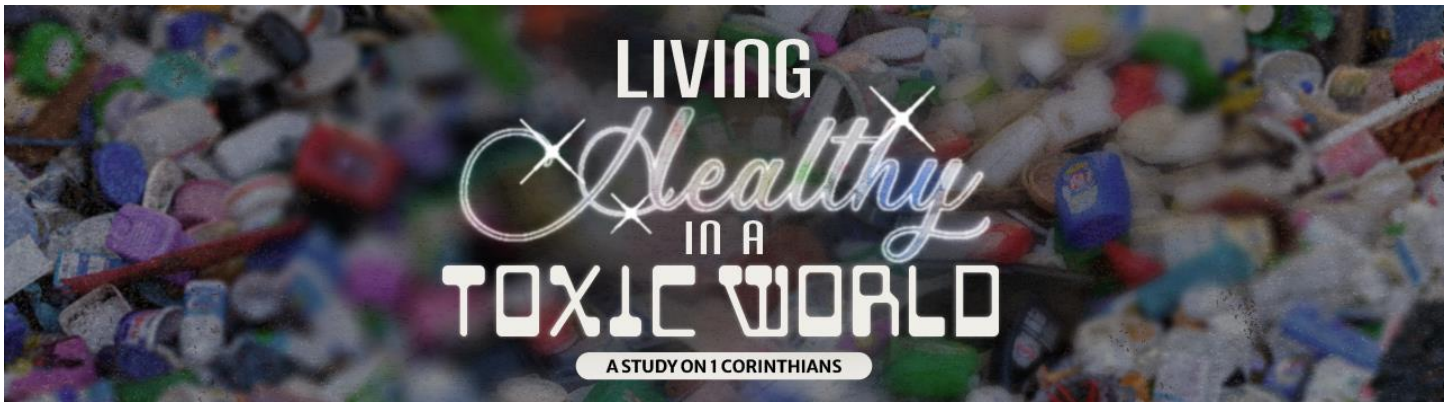




STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, September 3, 2026

Teaching: *Spiritual Gifts*

Key Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12-14

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 14:1-25*

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 14:26-40*

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-34

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

Friday: 1 Corinthians 16

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do?
4. What is your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

God has given every believer spiritual gifts, and He has given those gifts for one purpose: to build His Church. In 1 Corinthians 12–14, Paul reminds us that while our gifts may look different, they all come from the same Spirit, and our diversity is actually part of God's design. We can easily fall into comparison, feeling like our gift isn't important because it doesn't look like someone else's, but comparison steals both our joy and our purpose. At the same time, our gifts are never meant to draw attention to ourselves. The question isn't whether our gift is impressive or whether people notice us; the question is whether we are using whatever God has given us to build up His Church in love. If you follow Jesus, you have spiritual gifts even if you haven't discovered it yet! God gifted each of us to strengthen all of us.

Questions: Icebreaker: What's the story behind your cell phone wallpaper?

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 together. What repeated ideas do you notice? What do these verses teach us about the relationship between diversity and unity in the Church?
2. Now read 12:12-27. Paul compares the Church to a body with many different parts. Which part of the illustration stands out to you most, and why?
3. Read 13:1-7. Why do you think Paul puts this chapter right in the middle of chapters 12 and 14 which are both about spiritual gifts?
4. Read 14:1-19. What is Paul's main point in this passage? What does Paul tell the Corinthians to pursue?
5. Looking back over 1 Corinthians 12–14, what do you think Paul most wants the Corinthians to understand about spiritual gifts?
6. Think about the way you currently serve or participate in the Church. Are you ever tempted to compare your contribution with someone else's? What would it look like to stop asking, "Am I doing what they are doing?" and instead ask, "Am I faithfully doing what God has given me to do?"

CEDAR VALLEY

Memorizing Scripture provides spiritual strength, guides your daily life, and equips you for ministry in everyday moments. For

the rest of the year, we're switching things up! Each week, we encourage **you** to choose one verse from the weekly Key Scripture that stands out to you and commit it to memory. Before you choose your verse, ask God to reveal the one you most need to hide in your heart. Over time, you'll be amazed at how God brings that verse to mind—whether to strengthen and encourage you or to help you encourage someone else.

7. Challenge this week: What is one specific way you can use your gifts in love this week—not for recognition, but so that someone else becomes stronger?

DIGGING DEEPER

For more on Spiritual Gifts, view the Sunday Class on our website here: cvchurch.org/classes.

To take a spiritual gifts assessment, visit <https://cvchurch.org/nsfasttrack/>, scroll down to “Next Step 3”, and click “Spiritual Gifts Assessment”

*There are a few difficult verses to understand in 1 Corinthians 14.

(1) First, in 14:22, Paul says tongues are a “sign” for the unbeliever. What does he mean by this? Here are two common interpretations mentioned by Dr. Craig Keener:

“On one view, Paul here refers to tongues as a sign of judgment that causes non-believers to stumble (cf. 14:21); on another, Paul quotes the Corinthians in 14:22 and refutes them in 14:23-25 (cf. 6:12-14).

Prophecy was a known phenomenon in the ancient world, whereas the gift of tongues was not; ancients’ prophecy, but if they did not know beforehand to expect speaking in tongues, they would not know what was happening (cf. Acts 2:13). Perhaps Paul would not object to a whole group simultaneously worshipping charismatically under other circumstances (e.g., Acts 2:4-21); but not in the Corinthian house churches where unbelievers could be alienated.”

—Keener, Craig. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary*. IVP: Downers Grove, 2014.

(2) Secondly, 1 Corinthians 14:34 says, “*women should remain silent in the churches.*” What does Paul mean by this?

There are three main ways scholars have interpreted this passage:

1. **Subordinationist reading**—Those who hold this position read the text straightforwardly: women should remain silent during congregational gatherings and should not speak publicly in the church.
2. **Cultural reading**—This position looks at the historical and cultural context to explain what may have been happening in the Corinthian church. Kenneth Bailey, a New Testament scholar, points out that women and men may have sat on opposite sides of the room during their gatherings. Some women may not have spoken Greek and may have spoken only Aramaic. If they did not understand something that was being said, there may have been conversation or questions taking place across the room that were disruptive to the service. Perhaps some women were even trying to get their husbands’ attention to ask questions. Paul may be telling them to wait and ask their husbands at home so that they do not disrupt the gathering. Craig Keener also points out that it was common for informed and educated listeners to ask questions in these settings, while questions from those considered “unlearned” or inexperienced could be viewed as inappropriate. In this understanding, Paul’s instructions may have been directed toward learning quietly rather than disrupting the gathering.
3. **Interpolation**—An interpolation is a passage or piece of text that was inserted into a work by someone other than the original author. Some scholars argue that there is evidence in early manuscripts suggesting that 1 Corinthians 14:34–35 may have been added at a later time. Dr. Gordon Fee holds this view and provides a detailed explanation of the evidence in his commentary on 1 Corinthians: *The First Epistle to the Corinthians* (NICNT, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1987).