

Bible Study Reading and Outline

*In preparation for our study please read **Ephesians 4:11-16** and **Last Week's Rivers Of Living Water** outline (below).*

Rivers of Living Water

Gene Cunningham / How Can I Find My Gift?

Pages 47-57 | John 7:37-38

1. How Can I Find My Gift (1 Cor. 3:13-15, 2 Cor.5:10, pg 47)?

- I. Pray for God to reveal your gift (pg 47). God reveals His will through His Word. However, He only reveals His Word to those who desire to do it. God alone determines the giving of gifts (1 Cor. 12:11, 18).
- II. Learn about the gifts (pg48). The study of passages that list the gifts; Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:27-31; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Pet. 4:10-11, reveal five truths to us;
 1. Some gifts are temporary, while others are permanent (1 Cor. 13:8).
 2. All gifts fall into two categories; speaking and ministering (Eph. 4:11-12, 1Pet. 4:11).
 3. Some gifts are given prominence over others (1 Cor. 12:28).
 4. It is possible to misuse spiritual gifts (Gal. 5:13) (pages 51-52).

It is only by fellowship with God that we keep from taking our Father's blessings and misuse them, as the prodigal son did. The entire section of 1 Corinthians 12-14 is written to correct the abuse of spiritual gifts, specifically the abuse of tongues. Since this is such a hot issue today, we should inquire how we can determine the proper use of spiritual gifts in the Church. These seven things stand out as guidelines:

1. There should be no sense of superiority or inferiority (1 Cori. 12:15-21).
 2. There should be honor given to each member (1 Cori. 12:22-26).
 3. Gifts that present the Word should be given prominence because the Word of God is our priority (1 Cori. 12:31; 14:1-5). The term *"prophecies"* here incorporates all speaking gifts that edify the Church.
 4. All ministries should be motivated by spiritual love(1 Cori.13:1-13; 14:12).
 5. The goal should be the edification of others (1 Cori. 14:12, 26).
 6. All things should be done in an orderly, respectful way (1 Cori. 14:26, 31, 33-40).
 7. Tongues are not to be spoken without interpretation and with not more than two or three speaking (1 Cori. 14:27-28).
- These biblical standards should be used to *"test the spirits, whether they are of God"* (1 John 4:1). Where these principles are ignored, at the very least we have carnality and an abuse of spiritual gifts! At worst, we may be dealing with spirits not of God at all (Col. 2:8, 18-19, 23; 1 John 4:1).
5. Love is the key to proper use of all gifts (1 Cor. 13).
- III. Serve wherever possible (pg 53).

1. When we begin to serve in all areas our gift will soon emerge.
2. God does not need our ability. He asks for our availability.

2. How Can I Develop My Gift (1 Pet. 4:10, pg 54)?

1. Gifts are given at salvation, but they develop through use.
2. Two things develop the person and the gift; Growing and serving.

3. What Benefit Is My Gift To Me (pg 55)?

1. God will give blessing for obedience (Matt. 25:21).
2. The Bible hints at many kinds of eternal rewards. We are not told everything we might like to know about these rewards. There are five eternal crowns promised in the New Testament.

1. The Imperishable Crown (1 Cor. 9:24-27): for spiritual self-discipline.
2. The Crown of Joy (Phil. 4:1; 1 Thess. 2:19): for faithful witnessing.
3. The Crown of Life (James 1:12; Rev. 2:10): for enduring suffering and trials of this life.
4. The Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8): for living life in light of eternity in anticipation of Christ's return.
5. The Crown of Glory (1 Pet. 5:4): for those who shepherd the flock, often called the minister's crown.