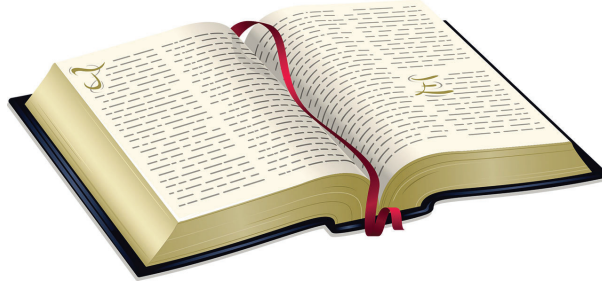


# Bible Correspondence Fellowship 22



## 1 Corinthians - Lesson 4 of 5

### Answer Sheet for New Living Translation (NLT)

Chapters 12 and 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 don't want you to misunderstand
2. (v. 12:2) What did the Corinthians follow when they were pagans? speechless idols
3. (v. 12:3) No one speaking by the Holy Spirit can say what about Jesus?  
curse Jesus
4. (v. 12:3) Likewise, only those speaking by the Spirit of God can say what about Jesus?  
Jesus is Lord,
5. (vs. 12:4-6) Describe how God can create unity out of diversity.  
tthe source of them all  
we serve the same Lord  
it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

**The manifestation of the Spirit is given:** The Holy Spirit is always present in and among Christians. Jesus said of the Holy Spirit, ***He may abide with you forever (John 14:16).*** However, at some times the Spirit's presence is more apparent than at other times. There are times when He may choose to manifest Himself, that is, to make Himself apparent.

6. (v. 12:7) Why is each person given the manifestation of the Spirit?  
so we can help each other
7. (vs. 12:8-10) List the nine miraculous gifts that are mentioned in these two verses.
  1. the ability to give wise advice
  2. a message of special knowledge
  3. great faith
  4. the gift of healing.
  5. the power to perform miracles,
  6. the ability to prophesy.
  7. discernment
  8. speak in unknown languages
  9. the ability to interpret

**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**). If the Spirit distributes to each one individually as He wills, why would He choose to give a particular gift at a particular moment? The larger reasons may not be apparent, but the goal of the Holy Spirit's work is always to glorify Jesus and to build His nature and character in us. The Spirit's goal is never to amaze or confuse, but to build the fruit of the Spirit, and **He will use or not use** any gift He thinks right towards that end.

8. (v. 12:11) By whose will are these gifts given to members of the Body of Christ?

It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts.

## 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?

The human body

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

11. (vs. 12:13) Do you believe this verse refers to water baptism or spiritual baptism?

spiritual baptism

**Note:** Passages like this have led many to regard baptism as sort of the “initiation ceremony into the community of Christians.” While this may be an aspect of baptism, it is not the main point. The main idea behind Christian baptism is the identification of the believer – his “immersion” in Jesus Christ (**Romans 6:3-5**). The idea that baptism is primarily the initiation ceremony into the church has led to, and reinforced, unbiblical ideas such as the baptism of infants.

But here, Paul does not have in mind water baptism as much as Spirit baptism: For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Paul here is writing of the common “immersion” all believers have in the Holy Spirit and in Jesus, a common “immersion” which brings them into one body.

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 will vary

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

1. apostles,

5. healing,

2. prophets,

6. help others,

3. teachers,

7. leadership,

4. miracles,

8. speak in unknown languages.

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? the most helpful gifts.

17. (vs. 31) What is Paul about to show the readers? a way of life that is best of all.

# 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 lovableness in the person loved, but is the product of a will to love in obedience to God’s command.”

1. (v. 13:1) What is the value of being able to speak in tongues if one does not have love?

I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

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2. (vs. 13:1-4) Summarize the main point of verses one to four.

Love is the most important gift

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3. (vs. 13:4-7) There are at least 14 characteristics of love, both positive negative) that are given in verses four to seven. List those characteristics below.

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. patient                                | 2. kind                              |
| 3. not jealous                            | 4. not boastful                      |
| 5. not proud                              | 6. not rude                          |
| 7. does not demand its own way.           | 8. not irritable,                    |
| 9. keeps no record of being wronged       | 10. does not rejoice about injustice |
| 11. rejoices whenever the truth wins out. | 12. never gives up                   |
| 13. never loses faith                     | 14. is always hopeful                |
|   | endures through every circumstance   |

4. (v. 13:8) What will love always do?

love will last forever

5. (v. 13:8) What will happen to prophecy, tongues and knowledge?

They will become useless

6. (v. 13:9) How did Paul describe (supernatural) knowledge and prophecy at the time he was writing? partial and incomplete,

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

these partial things will become useless.

8. (v. 13:11) How does Paul illustrate maturity and immaturity?

When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. .

But when I grew up, I put away childish things

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?

reflections in a mirror

**Note:** ~~*But the greatest of these is love:*~~ Love is greatest because it will continue, even grow, in the eternal state. When we are in heaven, **faith** and **hope** will have fulfilled their purpose.

We won't need **faith** when we see God face to face. We won't need to **hope** in the coming of Jesus once He comes. But we will always **love** the Lord and each other, and grow in that **love** through eternity.

**Love** is also the greatest because it is an attribute of God (**1 John 4:8**), and faith and hope are not part of God's character and personality. God does not have **faith** in the way we have **faith**, because He never has to “trust” outside of Himself. God does not have **hope** the way we have **hope**, because He knows all things and is in complete control. But God is love, and will always be love.

Fortunately, we don't need to choose between **faith**, **hope**, and **love**. Paul isn't trying to make us choose, but he wants to emphasize the point to the Corinthian Christians: without **love** as the motive and goal, the gifts are meaningless distractions.

If you lose love, you lose everything.

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? love

## Chapter 14

### TONGUES AND PROPHECY

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_ Check

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

Let love be your highest goal. But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives

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

you will be talking only to God, since people won't be able to understand you.

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

strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them

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

person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally,

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

one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church.

6. (v. 14:5) Why was prophecy a greater gift than tongues?

the whole church will be strengthened

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Read 1 Corinthians 14:6-20 \_\_\_\_\_ Check

**Note: He who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God:** With the gift of tongues, the speaker addresses **God**, not **men**. Disregard of this principle leads to one of the most significant misunderstandings regarding the gift of tongues – believing tongues is a supernatural communication “man to man” instead of “man to God.”

*If we misunderstand this*, we misunderstand **Acts 2** and think the disciples preached to the crowd in tongues on the day of Pentecost. Instead, they spoke to God and the multi-national crowd overheard their praise to God. **Acts 2:11** says, we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God. Later, **Acts 10:46** describes the hearing of the gift of tongues: they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

*If we misunderstand this*, we misunderstand what really happens when someone attempts to interpret a tongue and addresses his or her message to men. A true interpretation of the gift of tongues will be addressed to God, not men. It will be a prayer, praise, or some other communication to God.

*If we misunderstand this*, we can be led to believe the gift of tongues is just the ability to speak another language, and all Paul means here is interpreting the preacher’s sermon in someone’s native tongue. But no one needs to interpret the preacher’s sermon for God’s sake.

*If we misunderstand this*, we can misuse the gift of tongues, using it in a way that draws unnecessary attention to ourselves. God does not give anyone the gift of tongues for the direct sake of others (though indirectly others are edified), but for that believer and God alone.

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?

Answers will Vary but should mention the need for clarity

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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?

Answers will Vary but should pertain to the fact that language must be understood to have any value

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10. (v. 14:12) What types of gifts were the Corinthian believers to desire?  
those that will strengthen the whole church.
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11. (v. 14:13) What should someone speaking in tongues ask the Lord for?  
the ability to interpret what has been said.
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12. (v. 14:14) If someone prays in a foreign tongue does their mind (understanding) benefit from the experience? no
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?  
in a church meeting I would rather speak five understandable words to help others  
than ten thousand words in an unknown language.
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16. (v. 14:20) What instruction does Paul give the Corinthian believers in this verse?  
don't be childish in your understanding of these things. Be innocent as babies when it comes to evil,  
but be mature in understanding matters of this kind.
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## 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? , they will not listen to me
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**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
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19. Read Romans 9:31-32. Was the nation of Israel primarily one of believers or unbelievers in the Lord Jesus Christ? unbelievers

**Note:** Paul has already shown in Romans that the only possible way to be saved is through faith, not the works of the law; and that this salvation comes only through the work of a crucified Savior – which was a stumbling block to Israel.

*Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. 1 Corinthians 1:22-23.*

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

21. (vs. 24-25) What will be the response of an unbeliever that hears people prophesying?  
As they listen, they will be convicted of sin and judged by what you say.  
, their secret thoughts will be exposed,  
and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, "God is truly here 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)?  
everything that is done must strengthen all of you.
23. (v. 14:27) What instruction does Paul give for speaking in tongues in the church?  
No more than two or three should speak in tongues. They must speak one a time  
, and someone must interpret what they say
24. (v. 14:28) What should the speaker do if there is no interpreter?  
they must be silent in your church meeting and speak in tongues to God privately.
25. (v. 14:33) Why does God want worship to be done in an orderly way?  
For God is not a God of disorder but of peace

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

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27. (v. 14:35) What should a woman in the congregation do if she has a question?

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**Note:** While the wording of this passage is quite strong, still it is unlikely that this should be understood be to 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?

*Women should be silent during the church meetings. It is not proper for them to speak.*

*They should be submissive*

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29. (v. 14:40) What is Paul’s final commandment regarding tongues, prophecy, spiritual gifts and worship in general?

*be sure that everything is done properly and in order.*

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Please write 1 Corinthians 13:13 from memory on the lines below.

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What Bible Version/Translation did you use for this Lesson?

ESV ☐ KJV ☐, NIV ☐, NKJV ☐, NLT ☐, Other: \_\_\_\_\_

This way we know what Version/Translation to use when grading.

Your questions and Comments:

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We give thanks to Enduring Word (enduringword.com) for the notes in this lesson.