

# The Book of I Corinthians

## 3

### Morning Devotions

Read a Scripture passage of your choice. Talk with the Lord as you read his Word. When you are finished, go back and select one or two verses that you believe the Lord is using to speak to your heart. Meditate thoughtfully and prayerfully on what he is saying to you.

### Morning Study

Today we will be reading **1 Corinthians 14**, which flows on from **chapter 12** and **chapter 13**. In this chapter, Paul continues to instruct the Corinthian Christians in their operation of the gifts of the Spirit. Before you read this section, please read the Insight page on “Women Should Remain Silent?”

**Chapter 14** can be divided into three subsections. Read each subsection and answer the questions associated with them. Type out your answers (or jot them down on a piece of paper) and file them together with your morning study.

#### Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-25

- The Corinthian Church operated frequently in what particular gift of the Spirit, to the exclusion of many of the other gifts? (note **14:2,6**).
- What is the purpose of the gift of tongues? (**14:2,4**).
- What is the purpose of the gift of prophesy? (**14:3-4**).
- What gifts should we seek to excel in? (**14:12**).

#### Read 1 Corinthians 14:26-33

- Whenever Christians gather together, what should they bring? (**14:26**).
- What must all things be done for? (**14:26**).
- Fill in the missing words: God is not a God of \_\_\_\_\_ but God is a God of \_\_\_\_\_ (**14:33**).

#### Read 1 Corinthians 14:34-40

- According to the Insight page, who is it that said the words of **14:34-35**?
- What is Paul’s answer in **14:36**?
- What should we be eager to do and what should we not forbid? (**14:39**).
- What is the main criteria for the operation of any gift of the Spirit? (**14:40**).

## Insight

# Women Should Remain Silent?

The two verses of **1 Corinthians 14:34-35** have caused great controversy in the Church. Some see these verses as being a direct command from God, through Paul, against the ministry of women in the church. Others try to explain that this was not in fact what Paul is meaning, but he is simply addressing the disruptive talk of women in the church. Others simply ignore these verses altogether, regarding them as a culturally distant, no longer relevant to modern Christians. How then should we approach these two verses?

If we are to take this verse at its face value, Paul is not just instructing that women cannot teach or minister, he is saying that they should not speak at all. Note **14:35**:

“If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.”

Paul, it would seem, is not talking just about ministry here; he is talking about “inquir[ing] about something.” Very few who use **1 Corinthians 14:34** and **1 Timothy 2:11-12** as the biblical basis for saying that women cannot teach God’s Word are willing to impose the terms of full silence upon women in the church, as pronounced in **1 Corinthians 14:35**.

Yet if Paul is in fact saying that women should remain silent in the church, why does he allow women to pray and prophesy aloud in **11:5**? The message coming through seems to be very mixed.

The key to understanding what Paul is saying is found in a little phrase often overlooked in **14:34**: “...as the Law says.” Let’s read that problem verse again:

“...women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, *as the Law says*.”

Now if we know anything about Paul, we should recognize that this statement is totally out of character with the Gospel that he preaches (note **Romans 6:14**; **7:4-6**; **Galatians 5:1**; **Colossians 2:14**). In this passage, Paul is actually answering the questions posed by the Corinthian Christians in their letter to him. He is quoting their own question before answering it, and their question is drawn from the teaching of the Judaizers. This is why, in **14:36**, Paul answers:

“Did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached?”

This question is not, in fact, addressed to women, but to those of the Judaizing party in the Corinthian Church, who considered themselves “prophet[s]” and “spiritually gifted.” What Paul had taught from the beginning to the Corinthians was to remain “the Lord’s command.” We have been set free from the Law.

# Memory Verse

For no one can lay any foundation other  
than the one already laid,  
which is Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 3:11

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!