**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**June 23rd 2019. Holy Ghost Stories**

**Discussion notes: Spiritual Gifts 1 Corinthians 12 & 14**

The life and ministry of Jesus inaugurated a new age of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Spirit promised to all believers is the hallmark of the Church age. This month as we celebrate Pentecost we are looking at aspects of the work of the Holy Spirit to refresh our own experience of Him today.

The 20th century saw the birth of the Pentecostal movement and the spread through both new Church and into mainstream denominations of the acceptance and practice of things called ‘spiritual’ gifts which some sectors of the Church had dismissed as ending in the Apostolic era. The church in Corinth was proud of its spiritual giftedness and 1 Corinthians is a very helpful primary source of teaching on ‘gifts of the Spirit’.

1. What do you think is the difference (if any) between a ‘Spiritual gift’ and a ‘Supernatural’ spiritual gift? Compare for example the list of gifts in Romans 12 with 1 Corinthians 12.
2. The language of Spiritual gifts in the New Testament often uses the idea ‘each one has’. Do you have spiritual gifts? What are they and how do you use them?
3. What are Spiritual gifts best for according to the apostle Paul?
4. Why does Paul instruct us to ‘seek’ or ‘eagerly desire’ spiritual gifts? Do you? How would you ‘seek’ them?
5. In Ephesians 4 the ‘people’ or ministry gifts of Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Teacher, Evangelist seem to be primarily about equipping everyone else to grow as ‘ministers’. Who is equipping you do you think? How intentional are you about seeking to grow and indeed see yourself as a ‘minister’?
6. Why are some gifts described as being greater than others?

If you are scared, cynical or simply apathetic bout Spiritual gifts, how will that affect your life and the life of your community? How can you practice spiritual gifts in your small group?