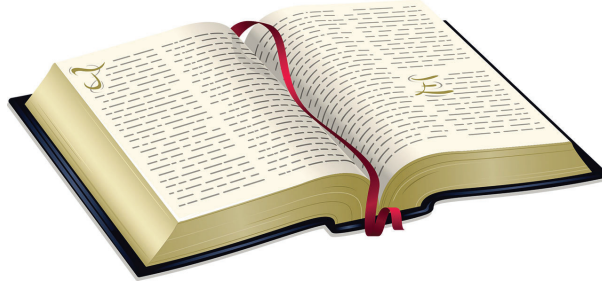


# Bible Correspondence Fellowship 22



## 1 Corinthians - Lesson 4 of 5

### Answer Sheet for New King James Version (NKJV)

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 do not want you to be ignorant

2. (v. 12:2) What did the Corinthians follow when they were pagans? dumb idols,

3. (v. 12:3) No one speaking by the Holy Spirit can say what about Jesus?

No one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed

4. (v. 12:3) Likewise, only those speaking by the Spirit of God can say what about Jesus?

no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

5. (vs. 12:4-6) Describe how God can create unity out of diversity.

the same Spirit

the same Lord.

the same God

**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?

for the profit of all:

7. (vs. 12:8-10) List the nine miraculous gifts that are mentioned in these two verses.

1. Wisdm

6. Prophecy

2. Knowledge

7. Discernment of Spirits

3. Faith

8. Speaking in Tongues

4. Healings

9. Interpretation of Tongues

5. Miracles

**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?  
one and the same Spirit works all these things
- 

## 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 as the body is one and has many members,
- 

10. (v. 12:13) Into what has every believer in Christ been baptized? one body
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11. (vs. 12:13) Do you believe this verse refers to water baptism or spiritual baptism?  
Spiritual
- 

**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

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

1. Apostles

5. healings

2. Prophets

6. Helps

3. Teachers

7. Administrations

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? the best gifts.

17. (vs. 31) What is Paul about to show the readers? a 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.”

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

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love,

I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal

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

Answers will Vary

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. suffers long            | 2. is kind                                |
| 3. does not envy           | 4. does not parade itself,                |
| 5. is not puffed up        | 6. does not behave rudely                 |
| 7. does not seek its own   | 8. is not provoked                        |
| 9. thinks no evil          | 10. does not rejoice in iniquity          |
| 11. bears all things,      | 12. rejoices in the truth                 |
| 13. , believes all things, | 14. hopes all things, endures all things. |

4. (v. 13:8) What will love never do? Love never fails.
5. (v. 13:8) What will happen to prophecy, tongues and knowledge?  
they will fail; they will cease; it will vanish away.
6. (v. 13:9) How did Paul describe (supernatural) knowledge and prophecy at the time he was writing? 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?  
that which is in part will be done away.
8. (v. 13:11) How does Paul illustrate maturity and immaturity?  
When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child;  
when I became a man, 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?  
Now we see in a mirror, dimly

**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?

desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

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

For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God,  
for no one understands him;

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

he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to me

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

He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself,

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

he who prophesies edifies the church.

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

that the church may receive edification.

### 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?

Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare 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?

There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without significance. Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks will be a foreigner to me.



10. (v. 14:12) What types of gifts were the Corinthian believers to desire?

let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.

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11. (v. 14:13) What should someone speaking in tongues ask the Lord for?

Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

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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 the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

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16. (v. 14:20) What instruction does Paul give the Corinthian believers in this verse?

do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.

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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 hear 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?  
will they not say that you are out of your mind?

21. (vs. 24-25) What will be the response of an unbeliever that hears people prophesying?  
he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all.  
And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face,  
he will worship God and report that God is truly 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 edification

23. (v. 14:27) What instruction does Paul give for speaking in tongues in the church?  
let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret.

24. (v. 14:28) What should the speaker do if there is no interpreter?  
Let him keep silent in church, and let him 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 the author of confusion but of peace

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

Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak  
but they are to be submissive,

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

if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home;

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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?

the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

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

Let all things be done decently 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](http://enduringword.com)) for the notes in this lesson.