

The Vocal Gifts

Small Group Discussion Guide

"The Vocal Gifts" -- Pastor Mirek Hufton

1. SERMON RECAP

Pastor Mirek Hufton walked the congregation through the three vocal gifts of the Holy Spirit -- tongues, interpretation of tongues, and prophecy -- emphasizing that these gifts are not reserved for pastors or spiritual elites but are available to every believer. He challenged the congregation to pursue a clean vessel before God, begin exercising the gifts in private prayer, and then step out in faith within small groups and the wider body. He reminded the church that the goal of every vocal gift is always to edify, exhort, and comfort -- building others up rather than drawing attention to oneself.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 14:1

"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy."

3. ICE BREAKER

Has anyone ever received an encouraging word -- from a friend, a stranger, or during a church service -- that arrived at exactly the right moment and felt like it was meant specifically for you? What made it so meaningful?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Mirek pointed out that 1 Corinthians 12:7 says the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each believer "for the profit of all." What does it do to our understanding of the gifts when we realize they are primarily given for the benefit of others rather than ourselves? How does that change the way we think about pursuing them?
2. Pastor Mirek drew a clear distinction between the private devotional use of tongues and the public use of tongues that requires interpretation. Why do you think God designed it that way -- private prayer for personal

edification, and public tongues requiring interpretation for the benefit of the gathered body? What does that structure tell us about how God values both the individual believer and the community?

3. He made the statement, "The cleaner the vessel, the purer the gift," and warned that an unclean or double-minded life can distort the flow of the gifts. Without being harsh toward others, what personal habits, attitudes, or blind spots might quietly block the flow of the Holy Spirit through a believer's life? What does it practically look like to maintain a clean vessel?

4. Pastor Mirek was careful to clarify that prophesying does not make someone a prophet, and that the simple gift of prophecy stays within the boundaries of edification, exhortation, and comfort. Why is it important to understand those boundaries, especially for someone who is just beginning to step out in prophetic gifting? How might those boundaries actually give someone more confidence rather than less?

5. He shared that 1 Thessalonians 5 warns believers to "despise not prophesying," and acknowledged that imperfect or even wrong prophetic words can cause people to shut down and reject the gift altogether. How does a group or a congregation maintain genuine openness to the gifts while also exercising the discernment Paul calls for in letting others judge what is spoken?

6. Pastor Mirek encouraged believers to begin exercising the vocal gifts in their private prayer time before stepping out publicly, saying the gifts must first be practiced alone with God. Why do you think private practice matters so much before public expression? How does that principle apply to other areas of spiritual growth in your life?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

Before the group meets again, set aside at least fifteen minutes on three separate days this week specifically to pray in the Spirit and then pause in silence, asking God for the interpretation of what was prayed. Write down any word, phrase, picture, or subject that rises up during that quiet time. Come back next week ready to share what the experience was like -- not necessarily what was received, but what it felt like to intentionally seek the interpretation rather than move past it.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that each group member would develop a genuine desire for the vocal gifts and overcome any fear, skepticism, or past hurt that has kept them at a distance from them.
 - Pray for the church body as a whole -- that as these gifts are taught and practiced, God would establish a culture of order, love, and accountability so the gifts build up rather than divide.
 - Pray specifically for purity and honesty before God, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal anything in each person's life that might be clouding the vessel and hindering the flow of His gifts.
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