

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. Try to get your group to make as many observations about the text as they can. This is good practice for reading any selection of the Bible. We often bring our ideas to our study of the Bible and helping people read the text carefully by making observations, even if those observations seem basic, it will help them become better Bible readers.
2. You might have people in your group who have been hurt by churches or church leaders who have practiced supernatural gifts in ways that were manipulative or hurtful. We want to approach this topic with gentleness and understanding. Allow people to share their negative stories and encourage people to reach out to church leaders if they have questions.
3. There is a theological position called Cessationism. It states that tongues and prophecy have ceased because those gifts were only needed until the New Testament came into its final form. That is a brief and simple description. Keep in mind, some people in your group may have been taught this about the gifts this series will highlight. If there are differences of opinion about this, don't feel like you have to resolve those tensions. Do your best to give people a chance to share what they think and make sure no one dominates the conversation.
4. The Corinthians passage has several gifts that can be grouped in the following way:
 - a. The first group is what we might call the **Gifts of Revelation**. These gifts include wisdom, knowledge, and distinguishing between spirits. Gifts of Revelation bring to light what is hidden. They give insight into the thoughts and intentions of God.
 - b. The second group are **Gifts of Power**. These include faith, healing, and miracles. The Gifts of Power demonstrate God's power in visible ways through signs and wonders that can't be naturally explained.
 - c. And the third group are the **Gifts of Speech**. These gifts include prophecy, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. Gifts of Speech communicate God's message to hearers. In these gifts, we see that God uses a variety of means of communication to speak to us.

"If we are simply willing to try to see what God is doing and take the risk of reaching out to put our hands with His, anything can happen. A miracle is potentially within our reach at any moment. It doesn't matter how we feel. It doesn't matter how well or poorly we speak. It doesn't matter how brilliantly we perform. If we happen to catch hold of what God is desiring to do, all heaven can break loose." - Gary Best, Naturally Supernatural

FOUR STRETCHING EXPERIENCES

1. **Theology:** A deepening understanding of God's supernatural activity that's rooted in Scripture. Read the Bible – there is a lot of supernatural stuff in there! We've also included several resources that will stretch your thinking.
2. **Testimonies:** Hearing stories of how people have experienced God's supernatural activity in their lives. Who are people you know that could share their story about their experience of God?
3. **Tactics:** Practical instructions on engaging with God in his supernatural activity to naturally bring the supernatural into our lives. Throughout this series, we'll be sharing several tactics to live naturally supernatural lives.
4. **Trust:** Overcoming fear and doubt to believe God is acting in supernatural ways and wants to include us in that work. God does for our good and does it out of love!

RESOURCES

Open to the Spirit by Scot McKnight (Book)

Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire by Jim Cymbala (Book)

Hearing the Voice of God, Alex and Hannah Absalom (Book)

Healing the Sick by Alex and Hannah Absalom (Book)

Surprised by the Power of the Holy Spirit by Jack Deere (Book)

Naturally Supernatural by Gary Best (Book)