

The Gathering Community Group Guide

The Helper // Part 7 // Surrender: the How behind the What

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February 22, 2015

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Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. TAKE TIME BEFORE GROUP TO GO OVER THIS GUIDE.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

The goal this week is 2-fold: first, to offer some practical guidelines to help those of us who desire to seek the gift of a prayer language, and second, to remind us of the big picture behind why the Holy Spirit gives us gifts, because when we dive in to examine any one gift closely, it's far too easy to get hung up on it and lose sight of the mission of the Helper, which is to empower the church to live victoriously and preach boldly. Paul shared these practical guidelines to help us as we grow in our understanding of the private and personal gift of tongues:

1. **The gift is sought through surrender:** While it's totally ok to want to understand the gift, we have to surrender our need to understand it before we open it. In this regard, the gift of tongues is no different than anything else that God calls us to: every step of faith calls us to surrender. Seeking the gift without first surrendering is pointless.
2. **The gift is developed with discipline:** When it comes to tongues, most of us think that the more automatic it is, the more spiritual it is, but like every gift the Helper gives us, tongues is developed with discipline over time. If I have the gift of teaching, I study great teachers, I listen to great teachers and all of that helps me be a better teacher. Instruction does not mean less authentic. If it did, we wouldn't have discipleship!
3. **The gift comes through faith, not frustration:** Many have experienced frustration in this area, and while wrestling is a good thing, the heart of our Father is NOT to frustrate his children with his gifts. But just like parents who hold onto gifts for months waiting for the perfect time to give them, God knows exactly when to give his gifts to his children. We can have faith in that, and eagerly seek all the gifts with expectation, not frustration.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What, if any, is your takeaway from this week's message?
- Paul opened the message talking about wrestling. What thoughts come to your mind when you hear the word "wrestle?" What types of things have you wrestled over in your faith? Why do you think wrestling is such a powerful component to living out Philippians 2:12?
- What are some of the hardest parts of surrendering? Paul mentioned 3 areas that we need to surrender: sin, pride and our minds. Which of these would be the hardest for you to surrender? Is there something else that you need to surrender before you'll be ready to seek the fullness of the Spirit?
- It's so easy to get frustrated with the gifts, or to feel like we're failing because we don't see them immediately in our lives. But what God really wants from each of us is a surrendered heart. How does living surrendered allow us to live at peace with anything God does (or doesn't do) in us?
- Do you have any questions about anything we've studied to this point in The Helper series that you'd like us to try to answer? Turn them in to the Group leader and they'll get them to Paul.