

## 1 Corinthians 14 – Prophecy & Tongues.

### I. (1-19) Tongues are for self, Prophecy for all.

There was nothing wrong with ones **desire** for spiritual gifts. “But they made a godly **desire** into an obsessive pursuit, when the main *pursuit* for Christians should be **love**.” He challenges them/us, to desire prophecy more than other gifts for reasons;

- Tongues are understood by God, prophecy is understood by all.
- Tongues are for personal connection to God, unless interpreted for all to receive; prophecy is to build, affirm and comfort all towards godly living, thus better.

Examples: - Paul cannot be effective going around speaking in tongues as an apostle, it wouldn't benefit anyone.

Tongues are compared to musical instruments making random sounds, not helpful at all.

If we spoke to each other in tongues, none would understand the other.

If you are gifted in tongues, use it, and it comes along with interpretation. If not, be quiet. We can pray in tongues and with understanding.

### II. (20-25) – Tongues is a sign to unbelievers, prophecy for believers.

In their desire to edify themselves at the expense of others in the meeting, the Corinthians showed themselves to be **children**, and selfishly immature. Paul points them to a higher call.

Paul here quotes from Isaiah 28:11-12; the prophet Isaiah announces judgment to the people of Israel. They did not receive the word of the prophets who spoke to them in Hebrew, so now they will hear the voice of **men with other tongues and other lips**. The Assyrian invaders spoke a language the Israelites could not understand, and it was an example of judgment to the Israelites.

Paul is saying that tongues are indeed a sign to unbelievers, about God's presence among his people and their connection to Him.

Prophecy is sign to believers, about God's presence among them by sending His Word, thus actively involved in their affairs. Prophecy also helps non-believers to understand God's calling them to Himself.

### III. (26-40) Let all things be done for edification.

The church at Corinth was spiritually equipped, but disorderly due to their ignorance; everyone wanted to use their spiritual gift at the same time.

The goal of coming together as a church is not to be entertained, nor even to “spiritually” show off, but to **build and to be built**.

So, tongues in a church meeting are to be regulated.

- **Two or three at the most:** only a few should speak in tongues at your church meetings
- **Each in turn:** more than one person should not be speaking in tongues to the congregation at any one time
- **And let one interpret:** don't speak in tongues at all – even **two or three at the most** or **each in turn** – if you will not have an interpretation

Paul here makes it plain that the gift of tongues is under the control of the person with the gift. If there is **no interpreter** present, the tongues' speaker is fully able to **keep silent in church**.

Prophecy must also be conducted in order; even as tongues are to be regulated in meetings of the church, so is the gift of prophecy. The whole meeting should not be given over to prophecy, but only **two or three** should speak at any given meeting.

Even as prophets speak, others are to judge. No “word from the Lord” should to be received without careful consideration by the leadership of the church present at the meeting.

***1 John 4:1** - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

**“Some people are rapidly becoming biblically illiterate, choosing a ‘dial-a-prophet’ style of Christian living rather than studying God’s Word.”**

***Romans 15:2** - Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to **edification**.*

***Romans 14:19** - Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.*

**1Timothy 1:3-4** - As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.

**Philippians 2:3-4** - Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem **others** better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

**1Thessalonians 5:11** - Therefore comfort each other and **edify** one another, just as you also are doing.