1 CORINTHIANS 14

ALL FOR BUILDING

BIBLE STUDY

STARTER: What do you think makes a church strong?

Read 1 Corinthians 14 : 1-25

Paul spends the first part of the chapter talking to the Corinthian church about the difference between *prophecy* – that is, speaking biblical truth as led by the Spirit - and *speaking in tongues* – the private, Spirit-gifted language of prayer used by individual believers.

- These may feel unusual or unfamiliar spiritual gifts to some of us.

- What is your experience of what they look like in the modern church? (Use the definitions above to help answer this).

- Are you gifted with either or both of these gifts?

- Look over these verses again and draw out why Paul says that prophecy builds the church up more than speaking in tongues.
    - Verses 1-11
    - Verses 13-19
    - Verses 23-25

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Read 1 Corinthians 14 : 26 - 40

(Note: verses 34-35 may seem chauvinistic or controversial to our modern eyes! However, it is believed that Paul is specifically addressing a group of women who had the habit of shouting out their questions during the gathering)

Looking back carefully at verses 26-33

- What do we particularly learn about how spiritual gifts should be managed?

- Why are they given to the church?

Talk about spiritual gifts together as we have seen them in chapter 12 : 7 – 11 and those we have looked at today in chapter 14.

- Do you think we sometimes neglect spiritual gifts in favour of more practical talents?

- What is the temptation or challenge when it comes to seeking spiritual gifts in order to appear more spiritually mature? What do you think Paul would say in response (**see verses 26; 39-40**)?

GOING DEEPER

Read Ephesians 3 :14-19

- What can we pray for Emmanuel based on these verses?

- What do you think it looks like to commit and belong to Emmanuel so that it is built up?

Let all things be done for building up. I Corinthians 14:26

BACK TO THE START...

Do you think you would add or change anything to your response to the starter question?