

## ELEMENTAL – Week 8: Church: (Ch)

We are excited to take this journey with you into God's Word. We began two weeks ago (09/25) and will continue for 1 more week in hopes that this devotional study will reinforce in *your* life what Christians have been hearing from Him for the past 2,000 years. We live in a day of second-hand information: Teachers, pundits, reporters, preachers, authors, etc. Most of us have little more than a vicarious understanding of the Elemental beliefs that define who we are as the church... that define who we are as Christians. We pray this next week will be an opportunity for you to hear from God 1<sup>st</sup> hand as you draw near to Him through His revealed Word – the Bible.

***What we believe is what makes us.*** Each week will have 5 readings related to the sermon that was preached at the beginning of the week. Think of the sermon as an introduction, and the 5 readings and thought-provoking questions as your further exploration and opportunity to hear from God.

### Day 1: John 16:7–15

1. How does the coming of the Spirit (the Helper) make it to our “advantage” that Jesus is going away (to ascend to the Father)?
2. What will the Holy Spirit do in the life of the believer?

### Day 2: Romans 8:26–30

1. Name three things this passage assures us of with regard to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
2. Make a list of your “weaknesses.” Pray to the Father for the Spirit's help in these specific areas.

### Day 3: 1 Corinthians 12:4–11

1. What is the role of the Spirit in the life of the believer?
2. What is the role of the Spirit with regard to the church?
3. How do the believer and the church come together for the common good?

### Day 4: 1 Corinthians 12:12–20

1. Make a list of the spiritual gifts (parts of the body) that you can think of in our church.
2. Take a few minutes and pray specifically for the manifestations of God's Spirit at Bethel - pray for people by name as they come to mind.
3. How are you using your gifts in the body? Do you know your gifts? Ask a couple of people today that know you to tell you what they think your spiritual gift is.

### Day 5: Romans 12:3–8

1. What is the posture we ought to have toward one another in the body of Christ?
2. What do it practically mean for us to be individually members of one another?
3. In what ways have you deprived the church of your spiritual gifts?

## Life Group Questions For Discussion

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- Discuss anything you heard today that made a particular impact on you, and why.
- What's the best thing about church? The worst?
- *Gotcha*: Why are the two questions above wrong to even ask?
- What is the correct definition of "church?" Where do you get / defend that?
- Is the list of spiritual gifts in the New Testament exhaustive? Why or why not?
- If you could improve one facet of your church, what would it be? Can you defend that Scripturally?
- What is your purpose / contribution to your church? If you don't know, how can you find out?
- Read Ephesians 3:10-11. So, what's the point of the Church? Based on your answer, do you think our church is "effective?" Why or why not?
- How do we combat cultural consumerism in our church? In your own life?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-12. So, do you believe "sign gifts" have ceased? Why or why not?
- Read Revelation 22:17. How do we interpret this passage, and how do we apply it now?
- Devotional Question For The Week: ***What is my contribution to God's Church?***

### Memory Verses (Fighter Verses)

Last Week: Ephesians 2:8-9

This Week: 1 Corinthians 12:7

### Prayer Focus

#### For the Vision and Direction of Bethel – Both Campuses:

Bethel Bible Church will be a people that experience life-change together. May God continue to dress His Bride beautifully in anticipation of Christ's return.

### Missionary Support

**BEE World** or Biblical Education by Extension World provides seminary level Biblical training to pastors and church leadership that have no access to Biblical training. Most of these leaders live in restricted access countries. Bethel supports two staff with BEE that live and work in these restricted parts of the world. Please be praying this week as one is traveling to work with a training center for former Muslims and the other is facing danger daily in a country that is in turmoil. As both men actively equip leaders for effectively ministry we can stand with them in prayer. Bethel is privileged to support these front line types of ministries. Read more about BEE World at [www.beeworld.org](http://www.beeworld.org)

### In Response to the Text:

- Praising God for His involving the Church in His purpose
- Praising God for His equipping the Church for His purpose
- Praising God for His inspiring the Church by His Spirit

### Further Resources for Study and Preparation

*The Church* – Edmund Clowney

*Streams of Living Water* – Richard J. Foster

*Seeing God* – Gerald McDermott

### Next Week's Text: Hebrews 1

