

Spiritual Gifts and Love

In the past, we often viewed 1 Corinthians 13 as a chapter solely about love. However, during our recent study of Chapters 12 to 14 at the pulpit and in Sunday school, we discovered that these three chapters actually address the issue of spiritual gifts. Paul states in chapter 12, "But eagerly desire the greatest gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way" (1 Corinthians 12:31). Then, at the end of chapter 13, he emphasizes, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13). At the beginning of Chapter 14, he mentions, "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts ..." This reveals the deep connections between spiritual gifts and love. Paul's primary concern for the Corinthian church was not the quantity of their gifts, but whether their gifts were guided by the love of the Lord in rendering their service.

I thank the Lord that in the past few weeks, we have witnessed the commitment of many brothers and sisters to serve as deacons through the membership meeting. I especially want to encourage them to serve with the love of Christ. If our service is driven solely by personal passion or talent, we will soon lose motivation. But if our service is empowered by God's love and His given gifts, we will experience His abundant blessings.

We also know that spiritual gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit to each person as He wills (1 Corinthians 12:11) for the purpose of equipping the saints to build up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12). Paul mentions in his epistle that the ultimate goal of all service is to glorify God: "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 4:10-11).

I have been a part of ECC for forty years. God has given me numerous opportunities to serve Him in various church ministries. Now, I see God raising up a new generation to serve Him, and I am very grateful to witness the church's commitment to follow the Lord's will: to spread the Gospel widely, bless all nations, and pass it on from generation to generation.

(Translated by Mabel and Chet)



REDMOND CAMPUS WORSHIP SERVICE | 10/13/2024

Worship through Praise
Congregational Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
Worship through the Word
Worship in Response
Doxology & Benediction
Welcome and Announcements

*Offering is a part of our worship to God.
Free-will offering box is located on the Welcome Table by the Worship Hall doors.
Online Offering: <https://eccseattle.org/en/give/>*

Message from Pastor Solomon Liu
"First Importance"
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

*Missed a sermon or want to share it? Listen to it at
www.eccseattle.org/media/sermons*

SUNDAY SCHOOL	TOPIC	LOCATION
CHILDREN	Elementary Worship and Sunday School Message	9:30 AM Room 106
	Preschool	9:30 AM Rooms 114-116
YF (JUNIOR HIGH)	Newish #2 (Room M101)	
YSF (SENIOR HIGH)	Christian Spiritual Practices (Room M106)	
ADULT/COLLEGE	Why Membership? (Room W107)	
	Finding the Right Hills to Die On (English Worship Hall)	
SERVANT TEAM	TODAY	NEXT WEEK
SPEAKER	Solomon Liu	Steven MacDonald
WORSHIP	Alan Tang	Sing Wee
MODERATOR	Sing Wee	Priscilla Chan
DOOR ROTATION	William Cui, Lucy Liu	

Prayers for Our ECC Community

PRAISES AND PRAYERS

ECC CHURCH BOARD

- We are thankful for concluding this summer with several congregational retreats in August and September. These retreats provided our brothers and sisters with a chance to step away from their daily routines, rest both physically and spiritually, draw closer to our Lord, reflect on their life journey, and reconnect with one another. May these reflections fortify our faith and help us remain faithful to Him.
- We are thankful for the Fall congregational meeting where we elected (or renewed for a 2nd term) 15 brothers and sisters to serve on the church board. We appreciate their willingness and love for our Lord. May God bless their ministry and their families.
- As we move into Fall, many fellowships and small groups are resuming their meetings. Children's programs like AWANA and Kidz Klub will also restart on Fridays and Saturdays. We are grateful for all the coordinators, teachers, and volunteers who are stepping up and sacrificing their time to serve our children. May God continue to use these brothers and sisters as a blessing to the next generation.
- Fall marks the start of a new ministry year, with the preaching theme centered on "Practicing Faith, Hope, and Love" based on 1 Corinthians 13-16. We pray that our brothers and sisters will delve deeper into practicing these virtues.
- Fall is the season when the church board begins planning and budgeting for 2025. As they organize and plan the ministries and church direction, we pray for God to grant wisdom to these board members. May He be please

with their work and strengthen their efforts.

- Please pray for our brothers and sisters who are facing physical challenges, seeking new employment after layoffs, or adjusting to new environments. In these times of constant change and turmoil, may God's grace and peace be with them, providing comfort during these difficult moments.

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

In his role as the Associate National Director of Arts Ministry with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Calvin is covering some art schools in addition to the music schools in New York. He recently visited Eastman's IV chapter where multiple new students have shared their surprise and joy at finding a Christian fellowship on campus. Without this fellowship, one student felt like he was the only believer on campus. Pray that God will accomplish His great plan through these chapters on campuses.

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

- Please pray for those recovering from the impact of Hurricane Milton in Florida. Hit twice with devastating impact, may the Lord bring comfort to those affected and enable them to experience His gracious presence. May the Lord help churches and pastors know how to respond appropriately to the questions they are asking about Him and be sources to communicate God's love with acts of mercy and kindness.
- Please continue to pray for the de-escalation of the conflict in the Middle East. May the Holy Spirit move world leaders to unity in finding a pathway to bring an end to the hostilities and hope for those trapped in the midst of the violence.

REDMOND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFT (LADIES IN FAITH TOGETHER) MEETING TODAY

LIFT (Ladies in Faith Together) kicks off today! We will be sharing our plans for this year over a catered lunch. Please join us in M212 from 11:15pm-12:15pm

WE ARE HIRING: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR (FMC)

ECC is seeking a dedicated Facilities Management Coordinator (FMC) who will be responsible for the overall management, maintenance, and operation of ECC's multiple facilities to ensure the functionality, safety, comfort, and sustainability of these spaces. Please visit <https://eccseattle.org/en/open-positions/> for details.

MISSIONS FEST SEATTLE 2024

10/18-19 | FRI-SAT | HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY CHURCH, RENTON

REGISTER HERE: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/2024MISSIONSFEST](https://bit.ly/2024MISSIONSFEST) (FREE)

Join us at Missions Fest Seattle's free conference, "People Must Know." Inspired by the message of evangelism in The Shepherd (<https://bit.ly/Theshepherd>), this year's conference features speakers, seminars, and workshops focused on sharing the gospel locally and globally. Please visit <https://missionsfestseattle.org/>.

JOINT SUNDAY SCHOOL — THE AFTER PARTY: TOWARD BETTER CHRISTIAN POLITICS

11/3 - 12/15 | 11:15 AM | English Worship Hall

We invite you to join the Joint Sunday School class for both the Mandarin and English congregations on the intersection of faith and politics. This is a valuable opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with humility and prayer. The class features resources from Redeeming Babel ("The After Party") with videos and breakout discussions, all in English.

CARE MINISTRY GRANTS FOR HURRICANE HELENE AND OTHER RELIEF NEEDS

The Care Ministry has recently approved the following grants from the Good Samaritan Fund (GSF):

1. World Vision (<https://bit.ly/4eSYyJG>): \$10,000 for Hurricane Helene relief.
2. Kin On Health Care Center: \$12,000 for heating system upgrades.
3. W.I.N.D. Guatemala (<https://www.wind-guatemala.org/>): \$20,000 for weekday lunches and ongoing school building construction.

2025 ECC CHURCH-WIDE TENT CAMPING

Fri-Sun | July 18-20 | Deception Pass State Park, WA

Reservations: <https://bit.ly/2025ECCCAMPING>

ECC has chosen Deception Pass State Park for our church-wide camping in 2025. Registration starts Thursday, 10/18/24. Due to its extreme popularity, please reserve your site as soon as possible as they fill up rapidly. Questions? Please contact Jacob Che at jacob.chexin@gmail.com.



OLIVE MINISTRY FROM CHINESE CHRISTIAN MISSION:

JEWISH MINISTRY AND CULTURE SEMINAR

10/19 (Sat) | 3-5 pm | Redmond Cantonese Worship Hall (in Mandarin)

10/20 (Sun) | 1:30-3:30 pm | Seattle Gym (in English)

Join us in exploring Jewish culture, learning about the different sects within Judaism, and hearing about experiences of sharing the Gospel with Jewish communities. Discover opportunities for involvement and action as we delve into these important topics. Contact: William Chui (wcchui@gmail.com)