

Bible Correspondence Fellowship

Answer Sheet for English Standard Version (ESV)



1 Corinthians - Lesson 4 of 5

Chapters 12-14 of 1 Corinthians are among the most important and controversial in the entire New Testament. The theme of this section of the book is spiritual gifts and their use by members of the Body of Christ in the church. Chapter 13 is one of the best loved passages of literature known to mankind, the famous “Love Chapter.” Please spend some time in prayer before beginning this study asking the Lord to reveal to you what you need to know about the many important spiritual truths you will encounter as you study this crucial passage of His Word.

**Please memorize the following verse and be prepared
to write it out at the end of this lesson.**

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13*

Chapter 12

INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 _____ Check

1. (v. 12:1) What was Paul's desire for the believers regarding spiritual gifts?
I do not want you to be uninformed
 2. (v. 12:2) What did the Corinthians follow when they were pagans? mute idols,
 3. (v. 12:3) No one speaking by the Holy Spirit can say what about Jesus?
no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!"
 4. (v. 12:3) Likewise, only those speaking by the Spirit of God can say what about Jesus?
no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.
 5. (vs. 12:4-6) Describe how God can create unity out of diversity.
Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities,
but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.
- Note:** The mention of One Spirit, Lord (Jesus) and God (the Father) is an implicit reference to the triune nature of God. Paul is using the unity in diversity of God's nature to illustrate the unity in diversity of spiritual gifts.
6. (v. 12:7) Why is each person given the manifestation of the Spirit?
To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good
 7. (vs. 12:8-10) List the nine miraculous gifts that are mentioned in these two verses.
 1. wisdom
 2. knowledge
 3. faith
 4. healing
 5. miracles
 6. prophecy
 7. discernment of Spirits
 8. Tongues
 9. Interpretation of tongues

Note: There are three other lists of spiritual gifts in the New Testament (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; Ephesians 4:11-12). This list is unique in that each gift is in some way a manifestation of miraculous power from God. (The gifts of wisdom and knowledge refer to divinely given information that a person would not normally have, such as knowing the thoughts or intent of another person Acts 5:3-4). These particular gifts are sometimes called sign gifts, whereas those listed in the other passages are often referred to as ministry gifts.

The purpose of the sign gifts was to prove, primarily to Jews, that God was blessing the ministry of Paul to proclaim the gospel of God's grace to Jews and Gentiles without distinction.

Other gifts were foundational in nature (apostles, prophets, cf. Ephesians 2:20) and were necessary for the establishment of the Body of Christ before the clear teaching of the completed Bible was available to all believers. The ministry gifts (teachers, administration, mercy, giving, etc.) are permanent and are a part of the Body of Christ until we are taken to be with the Lord in the rapture.

8. (v. 12:11) By whose will are these gifts given to members of the Body of Christ?
All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit,

ONE BODY WITH MANY PARTS

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 _____ Check

9. (v. 12:12) What metaphor does Paul use to describe those that know Christ?
For just as the body is one and has many members,

10. (v. 12:13) Into what has every believer in Christ been baptized? into one body

11. (vs. 12:13) Do you believe this verse refers to water baptism or spiritual baptism?
For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - spiritual

Note: The word baptism, as used in the Bible, means to be placed into or identified with something. Often it refers to being placed in water, but in many other cases it is used figuratively. In this case this passage speaks of believers being spiritually placed into the Body of Christ, which is the Church.

12. (v. 12:13) Is there any favoritism about who is baptized into the Body of Christ?

no

13. (vs. 12:14-26) In this section Paul describes the importance of being part of the Body of Christ by comparing it to a physical body. Summarize in your own words the point that Paul is trying to make in these verses.

(answers vary) If the foot or ear should say, "Because I am not a hand or eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. But God has so composed body, that there may be no division in the body, but rejoice together.

14. (v.12:28) What are the eight gifts of the Spirit listed in this verse?

1. apostles

5. healing

2. prophets

6. helping

3. teachers

7. administering

4. miracles

8. tongues

15. (vs. 12:29-30) Are all members of the Body of Christ suppose to have the same gifts?

no

16. (vs. 12:31) What are we to seek? But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

17. (vs. 31) What is Paul about to show the readers? a still more excellent way.

Chapter 13

THE SUPREMECY OF LOVE

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 _____ Check

Note: 1 Corinthians 13 is one of the most well-known and best loved chapters in all of the Bible. It is given to show the overwhelming importance of love. The context, however, is that of spiritual gifts. Paul knew that the gifts could become matters of serious controversy and it was absolutely necessary for the Corinthian believers to understand that Christian love is far more important than the gifts themselves. Please study this chapter with an attitude of prayer.

Note: The ancient Greek language had three words that are commonly translated into English as “love.” Eros was understood as sexual love, phileo was used to refer to human love, such as that between friends or brothers. The word used most commonly for God’s love is agape. “This word indicates a selfless concern for the welfare of others that is not called forth by any quality of loveliness in the person loved, but is the product of a will to love in obedience to God’s command.” (NIV Study Bible)

1. (v. 13:1) What is the value of being able to speak in tongues if one does not have love?
If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal
2. (vs. 13:1-4) Summarize the main point of verses one to four.
(answers vary) Love is more important than tongues, powers, understanding, faith.

3. (vs. 13:4-7) There are at least 15 characteristics of love, both positive negative) that are given in verses four to seven. List those characteristics below.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <u>is patient</u> | 2. <u>is kind</u> |
| 3. <u>does not envy</u> | 4. <u>does not boast</u> |
| 5. <u>is not arrogant</u> | 6. <u>is not rude</u> |
| 7. <u>does not insist on its own way;</u> | 8. <u>is not irritable</u> |
| 9. <u>is not resentful</u> | 10. <u>does not rejoice at wrongdoing,</u> |
| 11. <u>rejoices with the truth</u> | 12. <u>bears all things,</u> |
| 13. <u>believes all things</u> | 14. <u>hopes all things</u> |
| 15. <u>endures all things.</u> | |

4. (v. 13:8) What will love never do? Love never ends

5. (v. 13:8) What will happen to prophecy, tongues and knowledge?
they will pass away; they will cease

6. (v. 13:9) How did Paul describe (supernatural) knowledge and prophecy at the time he was writing? For we know in part and we prophesy in part

7. (v. 13:10) What will happen to those things which are “in part” (KJV) or imperfect” (NIV) when that which is perfect comes?
when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

8. (v. 13:11) How does Paul illustrate maturity and immaturity?
When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.
When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

9. (v. 13:12) What metaphor does Paul use in this verse to illustrate the incompleteness of Divine revelation at the time he was writing?
For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face

Note: The Greek word translated “perfect” (verse 13:10) is teleos and can mean “end,” “fulfillment,” “completeness” or “maturity.” Paul is probably referring here to the completion of the New Testament Scripture as the thing which is “perfect” or complete. In verse 13:12 Paul talks about seeing our reflection poorly in a mirror. James uses the metaphor of the mirror to describe the Word of God (James 1:23).

10. (v. 13:13) What three things remain throughout the time of the Body of Christ?

1. faith 2. hope 3. love

11. (v. 13) Which is the greatest? the greatest of these is love

Chapter 14

TONGUES AND PROPHECY

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 _____ **Check**

1. (v. 14:1) What are the Corinthians encouraged to do?

Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

2. (v. 14:2) When someone speaks in tongues to whom are they speaking and why?

not to men but to God for no one understands him

3. (v. 14:3) What is accomplished when someone gives a word of prophecy?

speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

4. (v. 14:4) Who benefits when some speaks in tongues?

The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself,

5. (v. 14:4) Who benefits when someone prophesies?

the one who prophesies builds up the church.

6. (v. 14:5) Why was prophecy a greater gift than tongues?
he one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues,
unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Read 1 Corinthians 14:6-20 _____ Check

Note: The gift of tongues refers to the Spirit-given ability of a believer to speak in a language which he did not understand. The Greek word (glossa) most often was used to refer to an earthly foreign language, although sometimes Paul uses it to mean an angelic language (1 Corinthians 13:1). It was given to be a sign of the working of God's Spirit among various groups of people, first for Jews that believed in Jesus Christ as their Messiah and later for members of the Body of Christ. While the gift of tongues was meant to be a sign of the presence of God's power among a group of people it was never expected that everyone needed to speak in tongues (1 Corinthians 12:30).

7. (v. 14:6) Does speaking in tongues for its own sake have value to the church in general?
no
8. (vs. 14:7-8) What is the point Paul is making through the illustrations he uses in these verses?
If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes,
how will anyone know what is played? And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound
who will get ready for battle?
9. (vs. 14:9-11) What is Paul saying about the value of speaking in tongues with no one to interpret the meaning of the words?
So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible,
how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.
10. (v. 14:12) What types of gifts were the Corinthian believers to desire?
strive to excel in building up the church.

11. (v. 14:13) What should someone speaking in tongues ask the Lord for?
one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret.
12. (v. 14:14) If someone prays in a foreign tongue does their mind (understanding) benefit from the experience? it is unfruitful
13. (vs. 14:15-17) Will another person in the congregation be edified if he does not understand what the person speaking in tongues is saying? no
14. (v. 14:18) Did Paul speak in tongues? yes
15. (v. 14:19) What does Paul say about the relative importance of teaching in a way that someone understands rather than speaking in tongues?
Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.
16. (v. 14:20) What instruction does Paul give the Corinthian believers in this verse?
do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

THE PURPOSE OF TONGUES AND PROPHECY

Read 1 Corinthians 14:21-25 _____ Check

17. (v. 14:21) This verse is a quote from Isaiah 28:11,12 and was originally written to the nation of Israel. How did God say they would respond when they heard foreign languages spoken to them? even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord

Note: This passage in Isaiah is given in the context of judgment on Ephraim (northern Israel). The Jews that knew this scripture would recognize it as a sign of God's judgment on their nation.

18. (v. 14:22) Tongues were a sign for unbelievers, and prophecy was a sign for believers
19. Read Romans 9:31-32. Was the nation of Israel primarily one of believers or unbelievers in the Lord Jesus Christ? unbelievers - stumbling over Jesus

Note: Given the fact that Israel was primarily in a condition of unbelief, that tongues were a sign of judgment on unbelieving Israel and Israel sought after signs (1 Corinthians 1:22) we may say that tongues were given to prove to the nation of Israel that God had judged them for their unbelief and that He had now begun working with the Body of Christ.

20. (v. 14:23) What will be the reaction of unbelievers that walk into a congregation where everyone is speaking in tongues?

will they not say that you are out of your minds?

21. (vs. 24-25) What will be the response of an unbeliever that hears people prophesying?

he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, he secrets of his heart are disclosed, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

GUIDELINES FOR ORDERLY WORSHIP

Read 1 Corinthians 14:26-40 _____ **Check**

22. (v. 14:26) What is the reason for each part of the worship service (hymns, instruction [doctrine], revelation, etc.)?

Let all things be done for building up

23. (v. 14:27) What instruction does Paul give for speaking in tongues in the church?

If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret

24. (v. 14:28) What should the speaker do if there is no interpreter?

But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.

25. (v. 14:33) Why does God want worship to be done in an orderly way?

For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

26. (v. 14:34) What instruction does Paul give about women in the church?

the women should keep silent in the churches.

27. (v. 14:35) What should a woman in the congregation do if she has a question?
If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home

Note: While the wording of this passage is quite strong, still it is unlikely that this should be understood to be a total prohibition from women speaking at all in the congregation. Paul gave instructions for how women were to pray and prophesy in church (1 Corinthians 11:5), thus he acknowledges that they do speak while participating in the worship of the congregation. Most likely Paul is referring to argumentative and disruptive talk that publicly questions the authority of the spiritual leadership.

28. (v. 14:37) What should the spiritual person recognize about the writings of Paul?
the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.

29. (v. 14:40) What is Paul's final commandment regarding tongues, prophecy, spiritual gifts and worship in general?
But all things should be done decently and in order.

Write 1 Corinthians 13:13 from memory on the lines below.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

What Bible Version/Translation did you use for this lesson? _____

This is the Version/Translation we will use to grade this Lesson.

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