

CORNERSTONE

# DISCIPLESHIP

GROUPS

The Essential Spirit, part 2  
Pastor Andrew Burns  
Message from Sunday, June 7, 2026

## Opening Prayer & Summary

### Sermon Summary

This message explores the gifts of the Holy Spirit, particularly focusing on speaking in tongues, while emphasizing that all spiritual gifts must be rooted in God's love. Pastor Andrew walks through 1 Corinthians 12-13, addressing common misconceptions about spiritual gifts and establishing that they are for every believer today, not just the early church.

## Key Takeaways

1. **Spiritual gifts have not ceased** - They remain active until we see Jesus face to face
2. **The Holy Spirit wants to empower you** - It's to your advantage that Jesus sent the Helper
3. **All gifts must be rooted in love** - Without love, even the most powerful gifts are meaningless
4. **Gifts are for the common good** - They benefit and build up the entire body of Christ
5. **You receive by faith** - Just as you received salvation, you receive the Holy Spirit by asking

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Text

1. **1 Corinthians 13:8-12** - Why do you think Paul uses the phrase "face to face" to describe when spiritual gifts will cease? What does this tell us about their relevance today?
2. **The "Perfect" Debate** - Pastor Andrew addressed the cessationist view that "the perfect" in 1 Corinthians 13:10 refers to the completed New Testament. How does the context of verses 11-12 clarify what Paul actually meant?
3. **Three Categories of Gifts** - The sermon organized spiritual gifts into three categories:
  - o **To Say Something** (prophecy, tongues, interpretation)
  - o **To Know Something** (word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discerning of spirits)
  - o **To Do Something** (gift of faith, healing, miracles)
4. Which category are you most curious about? Why?

### Personal Reflection

1. **Examine Your Heart** - Have you been taught that spiritual gifts ended with the early church? How does this sermon challenge or confirm your previous understanding?
2. **The Enemy's Strategy** - Pastor Andrew stated that the devil wants you to remain "ignorant and misinformed" about spiritual gifts. In what ways might confusion or fear about spiritual gifts limit your spiritual growth?
3. **Love as the Foundation** - Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 again (preferably in the Amplified version shared in the sermon). Which aspect of love is most challenging for you to practice? Why?

### Going Deeper

1. **The Test of Authenticity** - According to 1 Corinthians 12:3, how can we know if something is genuinely from the Holy Spirit? Why is this test important in our current culture?
2. **Earnestly Desire** - 1 Corinthians 12:31 says to "earnestly desire the higher gifts." What does it mean to earnestly desire something from God? How is this different from passively waiting?
3. **Love Without Gifts vs. Gifts Without Love** - Which do you think is more common in the church today—people who love well but don't operate in spiritual gifts, or people who operate in gifts but lack love? What are the dangers of each?

## Practical Application

### This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

#### Option 1: Study & Seek

- Read 1 Corinthians 12-14 in its entirety in two different translations
- Journal about what stands out to you
- Ask God to reveal any misconceptions you may have about spiritual gifts

#### Option 2: Love in Action

- Choose one characteristic of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 that challenges you
- Identify a specific person or situation where you can practice this aspect of love

#### Option 3: Ask & Receive

- If you've never been filled with the Holy Spirit, set aside time this week to ask in faith
- If you have been filled, ask God to increase your hunger for the gifts
- Practice speaking in tongues daily for at least 5 minutes (if you already have this gift)

## Closing

### Closing Discussion

1. What is one thing God spoke to you about through this sermon?
2. How will you apply what you learned this week?
3. How can we pray for you regarding spiritual gifts and walking in love?

### Prayer Focus

- Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit
- Ask for wisdom and understanding about spiritual gifts
- Pray for a greater capacity to love as Christ loves

### Looking Ahead

Next week's sermon will continue in 1 Corinthians 14 with specific instructions about the operation of spiritual gifts. Come prepared and bring someone who needs to hear this teaching!

## News & Events

Scan QR code for Upcoming Events, News, Giving and more! <https://linktr.ee/cornerstonejc>



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- June 21 - Donuts with Dad
- July 19 - Summer Fun Night at Kingsport Aquatic Center - Registration Open