

## Order In The Church (It's Still Not About You)

### **DEFINING THE TERMS:**

#### **Churchy words with simple definitions**

Prophecy = A **known** language spoken to **man**.

Tongues = An **unknown** language spoken to **God**.

Edification = To **build up**.

Exhortation = To **encourage**.

### **SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS:**

1 Corinthians 14:2-4, 13-19, Acts 2:11, 10:46, Romans 8:26-27

- ✓ A **prayer language** between you and God.
- ✓ For the **believer's** personal **devotional** life.
- ✓ Still **given** by God to people **today**.

### **SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS NOT:**

1 Corinthians 14:27-32, 37-40, 12:7-11, Romans 8:9-11

- ✓ A gift **every Christian** has.
- ✓ The **sign** that we have the **Holy Spirit**.
- ✓ An **uncontrollable** behavior.

### **THE SIGN EVERY CHRISTIAN MUST HAVE!**

1 Corinthians 14:1, 13:1-3, Matthew 5:43-48, John 15:9-17, 1 John 2:3-6, 3:10, 4:19-21

The greatest sign of spirituality is **Love**, not **supernatural experiences**.

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 29, 2009

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## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, what did you find most interesting, challenging or thought provoking?

## MY STORY

1. It's clear that both exhortation and edification should be happening in a healthy church family. Can you think of a time when you were either "encouraged" or "built up" at church?

Do you tend to be more comfortable on the giving or the receiving end of encouragement or praise? Why?

2. When it comes to prayer, how would you describe your conversations or language with God? (Circle any that apply or add your own description.)

Like talking to a friend

All talking & little listening

I feel unworthy

Heartfelt

Formal or reverent

All about others

Thanksgiving

Confession

Few words

Repetitive

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. It's easy for us to be enamored by the "spectacular" or "supernatural" gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to some. However, Chris reminded us that the greatest sign of spirituality is love, not supernatural experiences. Since we didn't have group last week, let's take a look back at last week's message on love and revisit both 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 and the five probing questions from Larry's sermon. Take a minute to read the passage and to think about how you would evaluate yourself on each question using the scale below.

Am I harsh? (Almost never) 1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 (Often)

Love is patient, kind

Do I have to win? (Almost never) 1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 (Often)

Love does not envy, does not boast, is not proud

Am I self-centered? (Almost never) 1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 (Often)

Love is not rude or self-seeking

Do I have a short fuse? (Almost never) 1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 (Often)

Love is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs

Am I cynical? (Almost never) 1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 (Often)

Love does not delight in evil, it rejoices in truth, protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres

Larry also mentioned that these questions are best answered by someone close to us. So, in the next couple of days, ask someone close to you to answer these questions using the same evaluation scale. Compare how their answers match with your answers. What did you learn about yourself from this exercise?

2. You don't have to attend North Coast very long before you will hear that God is in the business of changing our lives from the inside out. In the book of John, Jesus explains His game plan to transform our lives to His closest friends. How would you describe the role and presence of the Holy Spirit based on the verses below?

### **John 14:15-19**

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. [16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- [17] the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. [18] I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. [19] Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. [NIV]

### **John 14:25-27**

"All this I have spoken while still with you. [26] But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. [27] Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. [NIV]

### **John 16:5-16**

"Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' [6] Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. [7] But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. [8] When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: [9] in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; [10] in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; [11] and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

[12] "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. [13] But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. [14] He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. [15] All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

[16] "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."  
[NIV]

What encouragement do you take away from Paul's "exhortation" in Romans 8:9-17?

#### **Romans 8:9-17**

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. [10] But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. [11] And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

[12] Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. [13] For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, [14] because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [15] For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." [16] The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. [17] Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. [NIV]

3. Galatians 5:16-26 paints the picture of a conflict between our "sinful nature" and the "Spirit" who lives in us. Can you relate with this battle in your own life?

#### **Galatians 5:16-26**

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. [17] For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. [18] But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

[19] The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; [20] idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions [21]

and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

[22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. [24] Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. [25] Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. [26] Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. [NIV]

Regardless of what specific gift you have been given, we can all access the Holy Spirit's power to help us "bear fruit" and live the life God wants us to live. Can you think of any area of your life where you'd like to experience more of the Holy Spirit's power or be more aware of how He's guiding or instructing you?

## **TAKING IT HOME**

We have spent the last 15 weekends digging through the book of 1 Corinthians and finding connections between Paul's message and our own lives. Chris wrapped up this message with another challenge to be "doers" of the Word and not just "hearers." With that in mind, the most important questions we can consider are...."Has it made a difference?" and "How have my actions changed toward others?" Spend a little time thinking about how you would answer these questions and be ready to talk about them in your Growth Group.

What would it take for you to more consistently apply James 1:22-24?

### **James 1:22-24**

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. [23] Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror [24] and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. [NIV]