

1 CORINTHIANS  
**CALLED OUT**  
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **The Knowledge of the Spiritual (1 Corinthians 12:1-3)**

Date: **February 19, 2017**

In chapter 11, Paul started a new section in his first letter to the Corinthians, addressing various topics pertaining to church worship. He began by dealing with two distinct traditions: head coverings and the Lord's Supper. In chapter 12, he moves on to spiritual gifts and how they function in the church. Many of the Corinthian believers had come out of false religions that worshipped pagan idols. Pagan worship services would have been quite chaotic and sinful. For example, it was not uncommon for Corinthian religion to involve cult prostitutes. Because of their background in these pagan worship services, Paul had to carefully teach them about the proper use of spiritual gifts in Christian worship services. In this week's study, we will study Paul's introduction concerning his discussion of spiritual gifts. We will learn that knowledge and spirituality go hand in hand. Our knowledge informs our worship. Furthermore, we will see that the absence of God leads to an absence of knowledge which leads to false religion and chaos. The Holy Spirit is the one who dispenses knowledge and truth. It is only through him that one can rightly conclude, "Jesus is Lord."

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

**Individual Bible Study**

Please read 1 Corinthians 12:1-3 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.

1. What is the new topic that Paul begins addressing in chapter 12? What is Paul's intention discussing this new topic?
2. In verse 1, Paul writes, "I do not want you to be uninformed." Why is Paul concerned that the Corinthians may be uninformed about spiritual gifts?
3. Describe the relationship between knowledge and spirituality. Why is proper knowledge an important part of spiritual life?
4. Paul uses the term "mute idols" in verse 2, which is a reference from Habakkuk 2:18-19. What does Habakkuk 2:18-19 teach us about idols and idolatry?
5. What was false religion and pagan worship like in the city of Corinth?

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6. Mute idols are speechless and unintelligent. When people serve a god who doesn't speak, what happens to them?
7. When you live in a society or serve in a church where God has been silenced, what is the result?
8. Who is the Holy Spirit? How do we know that the Holy Spirit is alive and working? In this passage, what do we learn about the work of the Holy Spirit?
9. What are some things that people can say or do that tells us that they don't have the Spirit of God in them? (see 1 Corinthians 12:3; 1 John 4:2; John 15:26; Hebrews 10:29)
10. The Holy Spirit is the one who causes someone to believe and confess that "Jesus is Lord," (v. 3). What does the affirmation that "Jesus is Lord" mean? How is this affirmation a prophetic act?

### Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. What is the relationship between knowledge and spirituality? As Christians, what can we do to acquire more knowledge so that our worship is informed with truth?
3. What are the consequences of serving a mute idol instead of God? What are some signs that God has been silenced in a church?
4. How can we ensure that we don't silence God in our church? Why is the preaching of God's Word so important? Why is it important to regularly listen to the preached Word? What implications does this have for church attendance?
5. How do we know if the Holy Spirit is in us? What are some evidences of Him at work in your life and in our church?