

Adult
Sabbath School
Bible Study Guide
July | Aug | Sept 2026

FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS



SPIRITUAL GIFTS

**Lesson 6 Study Notes[ABSG-3-2026]
August 1-7**



Disclaimer

These notes are prepared to support personal and group Bible study. While written with care and in harmony with Scripture, the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide, and the Spirit of Prophecy, they are not an official publication of the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Reader is encouraged to rely first on the Bible, together with the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide and the Spirit of Prophecy writings.

Lesson 6 [August 1-7]: Understanding the Memory Text

"Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy." — 1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV)

- God gives every believer spiritual gifts to serve His church.
- Each gift has a different purpose, but all are given for the good of God's people.
- This week's lesson teaches that love gives every spiritual gift its true value.
- The verse reminds us to seek Christ-like love, faithfully use God's gifts, and help others grow in their faith.

"Pursue love..."

- To pursue means to keep seeking something with determination and never give up.
- God wants love to become the highest goal of every believer because love reflects His own character.
- Before we think about our gifts or abilities, we must first allow Christ's love to rule our hearts.
- When love guides our lives, we serve others with humility instead of seeking honor for ourselves.

"...and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts..."

- Spiritual gifts are special abilities the Holy Spirit gives to believers to serve God and His church.
- God invites us to desire these gifts because they build up His church and strengthen the faith of His people.
- Every believer receives gifts according to God's wisdom, and every gift has an important place in Christ's body.
- These gifts should always be used to serve others, strengthen the church, and bring glory to God.

"...especially that you may prophesy."

- To prophesy means to faithfully communicate God's message so that people can understand His will.
- God's message brings instruction, encouragement, and comfort to His people.
- For this reason, prophecy receives special emphasis because it strengthens the whole church.
- A spiritual gift brings its greatest blessing when it helps the whole church grow stronger in Christ.

What This Means for You

- **Ask** God to **fill** your heart with His love before asking Him to **use** your gifts.
- **Faithfully use** the abilities He has **entrusted** to you, whether they seem **great or small**.
- **Look** for opportunities to **encourage** others and **lead** them closer to **Jesus**.
- As you **serve** with love, God will **use** your life to **strengthen** His church.

A Final Thought

- The **Holy Spirit** gives different gifts, but He desires every believer to **serve** with the same **spirit of love**.
- When love **guides** every gift, **Christ** is honored, the church is **strengthened**, and more people are **drawn** to His kingdom.

August 1: Sabbath Afternoon - Overview

Summary

- **God** has given every believer a **special gift** to **serve** Him.
- **Spiritual gifts** are different, but they all come from the **same Holy Spirit**.
- Every believer has an **important place** in the church, and **no one** is more important than another.
- **God** wants His people to **work together** in **unity** instead of **competing** with one another.
- **Love** is the **foundation** that gives every spiritual gift its **true purpose**.
- Spiritual gifts should **build up** the church, **encourage** believers, and **bring** people **closer to Christ**.
- **God** desires worship that is **orderly**, **meaningful**, and **beneficial** to everyone.
- Every spiritual gift should be used with **humility** and for **God's glory**, not for **personal praise**.
- **God** continues to **guide** and **strengthen** His church through the gifts He has given.
- When believers use their gifts in **love**, the church grows **stronger** and **reflects** the **character** of **Christ**.

Main Points to Learn This Week

Sunday: We will discover why God gives **different spiritual gifts** to His people.

Monday: We will learn how believers with different gifts can **work together** in **unity**.

Tuesday: We will see why **love** is the most important part of every spiritual gift.

Wednesday: We will understand the **true purpose** of the gift of tongues in the church.

Thursday: We will explore how the gift of prophecy **strengthens**, **encourages**, and **guides** God's people.

This week we will discover how **God** can use **each of us**, together with others, to **build** a united church through **love** and **faithful service**.

August 2: Sunday - Varieties of Gifts

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:1–11; Ephesians 4:8–11

Summary

- The Holy Spirit's first gift is to lead you to believe that Jesus is Lord and remain faithful to Him.
- God has given you a spiritual gift because He has a special work for you in His church.
- The Holy Spirit gives different gifts, Jesus is the Lord we serve, and God gives power for every work.
- The Spirit gives each believer the gift He chooses because every gift is needed in God's work.
- Your gift is not for your own benefit but to strengthen the church and bless other believers.
- When every believer faithfully uses their God-given gift, the church grows stronger and remains united in Christ.
- Use the gift God has given you with humility and faithfulness, and let your life bring glory to Jesus.

Question

- Why does God give different spiritual gifts to His people?

Answer

- God gives each believer a spiritual gift to serve Christ, strengthen the church, and help His people work together in unity.

Reflection

- Am I faithfully using the spiritual gift God has given me to serve others and strengthen His church?

Takeaway

- Use your God-given gift faithfully, and help build a united church that honors Jesus Christ.

August 3: Monday - Unity Through Diversity

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:12–31; Romans 12:6–8; Ephesians 4:11–13

Summary

- **God** has made **every believer** different, but He **calls** us to **work together** as **one church**.
- Just as **every part** of the **body** has a different purpose, **every believer** has a **special place** in **God's work**.
- **No** spiritual gift is more important than another because **every gift** is **needed** to **strengthen** the **church**.
- You **need** other believers, and they also need you, because **God** did not **design** anyone to **serve alone**.
- **Never** look down on your gift or the gifts of others because **each one** has **value** in **God's plan**.
- When **every believer** serves with **love**, the church grows **stronger**, **healthier**, and **more united**.
- Whatever **gift** God has given you, **use** it faithfully to **serve others** and **build up** the **body of Christ**.

Question

- Why does **God** give different gifts to different believers?

Answer

- **God** gives different gifts so that **every believer** can work together to **strengthen** the church and **serve** Him in love.

Reflection

- Am I using my **God-given** gift to **serve** others, or am I **wishing** I had **someone else's** gift?

Takeaway

- **Value** every believer, use your gift with love, and **help strengthen** the **body of Christ**.

August 4: Tuesday - A More Excellent Way

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:1–13; 1 Peter 4:8–11

Summary

- **God** wants you to use **every spiritual gift** with **love** because love gives every gift its **true value** and **purpose**.
- **Without love**, even **great faith**, **knowledge**, preaching, or other spiritual gifts **cannot please God** as they should.
- **True love** is shown by the way you **treat** others and not simply by the **words** you speak or the **feelings** you have.
- Love is **patient**, **kind**, **truthful**, **forgiving**, and willing to **keep serving** even when it is **difficult**.
- Love does not **seek its own way**, become **proud**, **keep a record** of wrongs, or **find joy** in sin.
- When love **guides** your **words**, **actions**, and spiritual gifts, you help others **grow closer** to **Christ** and **strengthen** His church.
- **Ask** God to **fill** your heart with His love so that everything you do will **bring glory** to Him and **bless** those around you.

Question

- Why is **love so important** when **using spiritual gifts**?

Answer

- Love helps you use your spiritual gifts in a way that **honors** God, **blesses** others, and **strengthens** the church.

Reflection

- Is **God's love** guiding the way I **speak**, **serve**, and use the gifts He has given me?

Takeaway

- **Let** God's love **guide** everything you do, and your life will become a **blessing** to others.

August 5: Wednesday - The Gift of Tongues

Read: Mark 16:17; Acts 2:1–13; 10:44–48; 19:6; 1 Corinthians 12:8–10, 28, 30; 14:5–6, 9, 13, 23, 26–28, 33, 40

Summary

- The **gift of tongues** is a **genuine gift** from the **Holy Spirit** that enables **believers** to speak **foreign languages**.
- **Paul** did not correct the gift itself because it was **given by God** for His work.
- **Paul** corrected the **misuse** of the gift because it was causing **confusion** during public worship.
- **God** wants every message shared in the church to be **understood** so that everyone can **learn** and **grow**.
- **Paul** taught that the gift of tongues should be accompanied by **interpretation** so the whole church can **benefit**.
- The Corinthians gave too much **attention** to the gift of tongues and **neglected** other gifts that also strengthened the church.
- The **Holy Spirit** gives different gifts to different believers, so **not every Christian** receives the gift of tongues.
- Speaking in tongues is **not the evidence** that a person has received the **Holy Spirit**.
- **God** gives every spiritual gift to **strengthen** the church and **help** more people **come to Christ**.

Question

- Why did **Paul** give **instructions** about the gift of tongues?

Answer

- **Paul** wanted the gift of tongues to be used in a way that people could **understand** God's message so the church would be **strengthened** instead of **confused**.

Reflection

- Am I using the gifts God has given me to **help** others **understand** His Word and **grow** in their faith?

Takeaway

- **Use** every spiritual gift in a way that **builds up** the church and **brings glory** to **God**.

August 6: Thursday - The Gift of Prophecy

Read: Ephesians 4:11–13; 1 Corinthians 14:3–4; Isaiah 8:20; Revelation 12:17; 19:10

Summary

- The **gift of prophecy** has a special place among the **spiritual gifts** because it **builds up the church** through clear and **understandable messages**.
- **God** gives the gift of prophecy to **strengthen, encourage, and comfort** His people in their **daily walk** with Him.
- The work of a **prophet** is not only to reveal **future events** but also to help **God's people** know how to **live faithfully** today.
- The gift of prophecy continues in the church because **God** still gives **spiritual gifts** until **Christ returns**.
- Every person who claims to speak for **God** must be **tested by the Bible** before their message is accepted.
- A **true prophet** speaks in harmony with **Scripture**, points people to **Christ**, and bears **good spiritual fruit**.
- The **Bible** identifies the gift of prophecy as one of the marks of **God's remnant church** in the **last days**.
- **Seventh-day Adventists** believe that **Ellen G. White** received the gift of prophecy and that her writings lead people to the **Bible** and to **Jesus**.

Question

- Why did **God** give the **gift of prophecy** to His church?

Answer

- **God** gave the gift of prophecy to **strengthen, encourage, and guide** His people. He also gave the **Bible** to help us **test** everyone who claims to be a prophet.

Reflection

- Do I value **God's gift of prophecy** and **test** every spiritual message by **His Word**?

Takeaway

- The **gift of prophecy** strengthens **God's church** and always leads people back to the **Bible** and to **Christ**.

August 7: Friday - Further Thought

Read: Spiritual Gifts, vol. 1, pp. 5–16

Summary

- **God** gives different **spiritual gifts** so that **every believer** can serve in His work.
- Every spiritual gift is important because **God** works through each believer in a **unique way**.
- No believer should **look down** on a small gift because every gift **helps build the church**.
- **God** calls His people to use their gifts with **love**, **humility**, and a **spirit of service**.
- The **gift of prophecy** has a special place because it strengthens and guides **God's people** through **His Word**.
- Every prophetic message should be **tested by the Bible** because **God's truth** never contradicts itself.
- The church grows stronger when believers **value one another's gifts** and **work together** for **Christ**.

Question

- What should we remember as we use the **spiritual gifts** **God** has given us?

Answer

- We should use our gifts with **love**, **value the gifts of others**, **test** every spiritual message by the **Bible**, and **work together** to strengthen **God's church**.

Reflection

- Am I using the gifts **God** has given me to **serve** others and help **build His church**?

Takeaway

- **Use** your spiritual gifts **faithfully**, **work together** with others, and always let **God's Word** **guide** your service.