

**Pastor Dave Patterson**  
**1 CORINTHIANS**  
**Part 14: The River of God**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

***The gifts and outpouring of the Spirit was prophesied hundreds of years before Jesus had officially shown up on the earth. In the book of Acts, the early church receives an outpouring so that the entire body of Christ could be equipped.***

**[1 Corinthians 14.1]**

*Follow the way of love and **eagerly desire the gifts of the Spirit.***

**[1 Corinthians 12.7, NLT]**

*A spiritual gift is **given to each of us** so we can help each other.*

**[John 16.13, 15]**

*The Spirit of truth will come and guide you in all truth. He will **reveal to you the things to come and bring glory to Me.***

**[Joel 2.28-32]**

*I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. **In those days**, I will pour out my Spirit even on servants--men and women alike. And I will cause wonders in the heavens and on the earth--blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and terrible day of the LORD arrives. But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.*

**[Acts 2.14-17]**

*Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy...' "*

**[Psalm 46.4-5]**

*There is a river **whose streams make glad** the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall.*

**[Ezekiel 47.1,12 & 9]**

*...I observed a stream of water bubbling up from beneath the temple threshold, flowing eastward in the same direction the temple faced. Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, **because the water from the sanctuary flows to them.***

***Life will flourish wherever this water flows.***

**[1 Corinthians 14.26]**

*What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? **When you come together, each of you** has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.*

***Discovering and developing your gifts is reasonable!***

**How to Let the River Flow:**

**1. Personally pursue the Gifts.**

**[1 Corinthians 14.1]**

*Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it--because it does. **Give yourselves to the gifts God gives you.***

**2. Do not oppose the expressions of the Holy Spirit in the Church.**

**[1 Corinthians 14.5]**

***I would like every one of you to speak in tongues,** but I would rather have you prophesy.*

**[Acts 2.39]**

*The promise (the gift of the Holy Spirit) is for you and your children and for all who are far off--**for all whom The Lord our God will call.***

**[1 Corinthians 14.14-15]**

*For if I pray in tongues, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. **So what shall I do?** I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.*

**[1 Corinthians 14.18-19]**

*I thank God that I **speak in tongues more than all of you**. But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.*

**[1 Corinthians 14.39-40]**

*Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and **do not forbid speaking in tongues**. But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.*

**3. Apply the principles of "decent and in order."**

**[1 Corinthians 14.40]**

*Let all things be done **decently and in order**.*

**[1 Corinthians 14.34-35]**

*Women should be silent during the church meetings. It is not proper for them to speak. They should be submissive, just as the law says. If they have any questions, they should ask their husbands at home, for it is improper for women to speak in church meetings.*

**[1 Corinthians 14.32-33]**

*Remember that people who prophesy **are in control of their spirit** and can take turns. For God is not a God of disorder (confusion) but of peace, as **in all the meetings** of God's holy people.*

**4. Do not settle for less than God intended for His church.**

**[1 Corinthians 14.12]**

*In your passion for spiritual gifts, **seek to strengthen** the community of believers, and you will all be better off.*

**We will be a church that:**

**\*Eagerly desires the spiritual gifts.**

**\*Operates in the gifts with decency and order and...**

**\*...Continues to make room for the Holy Spirit to have His way!**

**[Ezekiel 47.9]**

*...And life will flourish wherever this water flows.*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. What do people come to the church looking for?**
- 2. Whose job is it to release the river of God in the church? What does the church look like when they do?**
- 3. How do we recognize our gifts, and then personally pursue and release our gifts (the river)?**
- 4. What life and fruit can we expect as a result of our corporate river watering our community?**
- 5. Why is being "decent and in order" with the operation of the gifts important to reaching those far from Christ? Why is it also important to growing those already in the church? How does the principle of "what's best for the rest" apply?**