

THE SPIRIT IN COMMUNITY

INTRO

- let's go church in Greek city in 53 AD.
- no church building, whoever has the house with biggest room
- excited, because got news earlier in week that new mail from AP Paul

Paul's 1st letter to Corinthians can be described with **6 TIONS**

DIVISION – favourite discussion – who's your favourite pastor?

HUMILITATION – of poor who could not bring food to potluck – “out of luck” supper

EXTEME- TION - new word describing positions took on women, lawsuits and sex

CONFUSION – so bad unbelievers who attend leave saying “you are out of your mind”

By time get to ch 14 hit their 6th tion - TONGUES FIXATION

THAT'S WHEN AP PAUL DOES HIS OWN **TION** - INTERVENTION

- 3 BIG INTERVENTIONS ACTUALLY

1) **CONTRIBUTE** FOR THE EDIFICATION OF OTHERS

²⁶What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. **Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.**
1 Corinthians 14:26

2) **CONFINE** YOUR PRIVATE WORSHIP TO YOUR PRIVATE WORSHIP TIMES

⁶Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you,

¹⁸I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹But **in the church** I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue. Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children...

1 Corinthians 14:6, 18-20a

3) **CONSIDER** THE UNBELIEVER AND NEW PEOPLE

inquirers or **unbelievers** come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

1 Corinthians 14: 23 and 24

- weekend gatherings where visitors/ new
- outreach series – not best gatherings for vocal gifts
- gatherings of Christians – small groups of Christians, Cathedral praise gatherings of Christians – vocal gifts encouraged

EVERY CN HAS GIFTS THEY USE TO MAKE CN LIFE BETTER FOR OTHERS

- Every one of us is both a Generalist and a Specialist

ALREADY BE MINISTERING TO OTHERS

WE ALL....

Serve
Encourage
Give
have Knowledge
have Wisdom
can pray in tongues
can pray for healing
Witness of Jesus

SOME OF US have a **GIFT** of..

Serving
Encouragement
Giving
Knowledge
Wisdom
Tongues to be interpreted
Healing
“Evangel” ism

When you’re busy doing the **ALL**, the Spirit can enable you to do the **SOME**

- BEST way to find out what your gifts are – already be ministering to OTHERS

ALWAYS BE OPEN TO GLORIFY JESUS and Help Others

That’s when the Spirit prompts vs our own prompting

“My sheep know my voice” – Jesus in John 14:21

AUDIENCE – Ask who is this for?

- Me?
- Another person?
- Group (Leadership)?
- Church gathering?

ACCOUNTABILITY

LEADER HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO:

- ***Explain** what is happening in a gathering
- ***Ensure** what is happening follows Bible’s Guidelines

The Problem with “God told me” or “Thus saith the Lord”

²⁹ Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should **weigh carefully** what is said
1 Corinthians 14:29

EVERYONE HAS A RESPONSIBILITY

⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.
1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

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APPROPRIATE time and place

²⁸ If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God 1 Corinthians 14:28

⁴⁰ But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. 14:40

AFFIRMATION

*What is the Outcome?

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 14:1

Ex. Personal story

When people walk in to our weekend gatherings...whatever gifts we have, if have not sensed love of God we've missed it – 1 cor 13:1

Priority prayer is people come among us and know we are Christ's followers because of the love we have