

**WEEK 8:**

**DAY 1: LOVE REJOICES IN RIGHT THINGS**

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

1. We are studying a great chapter of the Bible. It is 1 Corinthians 13. It is all about one thing.

With what great thing should we use the gifts of the Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

Say 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 to yourself.

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2. We should use the gifts of the Spirit with love. Otherwise they harm the body of Christ instead of building it. Find 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 in your Bible. See if you said it right.

Today we will learn what love does. We will memorise these verses.

1 Corinthians 13:6-7:

it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.  
Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 13:1 to 7.

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3. It may be hard for us to understand how important love is. As we study today's lesson we should remember this: nothing we do is good unless it is done with love. Yesterday we saw what this love is like. Today we will see what love does. We cannot understand all about love. But Paul teaches in Ephesians that we can have our roots or foundation in love.

Ephesians 3:17-19:

that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may . . . know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge.

In these verses, what is it that surpasses knowledge? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. This is a surprising verse about love. Paul says he wants us to know something which cannot be known! This means that we cannot know the love of God by ourselves. It needs spiritual understanding. We have seen that spiritual things can only be understood by the Spirit. So the Holy Spirit will help us understand love. We cannot know all of God's love here on earth. But we can know some of it. We can know what love does. We can know some of the ways in which it is shown.

What chapter in 1 Corinthians tells us what love does? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. It is chapter 13. This chapter tells us how we will act if we have love. Let us learn what to do so we can show love in our lives.

1 Corinthians 13:6:

it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right.

From this verse, what should a person with love not rejoice about? \_\_\_\_\_

6. He should not rejoice at wrong. He should not be happy when bad things happen.

Tendai lived near Chipo. One day many cows went into Chipo's field. They broke down the grain and ruined it. A few days later, Chipo's oldest son became ill and had to be taken to the hospital. After that one of Chipo's houses caught fire at night. Most of the things in it were burned. Tendai said this about Chipo: "It is good for Chipo to have these troubles. God is judging him. He has not been living right before God. Now God is punishing him."

What does love not do when it sees bad things happening to others?

7. Love does not rejoice when it sees bad things happen. If love ruled his life Tendai would not have said what he did. He would not have thought that it was good for Chipo to have troubles. When he said this he was rejoicing in wrong. He did not try to understand how Chipo felt. He did not try to help him. Tendai was proud. It is wrong when a brother feels this way towards others.

1 Corinthians 13:6:

it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

What does love do when good things happen? \_\_\_\_\_

8. It rejoices when good things happen. If I have love I rejoice when God sends good things to me. But I also rejoice when good things happen to other people. Sometimes it seems that all the good things come to other people. It is not easy to rejoice with them. But the Holy Spirit helps us.

Romans 5:5:

God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

What does the Holy Spirit give us to help us rejoice when good things happen to others?

9. The Holy Spirit gives us love. He pours it into our hearts. We must receive it. We must use it. We must have love in whatever we do.

1 Corinthians 13:7:

Love bears all things.

Tonderai was a widow. She had a very hard life. Her husband died after their second child was born. Tonderai was lonely for her Christian husband. She had to find a way to get food for her children. She went back to live with her parents, but they were not Christians. They did not help her to be faithful to God. In her troubles Tonderai remembered how Jesus suffered.

What did Jesus do when he had hard things in his life? \_\_\_\_\_  
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10. You can answer in different ways. You can say that he carried all his troubles. You can say that he was faithful to God. You can say that he loved God in all his troubles. We should not complain when we have troubles. There is a way to carry all of them.

From 1 Corinthians 13, what will help us bear hard things? \_\_\_\_\_  
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11. Love will help us carry our troubles. If we have love we can thank God for the things he allows to come to us. We remember that he loves us. We remember that the hard things make us strong.

1 Corinthians 13:7:

(Love) believes all things.

When we have love, it is easier for us to have faith. When we love God, we believe the things he has promised us. Love believes God's word. It does not doubt.

Think carefully now. Does faith help us if we do not have love? \_\_\_\_\_

**12. 1 Corinthians 13:1:**

if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love,  
I am nothing.

This chapter says that faith without love does not help. But if I have love, then my faith is strong. It is good. I can use my gift of faith to build up the church. Faith with love will give me great hope for the future. I know that God will do all the wonderful things he has promised. I hope for the wonderful life in heaven with Jesus.

**1 Corinthians 13:7:**

(Love) hopes all things.

What helps us always to have faith and hope? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Love does this. When we walk in the way of love it keeps us from getting discouraged. Tonderai, the widow, remembered that God still loved her. She kept on loving God. She believed that he was taking care of her. She had hope for the future. The Holy Spirit helped her to show love to her children and to her parents.

**1 Corinthians 13:7:**

(Love) endures (or goes on longer than) all things.

Tomorrow we will see that love goes on forever. We will see that the gifts of the Spirit will some day end. They will not be needed any more. But love will still be strong.

With what great thing should we use the gifts of the Spirit now? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. We should use them with love now. And love will go on and on. Let us memorise today's verses to help us remember what love does.

**1 Corinthians 13:6-7:**

It does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Memorise these verses. Read and say them many times. Do this until you can say them without looking at them. Then write 1 Corinthians 13:6-7 to show what love does.

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15. It is love that makes us able to live the Christian life. Love caused God to send Jesus to die for us. Love made Jesus willing to come. Love will make us able to obey God. It will make us rejoice in right things and go through hard times. A person with love in his heart prays and comes close to God. Then God gives him victory in his life.

Love is a way of life. We have seen that the Holy Spirit pours it into our hearts. But it is up to us to use love in our lives. It is our work with God's help to put love into what we do.

Colossians 3:14:

And above all these put on love.

Take time now to think about all we have learned in this lesson. Ask God to show you the parts of your life where you do not have love.

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16. Write 1 Corinthians 13:6-7 to show what love does.

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**WEEK 8:**  
**DAY 2: LOVE NEVER ENDS**  
**1 Corinthians 13:8-13**

1. We are studying the love chapter of the Bible. Other verses in the Bible tell things about love. But this chapter tells the most about how love should work in our lives.

Write 1 Corinthians 13:6-7 to show what love does.

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2. Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 13:6-7. See if you wrote these verses right. We have seen that love does many things. There are still more things to learn about love.

- (1) Love goes on forever.
- (2) Love is greater than prophecies, tongues, knowledge, faith and hope.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 13:8 to 13. From these verses, will love come to an end some day?

3. Love will not come to an end. It will go on forever. Some day the gift of prophecy will stop. Some day the gift of tongues will end. Some day knowledge will no longer be needed. But love will go on forever.

With what great thing should the gifts of the Spirit be used? \_\_\_\_\_

4. They should be used with love. Love makes these gifts useful now. And love will go on after the gifts pass away. Some people do very big things for God. Paul names six things which we can do. We can speak in tongues of men and angels. We can prophesy many wonderful things. We can understand secret things. We can believe God for miracles. We can give away everything we have. We can give our bodies to be burned.

Will these things go on forever? \_\_\_\_\_

Will they help build the church if they are done without love? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Paul does not say these things are wrong. But they will end. They will not go on forever. And they will not build the church without love. Love is the most important thing in the life of a Christian.

How long will love go on? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. It will go on forever. Sometimes we do not think much about love. It seems like a small thing. If someone can prophesy, this seems like a great thing. We are surprised if someone can tell us what will happen in the future. But look what Paul wrote.

1 Corinthians 13:8:

Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away.

Why will the prophecies pass away? It is because they will be fulfilled. They will not be needed any longer.

Is love greater than prophecies? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Love is greater than prophecies. It is also greater than tongues. Some day we will be with God. Then we will not need messages from him any more. We will not need different tongues. We will all speak one language. Remember these words.

1 Corinthians 13:1, 8:

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. . . . As for tongues, they will cease (or stop).

How long will love go on? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. It will go on forever.

1 Corinthians 13:8:

As for knowledge, it will pass away.

Osogo is the shepherd of a large church. There are many people under his care. Osogo knows that he is not able to lead these people alone. He prays much. God gives him the gift of a word of knowledge. Osogo gives this word to his people. Osogo also loves his people. He speaks kindly to each one. He is patient with them. He rejoices when good things happen to them.

Which is more important? Is it Osogo's knowledge or his love? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Osogo's love is more important.

1 Corinthians 13:2:

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge . . . but have not love, I am nothing.

What am I, if I have prophecy and knowledge but no love? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. This is hard to believe. I may have all knowledge, but if I have no love, I am nothing. We look at the people in our church. We are surprised at the great knowledge of some of them. We respect those who preach well. We forget about those who have only love.

1 Corinthians 13:9-10:

For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away.

Man's knowledge is not full. It will pass away. But how long will love go on?  
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11. Love will go on forever. Most of the things we have now are not perfect. Our knowledge is not complete. We cannot understand as God understands. There are so many things which we do not know. We are like children trying to understand. But some day our earthly knowledge will pass away. We will have God's understanding.

1 Corinthians 13:11-12:

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood.

What will still go on after prophecy, tongues, and knowledge are finished?  
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12. Love will still go on. God loves us perfectly now. In heaven we shall be able to love him perfectly. And what about faith?

1 Corinthians 13:2:

if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

Is faith as great as love? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Not even faith is as important as love. Perhaps you are praying for more faith. You want to do great things for God. You want to believe him for great things. You are looking forward to the things he will do. This is good, but there is something which you need more than faith and hope.

1 Corinthians 13:13:

So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Of prophecies, tongues, knowledge, faith, hope, and love--which is greatest?  
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14. Love is greatest. It will go on for ever. Many things change. Some things last for only a short time. But love goes on. It will not change. The kingdom of God is ruled by love. God wants his children always to live in love. Everything we do should be done with a heart of love.

John 13:35:

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

How will people see whether you follow Jesus well or not? \_\_\_\_\_  
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15. They will see it by the love which you show for others. In the church we must show love. When we use the gifts of the Spirit, we must do it with love. When we are with friends, we must show love. When we are in our homes, we must love one another.

Think about what you have learned in this lesson. Tell it to a friend or someone in your family. Say 1 Corinthians 13:4 to 7 for them. Tell them what you want God to do with love in your life.

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16. We will talk about this in class.

How long does love go on? \_\_\_\_\_

Of prophecies, tongues, knowledge, faith hope, and love--which is greatest?  
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**WEEK 8:**

**DAY 3: TONGUES AND PROPHECY MUST BE USED RIGHTLY**

**1 Corinthians 14:1-19**

1. We have been learning much about love. We saw that the gifts of the Holy Spirit must be used with love.

How long does love go on? \_\_\_\_\_

Of prophecies, tongues, knowledge, faith, hope and love—which is greatest?  
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2. Love goes on forever. It is greater than all the spiritual gifts. But this does not mean that the gifts are small. They are important too. In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul goes on teaching about the gifts. He talks about how some of them should be used. This is what he teaches.

- (1) It is wrong to use tongues in church when they are not interpreted.
- (2) When someone prophesies the church is built up.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 14:1 to 5. Read verse 4 again. What two gifts is Paul talking about in these verses?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Paul is talking about the gifts of tongues and prophecy. We have already seen that some of the Corinthians had the gift of tongues. Sometimes they spoke in church in a language they had not learned. After they spoke another person must interpret what was spoken.

1 Corinthians 14:4:

He who speaks in a tongue edifies (or builds up) himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

Who is built up when a man speaks in tongues? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is built up when a man prophesies in church? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. When a person speaks in tongues, the one speaking is built up. When a person prophesies, the whole church is built up.

We have learned that there are nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. One of these is the gift of tongues. Another is interpreting tongues. Paul taught that when someone spoke in tongues, another person should interpret. These gifts should be used together.

If there is no one to interpret the tongues, is the church built up? \_\_\_\_\_

5. It is not built up. No one knows what the person is saying. Only he himself is built up.

1 Corinthians 14:2:

For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries (or unknown things) in the Spirit.

What should be done if someone speaks in tongues in church? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What he says should be interpreted. If it is not interpreted, the church is not built up. All of the gifts of the Spirit should be used with love. They should be used to build up the church. They should make the church strong. They should make the church grow. They should not be used in a way that brings division or trouble.

1 Corinthians 14:6-7:

Now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how shall I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation of knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

If someone in church speaks in tongues and it is not interpreted, is this right or wrong?

7. This is wrong. The gifts should be used to build up the church. The church is not built up by the gift of tongues alone.

1 Corinthians 14:5:

Now I want you all to speak in tongues but even more to prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than he who speaks in tongues, unless some one interprets, so that the church may be edified.

When is it wrong for a person to speak in tongues in the church? \_\_\_\_\_

8. It is wrong when the words are not interpreted. But if they are interpreted, it is good. It builds up the church. All the gifts of the Spirit should build up the members of Christ's body. Paul is also explaining the gift of prophecy.

1 Corinthians 14:3-4:

On the other hand, he who prophesies speaks to men for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation (or comfort). He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

Who is built up when a man prophesies? \_\_\_\_\_

9. The whole church is built up when someone prophesies in church. One who prophesies speaks in a language which everyone can understand. He encourages the Christians. He comforts them. He gives them the words of God. He builds up the faith of the people. One who speaks in tongues speaks in an unknown language.

1 Corinthians 14:9:

if you in a tongue utter speech that is not intelligible (or understood), how will any one know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.

When is it wrong for a person to speak in tongues in the church? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. It is wrong when the tongues are not interpreted. The gifts are given for a special work. The gift of prophecy is especially important for the church. To prophesy means to give people messages from God. Sometimes it tells people about the future. Most of the time it tells people what God wants them to do.

1 Corinthians 14:12:

since you are eager for manifestations (or gifts) of the Spirit, strive to excel (or do well) in building up the church.

As we have learned, what are the gifts of the Spirit for? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. They are for the good of the church. They are to build up the body of Christ. They are to encourage the church. They are to comfort and strengthen the members of the body. They are to cause the church to grow.

1 Corinthians 14:1:

Make love your aim, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

From this chapter, what gift especially builds up the church? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. The gift of prophecy does this.

1 Corinthians 14:18-19:

I thank God that I speak in tongues more than you all; nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind, in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

Who is built up when a person prophesies? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. It is the church which is helped in this way. Look at these verses again.

1 Corinthians 14:3-4:

He who prophesies speaks to men for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

What does the gift of prophecy do for the church? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. The gift of prophecy builds up the church. It encourages and strengthens the body of Christ. The people can understand what is being said.

1 Corinthians 14:13:

Therefore, he who speaks in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.

Is it always wrong to speak in tongues in church? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. It is not always wrong. The Holy Spirit gives this gift in church for a purpose. We will learn more about this tomorrow. The gift of tongues also helps the believer himself. It helps him praise God from his heart. It gives him words to say that he cannot say with his own mind. He can praise God in the Spirit as his heart rejoices. He can use the language of the Spirit.

When is it wrong to use the gift of tongues in church? \_\_\_\_\_

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16. It is wrong in church when it is not interpreted. It cannot help the other people. But there is another gift which should be used much in church. It is the gift of prophecy.

Who is built up when a person prophesies? \_\_\_\_\_

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**17. The church is built up. This is the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives gifts to the members of Christ's body. We should use these gifts to make each other strong. Perhaps you have a problem about spiritual gifts in your church. Some people may not be using them well. Or perhaps you do not see the gifts being used in your church.**

**Do you have any problem with the gifts of the Spirit in your church? \_\_\_\_\_**

**If you said yes, write your problem here so we can talk about it in class.**

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**18. When is it wrong to use the gift of tongues in church? \_\_\_\_\_**

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**Who is built up when a person prophesies? \_\_\_\_\_**

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**WEEK 8:**

**DAY 4: TONGUES AND PROPHECY ARE SIGNS**

**1 Corinthians 14:20-33**

1. We are still learning about two gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are tongues and prophecy.

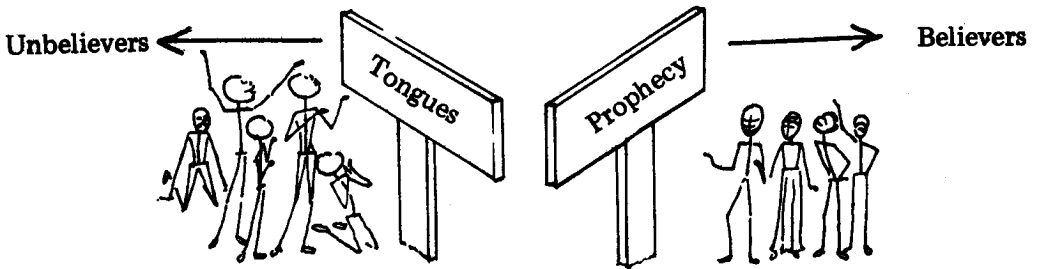
When is it wrong to use the gift of tongues in church? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is built up when a person prophesies? \_\_\_\_\_

2. It is wrong to use tongues in church when they are not interpreted. The gift of prophecy builds up the church. Tongues and prophecy are two important gifts. Both of them are needed in the church. Paul explained what they were for. This is what we will learn today.

- (1) Tongues are a sign to unbelievers of God's love and power.
- (2) Prophecy is a sign to believers.
- (3) A person with gifts of the Holy Spirit must always control his spirit.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 14:20 to 25.



3. The gifts of the Spirit are signs of God's love and power. They show that God wants to help us and make us strong. They are signs both to sinners and to Christians.

1 Corinthians 14:22:

Thus, tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is not for unbelievers but for believers.

From this verse, to whom are tongues a sign? \_\_\_\_\_

To whom is prophecy a sign? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Tongues are a sign to unbelievers. Prophecy is a sign to believers. Let us look at what happened on the day of Pentecost. The apostles and believers spoke in tongues. At that time many people were visiting Jerusalem. These visitors did not speak the same language as the apostles. But when the apostles spoke in tongues, the visitors understood. The apostles did not learn these languages. The Holy Spirit gave them this gift.

Acts 2:6-7, 11:

And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered (or surprised) because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered saying, "... we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

When the apostles spoke in tongues, what were they telling? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. They were telling the great works of God. They were praising God. They were bringing glory to Jesus. The people visiting Jerusalem were not believers. When they heard what the apostles were saying, they stopped and listened. They heard God's message. They wanted to be saved.

What gift of the Holy Spirit is a sign to unbelievers? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. The gift of tongues is a sign to them. On the day of Pentecost they heard the apostles. They were surprised at first. The tongues made the people stop and listen to the words of God.

To whom are tongues a sign? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Tongues are a sign to unbelievers. But the Corinthians forgot this. They were using tongues in the wrong way. They were saying things in church which no one could understand. Paul wanted the Corinthians to stop speaking only in tongues. He wanted them to use the other gifts of the Spirit too. He especially wanted them to use prophecy. He wanted them to encourage the church.

1 Corinthians 14:22:

Thus, tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is not for unbelievers but for believers.

To whom is prophecy a sign? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. It is a sign to believers. It is a sign of God's love and power. Christians are sometimes sad and discouraged. They meet hard trials. They are sometimes tempted to lose their faith. God loves his children. He has given them a sign to show that he loves them. Unbelievers are also helped by this gift, but it is not a sign to them. Their sign of God's power is tongues. Then prophecy brings them to Christ.

What gift of the Spirit is a sign to believers? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Prophecy is their sign. It is a sign of God's love for them. It helps them remember that God still cares for them. The gift of prophecy means giving words of strength and comfort. Sometimes it also means telling things for the future. All of this helps to build people up.

To whom is prophecy a sign? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Prophecy is a sign to believers. It is a sign of God's love. The gift of tongues is a sign to unbelievers. It is a sign of God's power and their need to be saved.

Both of these gifts must be used in the right way. They will not help if they are used in confusion or in a careless way. The Corinthians forgot this. They were using the gifts for themselves. In church many people tried to talk at once. They spoke in tongues without interpreting.

1 Corinthians 14:28:

But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silence in church and speak to himself and to God.

If there is no one to interpret in church, what should the person do who wants to speak in tongues?  
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11. He should be quiet. He should not speak out. I have heard people say this: "I cannot stop myself. I have to speak in tongues." But this is not true. Let us look at what the Bible says about the Spirit of someone who speaks.

1 Corinthians 14:32:

and spirits of prophets are subject to (or under the power of) prophets.

From this verse, under whose power is the spirit of a prophet? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. The spirit of a prophet is under the power of that prophet. This means that the prophet must control his own spirit. Let us remember that each person has a spirit of his own. We know that there are evil spirits or demons. We know that there is the Holy Spirit. But sometimes we forget that each man has a spirit too. Man has a body. Man also has a spirit. This spirit is under a man's power. When a person speaks in tongues his spirit is speaking, and he can start and stop when he wants to. If there is no one to interpret, he must control his own spirit. He must be quiet. If others are speaking in the meeting, he must control his own spirit. He must not speak out.

To whom are tongues a sign of God's love and power? \_\_\_\_\_

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To whom is prophecy a sign? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Tongues are a sign to unbelievers. Prophecy is a sign to believers. These are gifts which are given by the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit wants them to be used in the right way.

What must the person with spiritual gifts control? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. He must control his own spirit. The Bible says that the spirit of a prophet is under his own power. A person who receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit must control himself. He must not speak when others are speaking. He must not speak in tongues if there is no interpreter. He must not cause problems in a meeting.

Do you think that the Holy Spirit ever forces us to do things? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. We will want to talk about this in class. Perhaps you think he does. But I do not think so. Spirits which force us to do things are not from God. The Holy Spirit gives gifts. He tells us in the Bible how to use them. He lets us control how we do this. The people at Corinth had received gifts. But they were using them in the wrong way.

Who must control the spirit of the person who has gifts of the Spirit?

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16. That person who has the gifts must control his own spirit. The Holy Spirit does not force us to do things. He gives us gifts. He tells us how we should use them.

Ondiek is a member of a church. He says that he has the gift of tongues. When he comes to church, he stops the meeting. He starts speaking out loud in tongues. There is no one to interpret what Ondiek says. Ondiek says he cannot stop himself from doing this.

From today's lesson, what would you tell Ondiek? \_\_\_\_\_

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17. We will talk about this answer also in class.

To whom are tongues a sign of God's love and power? \_\_\_\_\_

To whom is prophecy a sign? \_\_\_\_\_

Who must control the spirit of the person who has gifts of the Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

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**WEEK 8:**

**DAY 5: WE MUST HAVE ORDER IN THE CHURCH**

**1 Corinthians 14:26-40**

1. This week we have been learning about love. We have been learning how to use the gifts of the Spirit. Sometimes we have problems with these things.

To whom are tongues a sign of God's love and power? \_\_\_\_\_

To whom is prophecy a sign? \_\_\_\_\_

Who must control the spirit of the person who has gifts of the Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Tongues are a sign to unbelievers. Prophecy is a sign to believers. It is the man who has gifts of the Spirit who must control his own spirit.

The church at Corinth had many problems. We have seen that they had problems about division, immorality, and marriage. They had problems about the Lord's table. They also had problems about the spiritual gifts. These problems made confusion in the church. Today we will learn that in the church God wants all things done:

- (1) Rightly and
- (2) In order

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 14:33-40.

3. We see that the church in Corinth had problems. When they met together in the church, many people wanted to speak. They wanted to speak at the same time. And they all wanted to speak in tongues in the church. This made confusion.

1 Corinthians 14:23:

if, therefore, the whole church assembles and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?

If everyone in the church spoke in tongues at the same time, would this be a good sign to unbelievers?

4. This would not be a good sign. People would say that the people in church were mad. The Holy Spirit had given the Corinthians gifts. The gifts were good. But the Corinthians were using them in the wrong way. The Holy Spirit does not want his gifts used to bring confusion or division. He wants things done rightly and in order.

1 Corinthians 14:33:

For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

Where should things be done rightly and in order so as to bring peace?

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5. God wants peace in the church. This is very important. God does not want his gifts to bring division. People who receive these gifts should not be proud. They should not speak evil of others who have not received gifts. The spiritual gifts should be used with love.

1 Corinthians 14:40:

all things should be done decently (or rightly) and in order.

From this verse, what is the first way all things should be done in church?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) In order

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6. Everything in church should be done rightly. People should use the gifts with love. They should show respect for each other. They should show respect for God who wants peace in the church.

1 Corinthians 14:39-40:

So, my brethren, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues; but all things should be done decently and in order.

If we do things rightly in church will we have prophecy? \_\_\_\_\_

If we do things rightly will we forbid all speaking in tongues? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Paul said we should earnestly desire to prophesy. We should take time for this in our services. He says we should not refuse to let some people speak in tongues. But remember tongues are wrong in church if they are not interpreted. It is important for Christians to meet together. In this way the body of Christ is built up.

1 Corinthians 14:26:

What then, brethren? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification (or building up).

What is the first way all things should be done in church?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) In order

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8. All things in church should be done rightly. When we do things rightly we bring glory to God. We do not use the gifts for ourselves. We do not use them in a way that brings confusion.

1 Corinthians 14:34:

the women should keep silence in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be subordinate (or obey), as even the law says.

We have learned that the husband is the head of the wife. We have also learned that men and women are equal. Paul said that the Spirit gave gifts to each one. This means that women received gifts of the Spirit too. I do not believe Paul is telling the women they may not use their spiritual gifts. But the Corinthian women were causing confusion in church. They spoke when they should not speak. They asked questions right in the middle of a meeting.

Where should all things be done rightly and in order? \_\_\_\_\_

9. This should be in the church. In church we are worshipping God. God is a God of peace. What the Corinthian women were doing in church was shameful. There were many things the women did not understand. In those days women did not usually go to school. They only stayed at home. They were not used to meeting with others. They thought they could act in church as they did at home. Paul wanted the women's questions to be answered. But they should be answered at home. The women should not cause confusion in church by talking and asking questions.

Paul told the Corinthians how all things should be done in church. Write the first way and read the second way.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) In order

10. All things in church should be done rightly. They should also be done in order.

1 Corinthians 14:27-28:

If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn; and let one interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silence in church and speak to himself and to God.

Is it right to speak in tongues in church when no one interprets? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there order when all try to speak at one time? \_\_\_\_\_

11. It is not right to have tongues in church without an interpreter. There is no order when all try to speak at once. But this is what was happening in the church at Corinth. Paul explained what must be done when people were speaking in tongues or prophesying.

1 Corinthians 14:29-31:

Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting by, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged.

What is the second way all things must be done in church?

(1) Rightly

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

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12. All things must be done rightly and in order. The order for prophecy is the same as the order for tongues. One person should speak at a time. There should be only two or three speakers. Otherwise the meeting could go on too long. Paul wrote these words, but they were not just from Paul. And they were not just for the Corinthians. They are also for us today.

1 Corinthians 14:37:

If any one thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that what I am writing to you is a command of the Lord.

Who commanded Paul to teach that in church all things must be done rightly and in order?

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13. The Lord or God commanded this. That is why we study it. It is God's word to us. It tells us how we can bring glory to him.

Things must be done rightly in church. The gifts of the Spirit must be used in the right way. These chapters in Corinthians teach the right way to use them. Christians must follow the teaching in these chapters. God's word is the guide we must follow.

What is the second way all things should be done in church?

(1) Rightly

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

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14. All things must be done in order. The Holy Spirit will not force us to do anything wrong. He will not teach us anything which is against the Bible. When we have questions about the gifts of the Spirit, we must be careful to read these chapters.

God is moving in our churches today. He is pouring out his Spirit in a wonderful way. He is giving the gifts of the Spirit. Satan is also busy. He is trying to deceive people. He is trying to get people to use the gifts in the wrong way.

Take time now to stop and pray. Ask God to help you understand the lessons of this week. Ask him to help you know how things should be done in your church.

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15. How should all things be done in church?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

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