

Precept Upon Precept

NASB

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# Spiritual Gifts

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Know God deeply. Live differently.

Greetings from Precept,

We are so glad you've chosen to study God's Word. You're in for a rich time learning about God, His character, His ways, and the relationship we have with Him. We're confident God's Word will give you the knowledge and the motivation to help you walk in a manner worthy of your calling in Christ Jesus and that you'll be personally challenged, encouraged, and changed by the power of His supernatural Word.

We'd like to stay in touch with you so that we can tell you about the wonderful things God is doing through Precept. Will you connect with us? We want to hear your story of how God's Word has impacted you by studying Inductively.

Visit the Precept Africa website at [www.precept.org.za](http://www.precept.org.za) or join us on *Facebook* at *Precept Africa*.

Finally, we want to thank you for your commitment to faithfully study God's Word in order to *“present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15 NASB). We share a special bond with you because of our love of God's Word.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

The Precept Team

PRECEPT  
UPON  
PRECEPT

*Spiritual  
Gifts*

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®  
SPIRITUAL GIFTS

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PRECEPT SOUTH AFRICA  
[www.precept.org.za](http://www.precept.org.za) | [support@precept.org.za](mailto:support@precept.org.za)  
Tel. +27 (021) 531-1836

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 **Precept**™  
SOUTH AFRICA

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## HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

**How to Study Your Bible**

*Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2010*

**The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible**

*Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000*

**Greek Word Study Tools**

## RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

**The Expositor's Bible Commentary**

*Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House*

**The New American Commentary**

*Nashville, Tennessee: B & H Publishing Group*

WALVOORD, JOHN F., ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

**The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures—  
New Testament**

*Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985*

## RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

**Logos Bible Software**

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at [www.logos.com](http://www.logos.com).

## LESSON ONE

### 1 Peter 4:10-11 and Ephesians 4:1-16

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:  
“General Information About Spiritual Gifts”  
Observation Worksheet of 1 Peter 4:10-11  
Observation Worksheet of Ephesians 4:1-16  
“Spiritual Gifts as Listed in Scripture”  
Word studies  
Cross-references

We can be grateful to the Lord for those who have provided Christian literature for the body of Jesus Christ on the subject of spiritual gifts. Yet with all the literature available, how many of us can speak with confidence and authority on the subject? As you read, you will find varied teachings on these gifts. These variations include their number, their operation within the body of Christ, and even their definitions.

If we read any two of these authors and they vary in their teaching on the gifts, how can we know which interpretation is correct?

O Beloved, we will never be sure of what is true until we know truth for ourselves. God’s Word is truth. Jesus’ prayer was, “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth” (John 17:17).

Our approach to this subject of spiritual gifts will be to search out what the Word of God says; then we will compare what we have seen with the insights of other men of God. Having searched out truth for ourselves, we will be better qualified to evaluate what we read or hear from others; and above all, we will be able to walk in the light we have received from the Spirit of God through the truth of God’s Word.

So, let us begin . . . with the Word. Observation is the key that unlocks the door to correct interpretation of Scripture. Be diligent this week to lay a strong foundation through observation of these passages on spiritual gifts. It will make all the difference to a biblical understanding of the gifts.

DAY  
ONE

1. Always begin your study with prayer asking God to reveal truth to you so you can live in a way that pleases Him.
2. We'll begin our study with one of the New Testament passages about spiritual gifts. But first, a little setting for the passage. Peter was one of the twelve apostles chosen by the Lord Jesus Christ to be with Him during His earthly ministry. Peter wrote two letters that are part of the Bible. We're going to observe part of his first letter to believers.

In the Appendix you'll find a 1 Peter 4:10-11 Observation Worksheet. Read it and mark *gift* with a box. Also mark *God*. On the back of your workbook you'll find a Key Word Bookmark with suggestions for marking words used frequently in the Bible. The suggested marking for *God* is listed there.

3. Now let's answer some key questions.
  - a. Who receives the gifts?
  - b. How are they to be exercised?
  - c. What are the two categories of gifts?
  - d. What instructions does Peter give concerning the gifts?
  - e. Why are the gifts given?

4. There is a chart in the Appendix entitled “General Information About Spiritual Gifts” that we’ll use for each of the passages we study. So when you finish this whole Precept Upon Precept course, you’ll have a page with all of this information about gifts.

Record the Scripture reference in the first column (Ref.). Then fill in what you observe about gifts under the appropriate heading on the chart. Don’t be concerned if there is not something for each header.

5. Using your Greek word study tools, look up the definition of “gift” in verse 10 and record it below.

For assistance in doing a word study, read the chapter entitled “It’s All Greek to Me!” and “How to Use Word Study Tools” in *How to Study Your Bible*.

6. What do you learn from these verses that applies to you?
  - a. In evaluating your spiritual gift(s), are you drawn more to minister by speaking or serving in the Church?
  - b. How are you serving other believers?
  - c. Are you being a good steward of God’s grace by using your gift?
  - d. What effect will serving according to God’s strength have on “burnout”?

7. Finally, you can read what commentaries say about these two verses.

*Now talk to the Father about what you've learned today. Thank Him for His Word—this, Beloved, is the truth. Truth that sanctifies you—sets you apart, makes you more like Jesus, and keeps you from the evil one (John 17:14-18). And we are just beginning!*

## DAY TWO

1. Don't forget to begin today in prayer asking God to help you understand what He wrote for you.
2. For the rest of this week, our focus will be on another passage about spiritual gifts, Ephesians 4:1-16.

Ephesians 4 begins a new segment in this letter. In the first three chapters of Ephesians Paul explains what believers have in Christ—in essence, the spiritual wealth of a Christian. In Ephesians 4–6 he then discusses the walk of the Christian, our walk in light of our wealth. If you observe Ephesians 4–6, you will see that *walk* is a key repeated word in this segment of the book.

Ephesians 4:1-16 is printed in the Appendix as an Observation Worksheet.

- a. Using this worksheet, read these verses and do the following:

- 1) Mark *love*.\*
- 2) Mark *Spirit*.\*
- 3) Draw a stick figure over the word *body* and its pronoun.

\*Words with suggested markings on the Key Word Bookmark are noted with an asterisk [\*].

- b. Read the worksheet again and mark the following words:

- 1) Put a large 1 over the words *one* and *unity*.
- 2) Mark *grace*.\*
- 3) Put a box around *gift*, *gifts*.

3. Now read this text one more time and number on your Observation Worksheet the gifts or gifted men listed in verse 11.

4. Note how Paul integrated spiritual gifts with this context. How does his teaching on gifts relate to what he said at the beginning of the chapter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. According to this passage:
  - a. Who gives the gifts?
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. When were gifts first given?
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Who receives the gifts?
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. What is the purpose of these gifts?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. According to 1 Peter 4:11:
  - a. Which category of gifts do the ones in Ephesians 4:11 fit into?
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What or how are the speakers to speak?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Finally, to end today, let's add to the chart "General Information About Spiritual Gifts." Draw a line under the information you wrote from 1 Peter 4:10-11. Below the line add to the chart from Ephesians 4:1-16.

*Think of what you have learned for yourself—of what you know that you know because of the time and careful attention you've given to the words of Almighty God—the Sovereign Ruler of the universe.*

DAY  
THREE

1. After prayer, read 1 Peter 4:10-11 and Ephesians 4:1-16 to refresh your memory of what you've observed about spiritual gifts from these two passages.
2. Today we begin a second chart to help us understand spiritual gifts better. This chart titled "Spiritual Gifts as Listed in Scripture" is also in the Appendix. Simply list the gifts you've identified in the column for Ephesians 4:11. This might not seem beneficial at this point, but it will as we continue our study.
3. Now, look up the definitions of the following words in Ephesians 4:7-11.
  - a. gifts, verse 8 (This is a different Greek word from the one in 1 Peter 4:10.)

b. apostle

c. prophet

d. evangelist

e. pastor

f. teacher

4. Review: when men with these gifts are speaking God's Word, what results does that have for the church?

DAY  
FOUR

1. Ephesians 4:8 tells us that when Jesus ascended, He gave gifts to men. Let's begin today by looking at when Jesus ascended. Read Acts 1:1-2, 9.
2. Now read Acts 2:1-4, 14-42.
  - a. What speaking gifts from Ephesians 4 do you see in these passages?

- b. What were the results of God's word being spoken?

*Our cross-references will all be in Acts 2–28 or one of the New Testament letters since spiritual gifts were given after Jesus' ascension in Acts 1.*

3. The first gift or gifted men in Ephesians is "apostle." So let's look at some cross-references about apostles. Read the following and note what you learn about this gift. Who had the gift, and what did they do with it? How did they use it?
  - a. Acts 4:33
  - b. Acts 13:1-5 and 14:14-15
  - c. Romans 1:1 and 16:7

- d. 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2:1-6
  - e. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
4. We're going to study the spiritual gift of prophecy in the next lesson, so we'll move on to "evangelist." Read the cross-references and note what is said about this gift. Who had the gift, and what did he do?
- a. Acts 8:5, 12, 26-40
  - b. Acts 21:8
  - c. 2 Timothy 4:5 (Paul wrote this to Timothy.)
5. Our last gift to look at today is "pastor." Look at how this gift is listed compared to the others in Ephesians 4:11. Some think that this gift is the combination of pastor and teacher, but others think they are two separate gifts. What do you think?

6. Now read these cross-references to see what they say about pastors—shepherds—and note what you learn. (We’ll study “teacher” more later.)

- a. Acts 20:17-28

- b. 1 Peter 5:1-4

## DAY FIVE

1. Now for some thinking questions about everything you’ve studied this week. How might the spiritual gifts in Ephesians 4:11 be exercised today?

- a. What did you learn that apostles do, and how do you see that happening now?

- b. What do evangelists do? Who are they drawn to—believers or unbelievers? How do you see this gift working today?

- c. How do you see your pastor working? How can you better support him?

2. Do you think you have any of the speaking gifts listed in Ephesians 4? Why? A couple of questions you might ask in evaluating which spiritual gifts you have are:
  - a. Are you drawn to a particular gift?
  - b. As you serve the body, do other believers recognize a particular spiritual gift in you and comment to you about it?

*As we study the rest of the gifts, keep these questions in mind to help you evaluate which God has given you.*

3. Finally, if you have access to a commentary or two, see what they say about Ephesians 4:1-16. You might want to record any helpful insights.

*“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another...” (1 Peter 4:10). “And He gave some as...until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11, 13).*



# APPENDIX

## EXPLANATIONS OF THE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE TEXT FORMAT

**Italics** are used in the text to indicate words which are not found in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek but implied by it.

**Small caps** in the New Testament are used in the text to indicate Old Testament quotations or obvious references to Old Testament texts. It should be noted that modern rules for the indication of direct quotation were not used in biblical times; thus, the ancient writer would use exact quotations or references to quotation without specific indication of such.

**Paragraphs** are designated by boldface numbers or letters. These were determined by the translators.

## 1 PETER 4:10-11

### Observation Worksheet

- 10 As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- 11 Whoever speaks, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves *is to do so* as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever.  
Amen.

## EPHESIANS 4:1-16

### Observation Worksheet

THEREFORE I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a

manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

8 Therefore it says,

“WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH,

HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES,

AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.”

9 (Now this *expression*, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)

11 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

- 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.
- 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;
- 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,
- 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

## ROMANS 12:1-8

### Observation Worksheet

THEREFORE I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

- 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- 3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.
- 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,
- 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;
- 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;
- 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

# 1 CORINTHIANS 12

## Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

NOW concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.

- 2 You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led astray to the mute idols, however you were led.
- 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.
- 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.
- 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*.
- 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
- 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;
- 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,
- 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.
- 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

- 12 For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.
- 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
- 14 For the body is not one member, but many.
- 15 If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body.
- 16 And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not *a part* of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body.
- 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?
- 18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.
- 19 If they were all one member, where would the body be?
- 20 But now there are many members, but one body.
- 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; or again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”
- 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;
- 23 and those *members* of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable,
- 24 whereas our more presentable members have no need *of it*. But God has *so* composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked,

- 
- 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but *that* the members may have the same care for one another.
- 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.
- 27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.
- 28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *various* kinds of tongues.
- 29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of* miracles, are they?
- 30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?
- 31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts.  
And I show you a still more excellent way.

# 1 CORINTHIANS 13

## Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

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.

2 If I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

3 And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant,

5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*,

6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of* prophecy, they will be done away; if *there are* tongues, they will cease; if *there is* knowledge, it will be done away.

9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part;

10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

# 1 CORINTHIANS 14

## Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

PURSUE love, yet desire earnestly spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy.

- 2 For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in *his* spirit he speaks mysteries.
- 3 But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.
- 4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.
- 5 Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but *even* more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.
- 6 But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what will I profit you unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching?
- 7 Yet *even* lifeless things, either flute or harp, in producing a sound, if they do not produce a distinction in the tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp?
- 8 For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle?
- 9 So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.
- 10 There are, perhaps, a great many kinds of languages in the world, and no *kind* is without meaning.

- 11 If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me.
- 12 So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek to abound for the edification of the church.
- 13 Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.
- 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.
- 15 What is *the outcome* then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.
- 16 Otherwise if you bless in the spirit *only*, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the “Amen” at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying?
- 17 For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified.
- 18 I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all;
- 19 however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.
- 20 Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.
- 21 In the Law it is written, “BY MEN OF STRANGE TONGUES AND BY THE LIPS OF STRANGERS I WILL SPEAK TO THIS PEOPLE, AND EVEN SO THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME,” says the Lord.
- 22 So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy *is for a sign*, not to unbelievers but to those who believe.

- 23 Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?
- 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all;
- 25 the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.
- 26 What is *the outcome* then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.
- 27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, *it should be* by two or at the most three, and *each* in turn, and one must interpret;
- 28 but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God.
- 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment.
- 30 But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, the first one must keep silent.
- 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted;
- 32 and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets;
- 33 for God is not *a God* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.
- 34 The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.
- 35 If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.

- 36 Was it from you that the word of God *first* went forth? Or has it come to you only?
- 37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.
- 38 But if anyone does not recognize *this*, he is not recognized.
- 39 Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues.
- 40 But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

| Ref. | Who gives | Who receives | What | How employ/use | Results | When given | When received |
|------|-----------|--------------|------|----------------|---------|------------|---------------|
|      |           |              |      |                |         |            |               |

SPIRITUAL GIFTS AS LISTED IN SCRIPTURE

| Ephesians 4:11 | Romans 12:6-8 | 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 | 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
|                |               |                       |                        |

## CONTRAST OF TONGUES AND PROPHECY IN 1 CORINTHIANS 14

| Tongues | Prophecy |
|---------|----------|
|         |          |

## HOW TO DO A CHAPTER STUDY LET'S GET STARTED!

*A **chapter study** helps you to focus in on the details in the chapter to better understand what the author is saying. Each of the skills is used to bring important points to light.*

### • LOOK FOR THE 5 Ws AND H

Read the text asking the 5 Ws and H—*Who, What, When, Where, Why, How*. For example, when studying John 1, read the text asking questions like:

**Who** is this about?

**When**?

**Where** was the Word?

**Who** was the Word?

**What** did the Word do?

Don't expect every verse or chapter to answer all the 5 Ws and H about a particular subject or person, but you should read with a questioning mind-set.

### • MARK KEY WORDS AND PHRASES

*Marking key words and phrases and making lists help you to answer the 5 Ws and H.*

KEY WORDS are repeated words within a text which are vital to its meaning.

Mark in a distinctive way each key word or phrase in the chapter along with its pronouns and synonyms. Use colors and/or symbols.

Example: **Word** is a repeated word that is key to understanding John 1.

### • LISTS

The next step is to list what the chapter says about each of the key words. Look at each place you marked a key word and list what the text says.

A LIST is a compilation of the facts given about a particular word or person. It gives the 5 Ws and H (who, what, when, where, why, how) about that word or person. Use words from the text.

A list about the **Word** from John 1 begins this way:

*was in the beginning, v. 1*

*was with God, v. 1*

*was God, v. 1*

*was in the beginning with God, v. 2*

• MARK AND EVALUATE:

CONTRASTS — point out differences. To mark a contrast, put a symbol in the margin by the verse(s), such as *N*.

John 1:17: *For the **Law** was given through Moses; **grace** and truth were realized through Jessus Christ.*

*But, however, or nevertheless* might indicate a contrast.

John 4:2: *...Jesus Himself was not baptizing, **but** His disciples were....*

COMPARISONS — point out similarities. To mark a comparison, put a symbol in the margin by the verse(s), such as *—*.

John 10:9: *I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved....*

Sometimes *like* or *as* indicate a comparison.

John 3:14-15: ***As** Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.*

TERMS OF CONCLUSION — show that a conclusion or summary is being made. These help us understand *why*. Look for the words signifying a conclusion or result such as **therefore**, *for this reason*, and *finally*.

John 12:50: *I know that His commandment is eternal life; **therefore** the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me. ☸*

EXPRESSIONS OF TIME — give timing, sequence of events, or progression. Look for words such as *then*, *after*, *when*, *until*, *the day of...*

John 1:2: *He was **in the beginning** with God. ☉*

• IDENTIFY SUBJECTS OR THEMES

Identify main subjects, events, or points of a chapter by observing it paragraph by paragraph. Paragraphs can be shown with boldface type for the first verse number of a paragraph, by a paragraph symbol, or by an indentation at the beginning of a paragraph.

Read each paragraph, and in the margin list the event, subject, or main point of the paragraph.

John 1:6-8      **6** *There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.*  
*John testified*      **7** *He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might*  
*about the Light*      *believe through him.*  
                          **8** *He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.*

To learn more about doing a chapter study and other inductive Bible study skills, we encourage you to keep on hand a copy of *How to Study Your Bible*. If you don't yet have a copy, you can order one by visiting [shop.precept.org.za](http://shop.precept.org.za) or calling +27 (021) 531 1836.

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PRECEPT was raised up by God for the sole purpose of establishing people in God's Word to produce reverence for Him. It serves as an arm of the church without respect to denomination. God has enabled Precept to reach across denominational lines without compromising the truths of His inerrant Word. We believe every word of the Bible was inspired and given to man as all that is necessary for him to become mature and thoroughly equipped for every good work of life. This ministry does not seek to impose its doctrines on others, but rather to direct people to the Master Himself, who leads and guides by His Spirit into all truth through a systematic study of His Word. The ministry produces a variety of Bible studies and holds conferences and intensive Training Workshops designed to establish attendees in the Word through Inductive Bible Study.

Jack Arthur and his wife, Kay, founded Precept in 1970. Kay and the ministry staff of writers produce *Precept Upon Precept* studies, *In & Out* studies, *Lord* series studies, the *New Inductive Study Series* studies, *40-Minute* studies, and *Discover 4 Yourself Inductive Bible Studies for Kids*. From years of diligent study and teaching experience, Kay and the staff have developed these unique, inductive courses that are now used in nearly 185 countries and 70 languages.

## ANSWERING THE CALL

Now that you've studied and prayerfully considered the scriptures, is there something new for you to believe or do, or did it move you to make a change in your life? It's one of the many amazing and supernatural results of being in His life-changing Word—God speaks to us. At Precept South Africa, we believe that we have heard God speak about our part in the Great Commission. He has told us in His Word to make disciples by teaching people how to study His Word. If you share our passion for establishing people in God's Word, we invite you to join us! Will you prayerfully consider giving monthly to the ministry? To do so, you can make a payment online at <https://precept.org.za/get-involved/support-us> or make a direct deposit into our account:

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