

GIFTED TO SERVE



Gifted To Serve | Heavenly Praying | 1 Corinthians 14:1-39

1. Can you think of any practices, language or customs in the life of CBC that make it hard for those coming in 'fresh' to understand? Should we try to avoid them?
2. Share some of your experiences of seeing/hearing the gift of tongues being exercised. Did these experiences seem genuine and authentic? Why? Why not?
3. Before hearing Sunday morning's message, what did you understand the gift of tongues to be and what was the purpose of this gift as you understood it? Did this differ in any way from what you heard? How?

READ: 1 Corinthians 14:1-39

4. In what way were the Corinthians acting immaturely when it came to their handling of the gift of tongues? (Important to back up answers here by reference to chapters 12-14).
5. From chapter 14, what would you say speaking in tongues is? What is the gift of interpretation of tongues?
6. When is Paul suggesting this gift is most appropriately used? How does this fit with 1 Corinthians 13?
7. Summarise the 'regulations' for tongues and prophecy in church. Why are the Corinthians given these instructions? (particularly v26, 33, 40). Apply the to the case study below.
8. Discuss verses 34-38. Why do you think Paul says all this? What does it mean for us today?
9. What are the benefits of speaking in tongues both privately and/or corporately? Why?
10. Do you still have unanswered questions or concerns about this gift? What are they?

A CASE STUDY TO DISCUSS

You are on holiday and on the Sunday morning you pop into the local church for their main meeting. During the meeting the pastor explains that they are going to have a few minutes where everyone will be able to speak in tongues as a way of corporately praising God. Whilst they are doing this, you decide to read 1 Corinthians 14 to see if you think it is appropriate.

- a. What do you conclude?
- b. What if the meeting was designed to be evangelistic, and afterward the pastor explained to you that they spoke in tongues as part of their evangelistic outreach (citing 1 Corinthians 14:22).