

OCTOBER 16, 2022
LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPIRITUALITY
1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-40
FALL QUARTER WEEK 6 OF 12

Getting to Know Each Other Better

1. What did you do as a kid that would tell your age?

Here's a few -

- Watched The Brady Bunch
- Watched The Cosby Show
- Read news stories about President Ronald Reagan
- Waited in gas rationing lines where odd numbered license plates got to get gas on odd numbered days and even numbered plates got gas on even numbered days
- Waited for the TV to warm up
- Heard a busy signal on the other end of a phone call

Renewed by Grace/Equipped as Disciples

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-40

2. What are some things from the message you feel you needed to hear? Why?

There is no right or wrong answer to this question. I just thought it would be a good one to kick off the discussion and to help your group focus on how God spoke to you all in ways you needed to hear.

Here are a few of my responses -

- I appreciated Ryan saying he doesn't personally speak in tongues, but that he isn't opposed to it. I appreciated his humility and openness.
- I appreciated the number of times Paul speaks about building up, or edifying, the church in these forty verses. I often do not hear that emphasis in a conversation about tongues. Indeed, most conversations about tongues destroy the church rather than build her up.
- I appreciated him saying that speaking in tongues in a worship service isn't about barking or jumping around or everyone speaking at once, or anything like that. These ecstatic utterances are what drive a lot of Christians to be closed off to the possibilities of others (or themselves) speaking in tongues in a public worship service. They also drive off a lot of seekers.
 - "23 Therefore if the whole church gathers together and all the people speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are insane?"
- I appreciated Paul's highlighting the fact that he wants all things done in order. Having two or at the most three speak in a tongue during a worship service seems very reasonable. I also appreciate Paul saying there needs to be an interpretation.
- The way Ryan presented this, it doesn't seem weird or wacky or crazy at all. It seems very natural and like it could be a part of a worship service that I would attend.

- I liked that speaking in tongues isn't a litmus test for being spiritual or for praying in the spirit. I liked how Ryan said that, "Tongues can be a form of prayer in the spirit that gives strength to the soul."
- I like the emphasis Paul gives on praying with the spirit and with the mind.

3. Re-read verses 14-16.

- **What is your understanding of what it means to pray with your spirit?**
- **What is your understanding of what it means to pray with your mind?**
- **How do these verses help your relationship with God?**

There is a difference between praying "in the spirit" or "in the Spirit" and praying "with the spirit". Since Paul uses the phrase "praying with the spirit," that's the one we want to talk about this week.

What is your understanding of what it means to pray with your spirit? My sense of it is that it can probably be a number of things. First, and Ryan mentioned this at the 10:45 service, we can pray with our spirit and not just with our mind. Seems obvious, but for some it might not be. Our spirit and God's Spirit can communicate, can meet, can interact, can have fellowship, can know intimacy. Second, I think praying with the spirit has to do with praying with my heart. I think it has to do with sharing my interior emotional life with God through prayer. Sometimes I can use words to do that. Other times it can be a song. Maybe it's a picture. Maybe it's a sigh or a shout or a sob that I consciously do in His presence. I think it's trying to connect with God on a heart level. And doing that brings great joy to me and to God. Third, it just seems that praying with your spirit is a more emotional kind of prayer.

What do you think? What else would you add? Or subtract?

What is your understanding of what it means to pray with your mind? I think this is more about working through problems and issues in prayer. I think it's more about trying to make decisions or discern directions or seek guidance from God. I think it's less emotional and more factual and rational. It's seeking the mind of God on a particular issue. It's seeking illumination as we study a passage of Scripture. It probably isn't so concerned with connecting with God as it is with hearing from God. I have learned that praying with the mind can quickly lead to praying with the spirit. Have you experienced the same kind of thing?

What do you think? What else would you add? Or subtract?

4. Have you had any experience with people, including yourself, speaking in tongues?

- **What was that like?**
- **Were you comfortable with it? Why?**
- **If it was in a church service, do you remember in what ways the body was built up?**
- **If it was a private experience between you and the Lord, in what ways was your soul strengthened?**

I have no personal experience with this. Of all the discussion questions for this week, this is the least important one to get to if you find yourself running out of time. I think it's way

more important to cover #2 and #3 and get to this if there is time leftover. But, if you do get to it, talking about the ways the body was built up is the most important part of the question.

Sent in Love

- 5. How would you like to apply this week's message?**