain the source, 2) Accept the Giver's sovereignty and 3) Aim to serve the common good. Leaders can get members to reflect about their current season and get them to share:

- i.e. are some of them feeling that they could step up to use what they have to build the church (Point 3)

- or learning to discern what they have is from God and learning to surrender it to him (Point 1)
- or trusting that God has given them what they need for the season or taking time to find their fit and stepping out in their comfort zone (Point 2).

The second question is for members to share their own personal experiences in serving God – their joys and challenges, how they grew in God, what they learnt about God etc. as they served Him and His people. It is also an opportunity for members to affirm the spiritual gifts of one another (as everyone has gifts) and all can be edified through this sharing.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

Even as we continue to reflect on the proper usage of spiritual gifts / the journey of serving Him, let us also continue to build God’s kingdom in whatever capacity He has called us to.

- 3. What are the heart attitudes you have adopted or wish to adopt with regards to serving/the use of spiritual gifts as you continue to grow in this cell group/church? OR What are some actions you may wish to take as we continue learning about spiritual gifts?** [15 min]

Leader’s Notes:

This is a response question for members to share with each other. This can be a time where members break into smaller groups to pray for each other, and can also act as a group where members can be accountable to each other in this season.

Transition (Wrapping Up, Vision Casting to Cell & Closing The Discussion)

Leaders to conclude by encouraging members to continue to seek the Giver as He gives us gifts – He desires for us to partner alongside Him joyfully in building His kingdom. The end purpose of Spiritual Gifts is to strengthen the Body of Christ. Therefore, we don’t have to wait until we know all our spiritual gifts before serving. We can take the leap of faith to serve in the areas of needs within the church. And as we do that, we will discover our gifts and what are not our gifts! The church will continue to touch on spiritual gifts for the next three weeks.

WORKS [10 min]

Let’s pray:

1. For us to deeply understand that God truly wants to bless us for we are His children
2. For us to fully trust in God and His goodness
3. For us to consciously bless others as God has blessed us
4. Hong Kong:

Peace to return and that all conflicts to be settled peacefully. Churches to be strengthen in these trying times and that the country's economy will begin to prosper again.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) 2019 Equipping Weekends (season 2)

i. We are sent @ Christmas

Sun, 3 Nov | 2-5pm | Victory Chapel

We highly encourage you to participate in this equipping as a cell group so that groups can be equipped together for this Christmas outreach season.

ii. Introduction to biblical interpretation

Sun, 10 Nov | 2-5pm | Victory Chapel

Registration can be done online at bit.ly/rlcequipping2019

2) Joining The Family

Sat, 16 Nov | 10am-1pm | Faith Chapel

Becoming a church member means making RiverLife your spiritual home and committing to what God is doing here. This is an invitation to a solid commitment and influence as we follow Christ together and share in God's movements in Singapore.

Sign up online at bit.ly/rlcjoiningthefamily by Sun, 10 Nov. For more information, please contact Karen Koh at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.

Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.