

Study notes based on Sunday 24 June 2018

The Spiritual Gift of Helping Others - John Smith

Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-28

1. Why do you think this gift has been overlooked over the years and regarded as something of a Cinderella? Or perhaps a lifeline for those who don't recognise themselves as having any of the more 'spectacular' gifts but can always help?
2. Some commentators label this gift as the gift of service. Why or why not is this a helpful connection to make?
3. Some people are quite naturally helpers – others help out of a sense of duty. To what extent may this be linked to the spiritual gift of helps?
4. According to research – helping is good for you! Can you identify ways in which you have observed or experienced this?
5. Can you think of examples when helping becomes unhelpful focusing on the helper rather than the person being helped?
6. Read Acts 6:1-7. Helpers were identified for a practical job. They had to be full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom. Are there some jobs in the church which could be just as easily done by a non-Christian e.g. book keeping, IT, cleaner, musician? Or does every helper need to be full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom? What are the pros and cons?
7. Read John 14:6 in different Bible versions. In what ways does the Holy Spirit as 'the Helper' help Christians? Some examples will be found in John 12:12-26, Acts 1:8, Galatians 5:22; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.
8. Consider the proposal that the person with the Spiritual Gift of helps, helps other people in similar ways to those in which the Holy Spirit as Helper, helps us.
9. Look particularly at John 12:12-26. Which helping functions might a person with the gift of helps fulfil for others?
10. How may we recognise and affirm someone with the Spiritual Gift of helps or helping others?