

## From Spiritual Gifts to Love to Prophecy & Tongues

### 1 Corinthians 14:1-25

- Note the progression of chapter 12 > 13 > now 14 - From g\_\_\_\_\_ teaching about God’s Spiritual Gifts to believers (12); to a s\_\_\_\_\_ caution that **ALL** Spiritual Gifts must be exercised in a climate of love (13); to now some s\_\_\_\_\_ clarification about the specific Gifts of tongues & prophecy.
- In Corinth Tongues and Prophecy had become quite d\_\_\_\_\_. So Paul expends quite a bit of teaching here on the subject. In the Church today, with the rise of Pentecostalism (1900) and later the Charismatic movement (1960), these two gifts have continued to be divisive. Clarity is important!
- *"Paul's purpose in chapter 14 was to correct the abuse of 'tongues.' At Corinth, speaking in tongues had turned into a kind of ecstatic, heavenly language which did not edify. Paul was encouraging teaching and preaching which would nurture the congregation."*

Church of the Brethren / Brethren Revival Fellowship leader / minister/ author,  
Harold S. Martin in *A Survey Of Each Book Of The Bible*

- *"In the gift of prophecy or preaching, there must be intelligent presentation of the message, so that hearers can easily understand what is being proclaimed. Empty heads, like drums, can make a good deal of noise."*

Herbert Lockyer in *All The Books And Chapters Of The Bible*

### Tongues vs. Prophecy – vv.1-5

- v.1 "love" and "eagerly desire" are echoed here from chapters 12 & 13. (see 12:31; 13:1-3) All Spiritual Gifts are to be exercised with a spirit of love. And it is OK, in fact good, to "d\_\_\_\_\_" ... in other words pray for, offer oneself to the Lord for use with various gifts. Do you see a need in the Church? Offer yourself to the Lord serve.
- v.2 – Tongues is a gift b\_\_\_\_\_ a person and God. The problem with tongues. "no one understands"
- v.3 – "prophesies" (preaching) s\_\_\_\_\_, e\_\_\_\_\_ the Church
- v.4 – the principle of "e\_\_\_\_\_" – *"A general principle is clear: The gifts of the Spirit are intended for the edification of the members of the body of Christ."* *The Complete Biblical Library – New Testament Study Bible*

- v.5 – Paul is **NOT** speaking against tongues, he **wishes it for all!** But he wishes all have the Gift of preaching (Prophecy) too ... again for the edification of the Church. So tongues is a more p\_\_\_\_\_ gift; prophecy a more C\_\_\_\_\_ gift.
- v.6 – *“what good will I be to you unless...”*
- vv.7-11 – illustrations: instruments, battle trumpet, language
- v.12 ... AGAIN ... **the doctrine of edification.** It should be our prayer then in all use of Spiritual Gifts that the Church is l\_\_\_\_\_ up! *“Lord, control all my speech, so I can glorify You and edify believers...”*  
Dr. Elmer Towns, *Prayer Journey Bible*
- vv.13-17 – s\_\_\_\_\_ & m\_\_\_\_\_ ... tongues without interpretation does not edify in a group. There is a “*spirit*” side to worship & prayer (f\_\_\_\_\_, e\_\_\_\_\_) and there is a “*mind*” side to worship & prayer (h\_\_\_\_\_, u\_\_\_\_\_, l\_\_\_\_\_)
- v.18 -19 – within the life of the Church, p\_\_\_\_\_ of preaching over tongues.
- v.20 – the Corinthians were acting childish in elevating tongues above all the other gifts. Fighting over Gifts d\_\_\_\_\_ our Lord!
- v.21 – an application from OT history – God allowed the Assyrians to overthrow Israel because of their disobedience. But even as the Assyrians spoke to them with words they couldn’t understand, they refused to listen to God.
- v.22 – Tongues is more for unbelievers – it is a sign of God’s a\_\_\_\_\_ for unbelief. It may f\_\_\_\_\_ unbelievers to seek God; or if hearts are hardened it may simply t\_\_\_\_\_ them away. Prophecy is more for believers to h\_\_\_\_\_, l\_\_\_\_\_, g\_\_\_\_\_.
- vv.23 –25 - Tongues can lead to c\_\_\_\_\_; Prophecy to c\_\_\_\_\_

## What We've Learned:

1. The Bible speaks of two types of Tongues. On the day of Pentecost the people heard the Apostles speak in a \_\_\_\_\_ languages which they had never learned. Paul here in 1 Corinthians seems to speak of Tongues as “h\_\_\_\_\_ d\_\_\_\_\_” which no one can understand without Divine intervention of someone to interpret.
2. Tongues as “heavenly” speech” is for p\_\_\_\_\_ worship, praise, self-edification. In public worship they are not desired **UNLESS** God provides an I\_\_\_\_\_. In private worship Tongues draw a worshipper to a special c\_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord.
3. Tongues are good & d\_\_\_\_\_ ... but **NOT** a test of faith, and not a proof of being filled with the Spirit. And **NOT** necessarily for all.

**Jack Hayford** speaks of the G\_\_\_\_\_ of Tongues and the G\_\_\_\_\_ of Tongues. As a Gift Tongues are limited and must be carefully governed; As a Grace Tongues are widely available for private worship & intimacy with God.

Some non-Pentecostals teach that the Gift of Tongues went away after New Testament age. (**John MacArthur; Chuck Swindoll**) But, **Billy Graham** said, *“I personally cannot find any Biblical justification for saying the Gift of Tongues was meant exclusively for New Testament times.”* (*The Holy Spirit*)

4. One thing is clear the Gift of Tongues must not be allowed to cause c\_\_\_\_\_, d\_\_\_\_\_ & b\_\_\_\_\_ in the Church ... then or now.

NEXT CLASS: May 20