

Sunday, April 18, 2021 - "We Are - Week 2: We Are Word & Spirit" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Proverbs 4:12, 1 Corinthians 12, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 1 Corinthians 14:1-2

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- We are a Word and Spirit church
- We are a Word church
 - Proverbs 4:12 - The Bible is our standard (for right and wrong)...our final authority on all matters of faith
 - The Bible is true, trustworthy and the very word of God...and it all points to Jesus
- Why word AND Spirit
 - People have abused the word of God in the past
 - Knowing a lot of scriptures does not equal spiritual maturity
 - The Spirit reveals who Jesus is and what He has done through the word
- Hear and Obey
 - We are called to heed the word → life change
 - Not only hear/read but do what it says
- 1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14 (We believe all spiritual gifts are still active today)
 - Spiritual gifts are critical in the church
 - They are always for the common good (benefit the body of believers)
- When it comes to spiritual gifts
 - "All have some. None have all," - Roc Bottomly
 - No gift is more spiritual or holy
 - The church is a body..."the big toe is indispensable"
- A more excellent way (The way of love)
 - Spiritual gifting is not the same as godly character
 - "Spiritual gifting without maturity and self-awareness will always lead to abuse" - Doug Kempton
 - You can't abuse someone and love them at the same time
- There can be a cycle: Desire the Spirit (and gifts) → Experience the Spirit → Abuse the Spirit → Prohibit the Spirit
- We have to focus on loving God and loving people when exercising spiritual gifts
- A few gifts that can be harder to understand
 - Tongues (2 types)
 - 1) Speaking in a language that you don't speak and haven't been trained in (Acts 2: disciples at Pentacost)
 - 2) Prayer language to God (some have it, some don't...not a "merit badge")
 - We don't do it from the front because it can be confusing and disruptive
 - Healing - "When it comes to healing, He often does. Sometimes He does not. But either way, he is Good" - Roc Bottomly
 - Prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:1)
 - A word of knowledge from God to/for someone else...for the building up and encouragement of the body
 - The feeling like you need to call someone or reach out to someone and it's "perfect timing"
- We need all of us fully engaged in the obeying the word and in our spiritual gifting to see Grace be all that it can be

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How has God used his word to teach you about following Him? Do you have specific seasons or memories of when it was especially important?
2. How are you doing at hearing the word? How are you doing at obeying the word?
3. What has God taught you about your spiritual gifts and what it looks like for you to use them for the building up of His church?
4. When was a time that you experienced tongues, healing or prophecy? What do you learn from it?
5. What would it look like for you to be fully engaged in the Word and in your spiritual gifts?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Exodus 11 Tues: Exodus 12 Wed: Exodus 13 Thurs: Exodus 14 Fri: Exodus 15

Songs from the weekend: [Glory to Glory - Bethel Music] - [The Way - Pat Barrett] - [You Know My Name - Tasha Cobbs-Leonard] - [Sinking Deep - Hillsong Young & Free]