

# St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups. July 10th 2005

## God's Gifts - the Gifts in Practice

### The gift of tongues

#### 1 Corinthians 14: 1-19



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

**How do we use Language** : we can write nonsense verse and still find meaning there. We can understand poetry and metaphor and be enlightened by them. Language is not just functional it is about creativity and communication.

**God's Language** is creative and conversational: he creates relationships through it It is often filled with metaphor and parable

**Our Language in response** to His: in response to God we will, like Adam, Abraham, Moses speak out our hearts, we may be lost for words and we may often choose to use his words: Jesus' words, the Psalms, Prophets. We may use the words of others: liturgy, writers. We may run out of words in our own language. We may respond in silence because there is nothing we can find to encapsulate our hearts

**Language is powerful - Genesis 11:** We have abused the power of language he had given us: instead of using it to create society that converses with God they communicated together to try to equal God by building the tower **of Babel**. .God's action in response was to disempower the people by confusing the language of the peoples.

God however wants us to still build that society, not by our power but by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2** As he gave the spirit at **Pentecost** He gave a new languages that empowered the building up and extending of the kingdom of God. his society on earth

**Tongues - 1 Cor 14 and Romans 8:26-27** is supernaturally natural; of the spirit; of men and angels.

**Purpose** -Conviction, (increasing the body) Edification (builds up individual) and worship, Prophecy and build up body through interpretation, intercession/prayer.

**Wary of the gift** - I seem not to be in control, afraid of allowing God to control. Feel second class if we do not have the gift. We let our fears have their sway.

God gives good gifts.. Paul: I would that you all spoke in tongues... not a gift for all, but there should be no fear or anxiety. These can be given to God and then we can honestly open our hearts to receive the gifts that are intended for us.



#### Witness: Questions to discuss

1. Read through the passages in Acts 2 and 1 Cor 14. What do you especially notice in the giving of this gift of tongues?
2. Describe the kind of service you think Paul is outlining in 1 Cor 14?
3. In 1 Cor 14 Paul is setting out need for ordered worship which includes the direction that after 2 or 3 tongues there must be an interpretation. There then may be more tongues given. How do we begin to encourage the use of this gift as we have received it in our church community?
4. What are the draw backs for us at St Paul's that needs to be over come?
5. What are your reservations about asking for this particular gift?
6. Pray together to give God your reservations and concerns and ask him to fill you with the gifts he wants to give you, and if you would like to ask for the gift of tongues to do so.