



Central **WOMEN**

First Corinthians

Week 5

Hey Ladies! I am going to keep my notes brief this week, because I think it will be helpful to read the two “Digging Deeper” articles that Melissa wrote related to this week. One article is about Paul’s statement about women staying silent in church and the other is regarding differing positions on the gift of tongues. Those articles are included on the website, and are attached to the email to the leaders.

Day 1

I would encourage the ladies in your group to take a spiritual gift test (two are referenced on the middle of page 146). There is also the [SHAPE test](#) on the Central App. We are all given spiritual gifts that are to be used for the building up of the church. These gifts may be used within the walls of the local church, or within the community to serve the church universal.

Day 2

We are given our gifts by God. Our job is to discover what they are and use them! Do not get caught in the comparison trap. Your gift is important, and the church is better when you are using your gift. Also- with some of the more “visible” gifts- like teaching or leadership comes a great deal of responsibility and accountability- which we often forget to think about. I want to encourage you to pray for our pastors!

Day 3

I loved how Melissa broke down this lesson. What new things did your ladies discover about love?

My biggest “aha” moment was reading 1 Cor. 13: 9-12, and how we see through a dim mirror right now-our view is partial and incomplete. We need to seek wisdom through our study of God’s word, yet at the end of the day, our knowledge is incomplete so we should be gracious and loving toward those with whom we disagree. How does that resonate with you in regards to the hot topics of today that create division within our churches?

Day 4

The big idea I took away from this day was that it does not matter how you serve in the church- if you do not demonstrate love, your gift is rendered useless. Melissa interpreted the gift of prophecy as teaching - or the forthtelling of God’s word (page 162). While, I am not in a place to assume that no one receives information about the future from God, I would hold it very loosely, and never put it on the same level as Scripture.



Here more on that topic from gotquestions.org, if it is helpful in your group discussion:

The spiritual gift of prophecy is listed among the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:10 and Romans 12:6. The Greek word translated “prophesying” or “prophecy” in both passages properly means to “speak forth” or declare the divine will, to interpret the purposes of God, or to make known in any way the truth of God which is designed to influence people. Many people misunderstand the gift of prophecy to be the ability to predict the future. While knowing something about the future may sometimes have been an aspect of the gift of prophecy, it was primarily a gift of proclamation (“forth-telling”), not prediction (“fore-telling”).

A pastor/preacher who declares the Bible can be considered a “prophesier” in that he is speaking forth the counsel of God. With the completion of the New Testament canon, prophesying changed from declaring new revelation to declaring the completed revelation God has already given. Jude 3 speaks of “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (emphasis added). In other words, the faith to which we hold has been settled forever, and it does not need the addition or refinement that comes from extra-biblical revelations.

Also, note the transition from prophet to teacher in 2 Peter 2:1: “There were false prophets among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you” (emphasis added). Peter indicates that the Old Testament age had prophets, whereas the church will have teachers. The spiritual gift of prophecy, in the sense of receiving new revelations from God to be proclaimed to others, ceased with the completion of the Bible. During the time that prophecy was a revelatory gift, it was to be used for the edification, exhortation, and comfort of men (1 Corinthians 14:3). The modern gift of prophecy, which is really more akin to teaching, still declares the truth of God. What has changed is that the truth of God today has already been fully revealed in His Word, while, in the early church, it had not yet been fully revealed.

Christians are to be very wary of those who claim to have a “new” message from God. It is one thing to say, “I had an interesting dream last night.” However, it is quite another matter to say, “God gave me a dream last night, and you must obey it.” No utterance of man should be considered equal to or above the written Word. We must hold to the Word that God has already given and commit ourselves to sola scriptura—Scripture alone.

Day 5

To prepare for any discussion on this day, I would read the two Digging Deeper articles for Week 5.

Digging Deeper 1: <https://storage.snappages.site/R2RWN7/assets/files/Diggin-Deeper-Week-5-12.pdf>

Digging Deeper 2: <https://storage.snappages.site/R2RWN7/assets/files/Digger-Deeper-Week-5-22.pdf>

