

LOVE

Theme: Love 18

Discipleship groups purpose: Each member being transformed into the image of the Son.

Key Truth: Love or Gong.

Key Scripture: *1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*

Read: Over the last 16 weeks we have looked at the substance of love. We have unpacked each attribute of love and how each attribute is to be perfected within us. As His love is being perfected within us we find our very lives becoming the manifestation and the living demonstration of His love for all to experience. This is the outcome when Jesus is building His church.

With this in mind I want us to look at why it is so imperative that His love is being formed and built within us, when it comes to operating in the gifts of the Spirit. There are 3 positions that God describes in relation to not operating from the foundation of love, when operating in a gift. They are.....

1. A noisy gong or cymbal
2. I am nothing
3. It profits me nothing

Let's look at the first one.

1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

This love is the love we have been teaching on. It is His love and how He loves us, and how we are to love one another.

The use of the gifts God gives us, are to be ministered to others from this posture of love, otherwise we are just a noisy gong or cymbal, no matter how accurate we may be with the use of the gift. In this instance God is saying that the words of the Spirit you speak from having the gift of tongues, will come across as a very annoying and irritating sound, much like a gong or clanging cymbal, if you don't have love as your core foundation and love is not the motivation for why you even speak.

You may think you are being all spiritual and all powerful in the Spirit, but in reality you are completely the opposite and even offensive to the Spirit.

We need to understand that God gives gifts to His children when we receive Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and for many of us, these gifts are given to us in an immature state. Depending on the revelation of love we receive when we receive Christ, we may in fact only know God's love in a very small measure, or we may only know about it, yet we have been given this very powerful gift, which we can use and operate in, and this can become a major problem for us and others around us.

How many of us want to be known for being a noisy gong or a clanging symbol? How many of us may in fact be this but be completely oblivious to it? I am sure none of us want to and we would be absolutely horrified to discover we were, so the answer lies in having His love perfected within our inner most being.

Not too many people want to be around people who produce this kind of noise or frequency, so may we all commit to allowing the power of God's spirit infused Word to go to work on our hearts and minds. Let's commit more and more to being taught by the Holy Spirit, our Teacher, so when we operate in our gifts, we operate in alignment to the Father and the

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Father's Way.

Questions:

1. Why must God's love be at the core of who we are and the motivation for using the gift He has given us?
2. Why is being a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal so offensive?
3. How does being a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal misrepresent who God is?
4. Why is our maturity in Christ so important when it comes to ministering in the gift?
5. How does one become more mature in Christ?

Action: What is one thing you need to put in place from going through this resource?