

Spiritual Gifts



A study guide adapted from
Practical Teaching And Inspirational Accounts of God's Supernatural Gifts To His Church
David K. Bernard

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CHAPTER ONE

SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE BIBLE

What I Have Learned

A. The Service Gifts (Rom. 12:3-8)

The Greek word for "gifts" here is "charismata" the plural of "charisma."

It is also used of the nine spiritual gifts of I Cor. 12. This word is related to "charis," or "grace," which refers to the free, undeserved blessing and work of God. The connotation is that these gifts are free, unmerited, miraculous endowments from God.

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Prophecy | - | A divinely inspired utterance or speaking under divine unction to edify others. |
| 2. | Ministry | - | Service to others particularly service in the church. |
| 3. | Teaching | - | Instructing in the Word of God. |
| 4. | Exhortation | - | Giving encouragement or comfort. |
| 5. | Giving | - | Sharing material blessings with others and the Church. |
| 6. | Leading (Ruling) | - | Giving direction, guidance and influence within the Church. |
| 7. | Showing Mercy | - | Being compassionate and kind to others. |

B. The Ministerial Office Gifts (Eph. 4:11-16)

- | | | | |
|----|------------|---|--|
| 1. | Apostle | - | Someone sent with a commission; a messenger, ambassador, commissioner. |
| 2. | Prophet | - | One who imparts special messages or direction from God. |
| 3. | Evangelist | - | A preacher of the gospel. |
| 4. | Pastor | - | One who leads and takes care of God's people – a shepherd. |
| 5. | Teacher | - | One who instructs in God's Word. |

- As an analogy, the human body has many parts but do not have the same function.
 - We must seek to identify our particular gifts.
 - We should concentrate on the particular functions God has given us and perform them well.
 - To some extent, every mature Christian should be able to function in the seven areas listed.
 - The people who hold these offices are recognized leaders in the Church, responsible for equipping others.
 - We should recognize, encourage, and heed apostolic and prophetic ministries in our midst.
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What Have You Learned?

1. What three passages in the New Testament list some of the gifts God has granted the Church?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. What does the analogy to the human body seek to teach the saints of God in the Church situation? _____

3. What is the difference between natural talents and spiritual gifts? _____

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-
-
-
4. What do the service gifts seek to accomplish in the Church? _____

 5. What role does people with ministerial office gifts play in the Church? _____

 6. Which of the service gifts would you like God to use you in, and why? _____

 7. Which of the ministerial office gifts would you desire God to use you in, and why? _____

 8. What are the four specific characteristics each local body of believers seeks in their growth toward maturity?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
-
-

CHAPTER TWO
THE SUPERNATURAL SPIRITUAL GIFTS (I Cor. 12:1, 4-11)
What I Have Learned

- A. **Gifts of Revelation**
 1. Word of Wisdom
 2. Word of Knowledge
 3. Discerning of Spirits
- B. **Gifts of Utterance**
 1. Prophecy
 2. Different kinds of tongues
 3. Interpretation of tongues
- C. **Gifts of Power**
 1. Faith
 2. Gifts of healing
 3. Working of miracles
 4. Also read I Cor. 12:28-30 to have a look at a combination of elements in the preceding categories.
- D. The origin of the gifts (Gen 1:1-2; John 4:24).
 1. The gifts have a supernatural character (Heb. 2:3-4).
 2. The gifts are given according to the will of God.
 - a. The spiritual gifts originate in the mind and power of God.
 - b. The most important consideration is not our will, but God's.

3. The gifts are given for times of special need.
4. The supernatural gifts should be normal not abnormal; expected, not unexpected.
5. They do not operate continually, however.
6. There is a difference between natural life, spiritual life and spiritual gifts.
7. The spiritual gifts are diversity.

E. The main point is to become sensitive, available and yielded to the move of God's Spirit.

What Have You Learned?

1. Who is the originator of the Spiritual gifts? _____
2. How would you explain that while the gifts differ and their manner of administration varies God is the author of them all?

3. Whose will do the spiritual gifts fulfill? _____
4. In the exercise of spiritual gifts can the believer determine when and how they should be used? Briefly explain. _____

5. In what conditions does God grant the spiritual gifts? _____

6. Do you agree with the statement, "In the Church, the supernatural gifts should be normal, not abnormal, expected, not unexpected?" Briefly explain. _____

7. What are the Revelation gifts? What do they have in common? _____

8. What are gifts of Utterance? What do they have in common? _____

9. What are the Power gifts? What do they have in common? _____

10. What should guide us as we try to identify a supernatural manifestation of the Spirit of God? _____

**CHAPTER THREE
THE PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

What I Have Learned

A. The Ultimate Purpose

The ultimate purpose of the spiritual gifts is to exalt or glorify the Lord Jesus.

B. The Immediate Purpose

1. God does not bestow the spiritual gifts primarily to benefit the body as a whole.
2. The immediate purpose of the supernatural gifts is to edify, or build up the Church.
3. This building process occurs both by drawing and adding new believers and strengthening and encouraging existing believers.

C. What The Supernatural Gifts Are Not Meant To Do

1. The supernatural gifts do not replace the written Word of God.
2. The purpose of the spiritual gifts is not to teach doctrine (Gal. 1:8).
3. The supernatural gifts do not replace spiritual leadership in the Church (I Cor. 14:33).
4. The supernatural gifts do not replace the daily guidance from God that we receive through prayer and submission of heart, mind and will to Him.
5. Each Christian must learn to walk by faith, to grow in spiritual wisdom and knowledge, and to develop an understanding of God's will (I Cor. 1:9-14; I Cor. 4:12).

D. Those who attempt to exercise a spiritual gift outside these scriptural purposes are in error.

What Have You Learned?

1. What is the ultimate purpose of the spiritual gifts? _____

2. What is the immediate purpose of the supernatural gifts? _____

3. How does God build up the Church? _____

4. Give one example of a spiritual gift that builds up the whole Church instead of individuals. Briefly explain how it builds up the whole local Church. _____

Briefly explain -----

5. Why the spiritual gifts do not replace the written Word of God. _____

6. Why the gifts do not teach doctrine. _____

7. Why the gifts do not replace spiritual leadership in the Church. _____

8. Why the gifts do not replace the daily guidance received through prayer and submission of heart, mind and will to Him. _____

**CHAPTER FOUR
THE EXERCISE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

What I Have Learned

A. **Availability of Spiritual Gifts** (I Cor. 1:2, 5-7)

Everyone who is filled with the Spirit can potentially operate any of the gifts (I Cor. 12:11).

B. **Desiring Spiritual Gifts** (I Cor. 12:31; I Cor. 14:1)

Christians should be sensitive to the leading of God's Spirit so that they are available for any manifestation God chooses.

C. **Gifts Are Not a Sign of Spiritual Maturity**

1. An awesome display of spiritual gifts should remind us of how powerful and gracious God is.
2. A spiritual gift or manifestation is no sign of spiritual maturity, but simply reveals how great God is.

D. **Yielded to the Spirit** (Acts 3:16; I Thess. 5:19)

1. Humility is vital in the exercise of all spiritual gifts and abilities.
2. When those with the gifts act in faith, then the spirit flows freely through them.

E. **Operating The Gifts In Love** (I Cor. 13:1-2, 14:1)

The gifts have no value unless they are operated in love.

F. **The Gifts Are Subject to The Recipient's Control** (I Cor. 14:32-33, 40)

1. The gifts of the Spirit are subject to the control of the user.
2. We do have a personal responsibility to use the gifts as God has intended.
3. God's purpose in granting a miracle is always good.
4. "Let all things be done decently and in order."

What Have You Learned?

1. What is your opinion on the following statement, "Everyone who is filled with the Spirit can potentially operate any of the gifts?" _____

2. I Cor. 12:31 speak of "the best gifts." Which of the spiritual gifts are the best? _____

3. Why should Spirit-filled believers be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit? _____

4. Some say spiritual gifts are a sign of spiritual maturity. Do you agree with that opinion? Why? _____

5. What does it indicate when we see a notable spiritual manifestation? _____

6. When do the gifts have value? _____

7. Who controls the usage of the gifts? _____

8. Who creates the opportunity for the usage of the gifts? _____

CHAPTER FIVE

I COR. 12: SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

What I Have Learned

A. **Introduction To Spiritual Gifts** (I Cor 12:1-11)

1. We should seek the unique work of God in our own lives.
2. God grants the gifts for the benefit of everyone.
3. The Spirit grants supernatural gifts to the Church for individuals to exercise.

B. **Exercising Spiritual Gifts In The Body** (I Cor 12:12-31)

1. The baptism of the Holy Spirit places us into the one body of Christ.
2. Important lessons taught by the analogy to the human body (I Cor. 12)
 - a. The Church is united but not uniform; there is unity amid diversity (verses 14, 20).
 - b. To function effectively, the members need unity and must acknowledge their role as part of the body (verses 15-16).
 - c. To function effectively, the Church needs diversity and must acknowledge the various roles of its members (verse 17, 19).
 - d. God is the one who has ordained this unity amid diversity; He has designed our different roles as He sees fit (verse 18).
 - e. Every member is needed and valuable, even though some receive less recognition than others (verses 21-24).

- f. The members should strive for unity, prevent divisions, and cultivate mutual care and respect (verses 25-26).
- 3. Each assembly needs the benefit of the full range of spiritual gifts, and each member needs to be an active part of the body.
- 4. A healthy, fully functional Church will desire and acquire all of God's gifts for His body.

What Have You Learned?

1. For whose benefit does God grant the spiritual gifts? _____
2. Who in the Church are supposed to exercise the spiritual gifts God grants to the Church? _____
3. How are we placed in the body of Christ? _____
Mention five lessons the comparison to the human body teach in regard to the diversity in the Church:
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

CHAPTER SIX

I COR. 13: LOVE IN THE EXERCISE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

What I Have Learned

A. Supremacy of Love (I Cor. 13:1-3)

The Greek word for love in this passage is "agape," which in its highest sense means divine love, selfless love, sacrificial love, love without expectation of return. The King James Version translates it here as "Charity," which was originally an excellent rendering.

The only acceptable motive for operating spiritual gifts is love.

B. Characteristics of Love (I Cor. 13:4-7)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Patient | 9. Keeps no record of wrongs |
| 2. Kind | 10. Does not delight in evil |
| 3. Not Envious | 11. Rejoices in the truth |
| 4. Not Boastful | 12. Always protects |
| 5. Not Proud | 13. Always trusts |
| 6. Not Rude | 14. Always hopes |
| 7. Not Self-Seeking | 15. Always persevere |
| 8. Not Easily Angered | |

- a. God never grants spiritual gifts for a hasty, harsh, rude or hot-tempered rebuke.
- b. God does not give spiritual gifts to embarrass or humiliate others, to help someone get revenge or to promote envy and strife.
- c. He does not give the gifts to exalt the recipients or gratify their selfish desires.
- d. The proper use of spiritual gifts will always promote the truth of God's Word, protection of souls, trust in God, hope for the future and perseverance in the faith.

What Have You Learned?

1. What supreme lesson does I Cor. 13 teach in the Christian life? _____

2. What is the only acceptable motive for operating the spiritual gifts? Why? _____

3. Read I Cor. 13:8-13 and briefly give your comment in support or against the statement: "We should value love over spiritual gifts." _____

4. Why do some people operate in spiritual gifts and yet occasionally commit some sins? _____

5. Why do some people misuse the gifts of the Spirit? _____

CHAPTER SEVEN

WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE AND DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

What I Have Learned

The gifts of the Spirit are potentially available to every Spirit-filled believer.

A. Word of Wisdom

1. The Greek word for "wisdom" here is the standard one, "Sophia." "Wisdom" means "understanding of what is true, right, or lasting; insight; ---- common sense; good judgment."

Knowledge is an understanding of facts, but wisdom is an understanding of how to use facts to make good decisions. Wisdom involves insight, judgment, and guidance.

2. The Word of Wisdom is the supernatural gift of a portion of divine insight, judgment or guidance for a particular need (Acts 27:9-10; Acts 16:6-10).
3. By Word of Wisdom God grants divine guidance, and as a result crisis is resolved.
4. God gives supernatural direction at the right time.

B. Word of Knowledge

1. The Greek word for "knowledge" here is the standard one, "gnosis." "Knowledge" means, "familiarity, awareness, or understanding gained through experience or study; ---- the sum or range of what has been perceived, discovered, or learned."
2. The Word of Knowledge is the supernatural gift of a portion of divine information for a particular need.
3. God miraculously revealed to Peter secret information about Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-10).

C. Discerning of Spirits

1. Discerning of spirits is the supernatural gift of perceiving the spiritual motivations for an action, or what type of spirit is at work (Acts 16:16-18; Acts 13:9-11).
2. Human sin is primarily the result of the sinful human nature, human lusts and human choices (Rom. 3:9-12; Jas. 1:14-15).

What Have You Learned?

1. Explain what a Word of Wisdom is. _____

Give two examples of when God gives a Word of Wisdom:

2. _____

3. _____

4. What is Word of Knowledge? _____

Give two biblical examples of when God gave someone a Word of Knowledge:

5. _____

6. _____

7. What is the biblical meaning of Discerning of Spirits? _____

8. Give one example of when the gifts of Discerning of Spirits were used. _____

CHAPTER EIGHT
FAITH AND MIRACLES
What I Have Learned

A Faith

1. Faith means confidence, trust, acceptance without tangible proof, reliance, and commitment (Heb. 11:1).
2. The gift of faith is the supernatural ability to trust God, or to inspire trust in God, for a particular need or circumstance (Acts 27).
3. It often comes in response to a trial or a crisis that would overwhelm a person except that God grants special faith to overcome in spite of the circumstances.
4. The gift of faith may operate even when no miraculous deliverance is forthcoming (Acts 6:5).

B. Working of Miracles

1. A miracle is an event that appears inexplicable by the laws of nature and so is held to be supernatural in origin or an act of God.
2. The Working of Miracles is the supernatural intervention of God that transcends the laws of nature in a situation and operates through or with a human vessel (Acts 19:11-12).
3. By definition, miracles are extraordinary and exceptional.
4. The miracles in the early Church not only met genuine needs, but they were particularly effective in spreading the gospel (Acts 9:42).

What Have You Learned?

1. Define the gift of faith. _____

2. Give a brief comment on the statement, "Faith for salvation and Christian living does not automatically result in faith for a miraculous deliverance." _____

3. When does the gift of faith usually work? _____

4. Give a biblical example to prove that the gift of faith can operate even when no miraculous deliverance is forthcoming. _____

5. Define a miracle. _____

Give three biblical examples where the gift of miracles was in operation:

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. Which of the following statement is true?

- a. Miracles in the early church met genuine needs.
- b. Miracles in the early church were particularly effective in spreading the gospel.

10. What is your comment on the following statement? "We do not demonstrate faith by inaction but by works – by doing everything we can do and everything we know to do." _____

CHAPTER NINE

HEALING

What I Have Learned

The gifts of healing are various forms of supernatural cure or restoration from illnesses, diseases, injuries and other impairments.

A. Healing In The Atonement

What Jesus did for the early church He will do for the church today (Isa. 53:5; Matt. 8:16-17; Heb. 13:8).

B. Progressive Healing

1. Even in the Bible some healings were gradual (Luke. 17:12-14).
2. Someone may receive partial healing and need continued faith and patience for full healing (Mk. 8:22-25; I Tim. 5:23).

C. The Role of Doctors and Medicine

We must not put our faith in doctors or medicine instead of God, but it is not wrong to consult doctors or to take medicine (Col. 4:14; Mk. 5:25-34; 2 Chro. 16:12).

D. Faith When Deliverance or Healing Does Not Come

1. Our faith must rest in God Himself (Job 13:15).
2. Sometimes God delivers us miraculously from a trial but sometimes He allows us to go through a trial (Jas. 1:2-4; I Cor. 10:13).
3. Faith is not only manifested in miraculous deliverance.

E. Why Healing Sometimes Does Not Come

1. Lack of faith (Matt. 13:58).
2. Our own actions (John 5:14; I Cor. 11:29-30).
We should not judge others who are sick (John 9:2-3).
3. The general versus specific will of god.
Sometimes God may use an illness to accomplish a specific purpose in our lives.

What Have You Learned?

1. Define the gifts of healing. _____

2. Which of the following is healing limited to?

Physical restoration

Mental restoration
Spiritual restoration

3. What scripture in the Old Testament indicate that our healing is a result of the stripes of Jesus? _____

4. In what ways do healings finally become effective in individuals? _____

5. When deliverance or healing does not come what should be the reaction of the believer? _____

List three reasons why healing sometimes does not come:

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

CHAPTER TEN
FAITH FOR HEALING
What I Have Learned

We are to pray for all believers who are sick and it is the general will of God to heal them (Jas. 5:14-15).

A. **The Vital Role of Faith**

Jesus healed everyone who came to Him in faith (Matt 9:29; Matt 13:58; Matt 15:28).

B. **Calling On The Name of Jesus**

The Bible instructs us to pray for healing in the Name of Jesus (Mk. 16:17-18; Acts 3:6; John 14:14).

C. **Focusing Faith**

Jesus and the apostles often used symbolic acts to help people focus their faith (Mk. 7:32-35; Jn. 9:6-7).

D. **Anointing With Oil**

Anointing with oil reminds everyone that healing comes by the power of the Holy Spirit (Jas. 5:14).

What Have You Learned?

Give three biblical examples of healing that Jesus effected because the people demonstrated faith.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Give three biblical examples of healing that took place in the Name of Jesus.

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

-
-
7. What does the anointing oil signify? _____
 8. Should anointing oil be applied in every case of healing? Briefly explain? _____
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-

CHAPTER ELEVEN
THE LAYING ON OF HANDS
What I Have Learned

A In The Old Testament

1. Jacob transferred blessings to his grandchildren (Gen 48:14).
2. Moses transferred authority and anointing to his successor, Joshua (Num 27:18-20; Deut. 34:9).
3. On the Day of Atonement the high priest transferred sins from the people to the scapegoat and the individual penitent transferred his sins to the sacrificial animal (Lev 16:21; Lev 1:4, 4:4).
4. The common thread throughout these examples is the symbolism of spiritual transfer.

B. In The New Testament

The laying on of hands fulfilled the same purposes of symbolizing a spiritual transfer and inspiring faith. Jesus the apostles and early believers laid hands on people for:

1. Blessing (Matt 19:14-15)
2. Healing (Mk 6:5; Lk. 4:40; Acts 28:8)
3. Receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17; Acts 19:6)
4. Consecration or ordination to service (Acts 6:6; Acts 13:3)

C. Purpose And Significance

1. Laying on of hands symbolizes the transfer of blessings from God to us.
2. It signifies the joint work of God's Spirit and God's Church to bring blessings to individuals.
3. It represents submission to God and His Church.
4. It represents consecration to God.
5. It is a powerful tool that focuses people's faith to receive a promise from God at a particular time.

What Have You Learned?

1. Give biblical examples where the laying on of hands was applied to symbolize spiritual transfer.

In the Old Testament

1. _____

2. _____

In the New Testament

3. _____

4. _____

Give three points to explain the purpose and significance of the laying on of hands.

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

CHAPTER TWELVE
TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION

What I Have Learned

A. Tongues

1. The Greek word for “tongue” in I Cor. 12-14 is “glossa.” Like the word in English, it refers to the organ of the body and then by extension to a spoken language. This passage clearly uses the word in the latter sense as we see in I Cor. 12:2, 4; I Cor. 14:14, 2.
2. The gift of tongues is the gift of a supernatural utterance in one or more languages unknown to the speaker.
 - a. Initial sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit - Speaking in tongues is for all believers.
 - b. Personal Devotion - It is desirable for everyone who has received the Holy Spirit to continue to speak in tongues throughout their lives. We cannot judge our salvation by how often we speak in tongues.
 - c. Public utterance to be interpreted - “If anyone speaks in a tongue let there be two or at the most three.”

B. Interpretation of Tongues

1. The interpretation of tongues is the gift of a supernatural ability to translate or explain the meaning of a public utterance in tongues.
2. God gives interpretations according to the speaker’s mental ability, understanding and expectation.
3. Different people receive an interpretation in different ways.

What Have You Learned?

1. What is the Greek word for “tongue?” _____
2. Define the gift of tongues. _____

What are the three uses of tongues?

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. Can speaking in tongues be the yardstick for our salvation or spirituality? Explain. _____

7. Define the gift of interpretation of tongues. _____

8. Why does God give the gift of interpretation to the Church? _____

9. What role does the speaker’s mental ability and understanding play in tongues interpretation? _____

10. Briefly comment on the following statement: “Different people receive an interpretation in different ways.” _____

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

PROPHECY

What I Have Learned

Prophecy is the gift of a supernatural utterance from God in the language of the speaker and hearers.

A. Biblical Examples

1. Agabus – Acts 11:27-28; Acts 21:10-11
2. Daughters of Philip – Acts 21:9-11

B. Applying a prophecy

1. Only the recipients of a prophecy can decide what it means for them.
2. Prophecies are not infallible like the Bible.

C. Contemporary Examples

1. At Jackson College of Ministries.
2. At the apostolic Ministers meeting in St Petersburg, Russia.
3. In Nairobi, Kenya.

What Have You Learned?

1. Define the gift of prophecy. _____

2. It is believed that, in a general sense, all speech anointed by God is prophecy. What is your opinion on this view? _____

3. Briefly explain the statement: "Someone who gives a prophecy is not necessarily a permanent prophet in terms of the fivefold ministry." _____

4. Who can decide what a prophecy means for them? How should they discern it? _____

5. How can prophecies be fallible if they are God-inspired? _____

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

I COR. 14: THE VOCAL GIFTS IN PUBLIC WORSHIP

What I Have Learned

The solution to abuse is not disuse but proper use.

Far from minimizing spiritual gifts, I Corinthians strongly encourages their continued use in a proper manner.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. I Cor 1:6-7 | 5. I Cor. 14:12 |
| 2. I Cor 12:31 | 6. I Cor 14:18 |
| 3. I Cor 14:1 | 7. I Cor 14:26 |
| 4. I Cor 14:5 | 8. I Cor 14:39 |

A. Prophecy and Tongues in Public Worship (I Cor 14:1-14)

Someone who speaks in tongues speaks to God, while someone who prophesies speaks to others (verses 2-5)

B. Conclusions Regarding The Vocal Gifts In Public Worship (I Cor 14:15-25)

1. Tongues is very valuable for personal devotion.

2. Prophecy primarily benefits believers.

C. **Guidelines for Order In Public Worship** (I Cor 14:26-40)

1. In one meeting, allow two or at most three, public utterances in tongues (Verse 27).
2. After a public utterance in tones, wait for an interpretation (Verse 27).
3. If no interpretation is forthcoming, the speaker should be quiet (Verse 28).
4. In one meeting, allow two, or at most three, public prophecies (Verse 29).
5. While God is infallible, no human being is.
6. The listeners should evaluate all prophetic utterances (Verse 30).
7. If there is more than one prophecy, the speakers should take turns (Verse 30-31).

The gift is subject to proper use or misuse, and it is our responsibility to use it properly. In corporate meetings our primary goals must be to worship God, to hear from God, and to minister to one another.

What Have You Learned?

1. What is the solution to the abuse of the vocal gifts? _____

2. Far from minimizing the spiritual gifts what does I Cor 14 do to them? _____

3. Which gift is used to communicate to God and which one communicates to believers? _____

4. In what way does tongues become very valuable in personal devotion? _____

5. In what way do prophecy benefit believers? _____

6. Whose responsibility it is to use the gifts properly? _____

Mention three guidelines for order in public worship as in I Cor 14:26-40.

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. What should be our primary goals in corporate meetings? _____

