

# **PENTECOST – 19 MAY**

## **1 Corinthians 12:1-13**

### **Introduction**

Q – Were you able to practice anything that came out of your last life group meeting?

Q - Do you remember anything from Sunday's talk that struck you?

Q – Can you remind each other why Pentecost was so important? What happened? What was the effect?

(If needed you can look at Acts 2 and remind yourselves).

Every year as a church on Pentecost Sunday we read Acts 2, this year we wanted to do something a bit different. Mainly look at how Pentecost changed the way the Church acts, works, and extends God's Kingdom.

### **Context**

Paul writes this letter to a church full of controversy and disagreement. Many strange things were happening and there was a significant Greek spiritual influence on the church. Chapters 12-14 hold probably the most in-depth teaching on the Gifts of the Spirit. That is why we're looking at it today!

### **Please read 1 Corinthians 12:1-7**

Q – Would you say that the Church (not only us) is informed by the 'gifts of the Spirit' as mentioned in verse 1?

Q - How does the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost relate to the distribution of spiritual gifts within the Church?

Q – Having looked at verses 1-3, what does this say about the consistency between our beliefs and what we say? (e.g. "no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed")

Q - What is the significance of Paul's emphasis on the unity of the Spirit despite the diversity of gifts, service, and workings? How do we get that balance right?

Q – How does the concept of unity amidst diversity reflect the impact of Pentecost on the Church?

Q – Have you seen or experienced the Holy Spirit empower people in service and ministry? In what ways?

### **Please read 1 Corinthians 12:8-13**

Paul mentions many different gifts and services, but not necessarily all of them.

Q – Other than speaking in tongues, do you know of anyone with a very clear gift in one of these areas?

Q – Potentially we can all operate in any gift at any given time. (i.e. if God wants to any of us could pray for a healing, miracle, give a prophetic word, without it being our main calling or gifting). How much do you think God actually wants us to operate in all the gifts versus he wants us to work through us in our given calling?

Q – In our reality as it is today, with rhythms and ministries that are different to 2000 years ago. What would a list of 'services' and 'gifts' look like? Would there be any other things on it?

There are many different views between Christians today with regard to how much God continues to work through these supernatural gifts. As a church we believe that they are active today and we encourage the use of them, but we'd love you to still feel part of us if you've got a different view.

Q – What is your view on this? How much does God work through the gifts of the Holy Spirit today?

Q – Which of these gifts would you like to see more of in our church?

Q – Which of these gifts would you love God to give to you?

### **Action / Prayer**

As a group take a few minutes to write down one gift or calling in service that you see in each other person in the group. It doesn't need to be the most obvious one, if there is another gift that is already recognized, you might want to think of something else. Then go round, one person at the time and everyone shares what you think their gift/calling might be. Remember that it doesn't need to be 'supernatural' like prophecy or tongues, it could be a calling to service, hospitality, encouragement, compassion, etc.

Pray for each other that you might receive the gifts of the Spirit that God might have in store for you. Also pray that you'll be filled with the Spirit. This could be a big part of your meeting, you might want to spend time in silence or worshipping for this bit.

**Nico Ohlsson**