

## **Shopping for Spiritual Gifts**

*(1Cor 12)*

*Counter in a department store, selling Red Letter Day Experience Kits. Some boxes lined up on the counter and a leaflet holder.*

**Customer 1:** I bought this off you last Friday and I want my money back

**Sales Asst:** Ah. The “Experience Kit” for Prophecy. What’s wrong with it?

**Customer 1:** It doesn’t work!

**Sales Asst:** In what way doesn’t it work, sir?

**Customer 1:** I haven’t had any prophecies! I sit quietly waiting for them; I clear my mind in preparation as I walk to work; I try and listen for the “white noise” of God amidst the babbling in church. But nothing. I haven’t had any prophecies. It doesn’t work.

**Sales Asst:** Are you sure that kit was meant for you? Perhaps you’d prefer one of our other “Red Letter Days”? I’ve got Speaking in Tongues, How to Preach and Keep People Awake, Canoeing in Colorado, A Night at the Theatre with Dinner for Two, Teaching Profound Truths, Healing, Flying a Glider...

**Customer 1:** Oh, but I wanted to be a prophet!

**Sales Asst:** If it didn’t work, I suspect another one in our range would better suit you

**Customer 1:** You can’t go round selling temperamental “Experience Kits” that work for some and not for others!

**Sales Asst:** It’s not our goods that are faulty, sir. We merely display the full range on offer so that our customers know what there is to choose from. We recommend that all our customers contact the manufacturer for personal product advice before making a purchase.

**Customer 1:** How do I get in touch with the manufacturer?

**Sales Asst:** If you don’t know *that* yet, sir, may I suggest you try the Go-Carting Experience?

*(Customer 1 takes Go-Carting Experience and exits)*

**Customer 2:** Hello! I’d like a Red Letter Day Experience Kit please!

**Sales Asst:** Did you have anything in particular in mind, sir?

**Customer 2:** I phoned the advice line, and was told to eagerly desire the greater kits

**Sales Asst:** I'm afraid we're all out of Miraculous Powers, but we do still have "Drive a Formula One Car"!

**Customer 2:** Tempting, but no. Not really what I'm after. I was thinking of getting the "Interpreting Tongues" Experience Kit. I think it would be a useful thing to have, something other people could benefit from too.

**Sales Asst:** Yes, and we haven't sold too many of those, so there's probably a need in this area. We sell ten Speaking in Tongues a day – imagine, all those people nattering in tongues and no one to interpret!

**Customer 2:** What are your other best sellers?

**Sales Asst:** Evangelism, Encouragement, Serving, Intercession and a Day at Old Trafford are all very popular. But I haven't shifted one Martyrdom or Swimming with Sharks. People can be very conservative. ...There's your Interpreting Tongues, sir. Do shop with us again.

**Customer 2:** Yes, I'll be back. There's a couple of other kits I've got my eye on. Goodbye.