

**Series "Called To Be Saints"**  
**"Prophecy Versus Tongues"**  
**1 Corinthians 14:1-25**  
**Part-24**

**1 Corinthians 14:1-6, 19, 22-25**

Some believe that tongues have ceased and are not for today.

**1 Corinthians 14:18,39**

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "God's Gifts Must Always Be Used Through Love For Edification Of His Church And To Win The Lost."

**1. Verses 1-20 Tongues Versus Prophecy - The Believer:**

**2. Verses 21-25 Tongues Versus Prophecy - The Non-Believer:**

**1. Verses 1-20 Tongues Versus Prophecy - The Believer:**

**Verses 1-20 Paul's 4 Instructions To Believers Regarding Tongues & Prophecy:**

**1. Verse 1 Pursue Love and Spiritual Gifts: Pursue love,**  
*"follow after with the idea of catching it."*

**1 Corinthians 12:31** Paul launched into the greatest chapter on love  
**1 Corinthians 13**

**1 Corinthians 13:13 but the greatest of these is love.**

**yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts,** The problem with this church is that they wanted spiritual gifts but left God's love out of the operation of those gifts.

**but especially that you may prophesy. Prophecy –**  
*which is forth-telling more than fore-telling; it is the proclaiming of God's Word. It is a message given to us by God! 1 Thessalonians 5:20*

**2. Verses 2-5 Priority Of Prophecy Over Tongues: 1 Corinthians 14:2**

**Purpose of Tongues Is To Speak To God: For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men, (or for men) but to God;**

**tongue –** we are referring to *"speaking a language given by the Spirit, either human or angelic language, that you have never previously studied or learned, or understand"*

**God Is Praised, But Others Don't Understand: for no one understands, but in His Spirit, He speaks mysteries.**

**Acts 2:4-6,11; Acts 10:46 with tongues and exalting God.**

**1 Corinthians 14:3 Purpose of Prophecy Is To Speak To Men: But one who prophesies speaks to men** Paul said that Prophecy has a threefold goal.

- (1) Edification, (Build Up)**
- (2) Exhortation, (Stir Up)**
- (3) Consolation (Cheer Up)**

**1 Corinthians 14:4 Tongues Edify The Speaker: One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; 1 Corinthians 13:5 (Love)it does not seek its own,**

**Prophecy Edifies The Church: but one who prophesies edifies the church.** Proclaiming the Word is for the blessing of the church.

**Edifying ourselves should be a byproduct of first ministering to others.**

**1 Corinthians 14:5** Tongues are a valid gift from God. Paul's desire.

**Prophecy Is Better Than Tongues: but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues,** Because when a person prophesies, they are blessing the church instead of themselves.

**unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.** If a person spoke in tongues and it was interpreted, it was the blessing.

**1 Corinthians 12:7** Gifts are to bless others, not self!

### **3. Verses 6-11 The Goal Is Communicating The Message:**

**1 Corinthians 14:6**

**But now, brethren,** The essence of tongues is personal edification; the church is not edified.

**Paul's Ministry: if I come to you speaking in tongues, what will I profit you,**

**unless I speak to you either by way of revelation** sharing truth that was unknown.

**or of knowledge** – the unfolding of the divine Will of God. Wisdom is the application in my life.

**or of prophecy** – foretelling and forth-telling.

**or of teaching?** – Doctrine, systematic teaching.

**Verse 7 Communication In Music: 1 Corinthians 14:7**

**Verse 8 Communication In The Military: 1 Corinthians 14:8**

**Verses 9-11 Communication Daily: 1 Corinthians 14:9**  
**Basic Communication:**

**1 Corinthians 14:10 (Genesis 11)**

**1 Corinthians 14:11 To Paul, communication was central to the divine purpose.**

- 4. Verses 12-20 Paul's Directives: 1 Corinthians 14:12 So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.**

*So also you, That wanting to use the gifts that God has given us is a good thing. That the gifts are from God but we need to think about blessing the church, how the church can be built up through the ministry of the gifts.*

**Verses 13-17 Prayer: 1 Corinthians 14:13 Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.** There is no benefit to the church if the message of tongues cannot be given out with the meaning.

**1 Corinthians 14:14-15 What is the outcome then?** Paul is saying that each has a purpose and a place.

**I will pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind also;** There is a time and place to pray in tongues. There is also a time when I need to speak in English too.

**I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.**  
**Romans 8:26; Jude 1:20**

**1 Corinthians 14:16 AMEN** – (“So be it, Let it be so!”) when they don't know what you are saying?

**1 Corinthians 14:17-19**

**I desire to speak five words with my mind, so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.**

**1 Corinthians 14:27-28** live without tongues.

**1 Corinthians 14:20 Brethren,** Paul is speaking to Christians

**do not be children in your thinking;** That need to grow up!

**yet in evil be infants,** We should be like little babies when it comes to the wickedness

**but in your thinking be mature.** We need to **grow up!**

## **2. Verses 21-25 Tongues Versus Prophecy - The Non-Believer:**

**1 Corinthians 14:21 Isaiah 28:11-12**

**1 Corinthians 14:22 So then tongues are for a sign,** When we speak of a sign, it is to point to something.

**1. Signs impart information.**

**2. Signs can be prophetic. Mark 6:30-44** Jesus feeds the people.

**3. Signs convey authority.** Presidential seal, government seal.

**but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers, but to those who believe.** God gets the believer's attention through prophecy by revealing His will, and unveiling His truths.

**1 Corinthians 14:23 and ungifted men (new believer) or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad? YES! 1 Corinthians 14:27 limited to 3 speakers.**

**1 Corinthians 14:24, 29-32**

**Conviction Thru The Word:** The Word of God spoken by God's people will bring conviction to Man.

**1 Corinthians 14:25 the secrets of his heart are disclosed; (Word of Knowledge!) Acts 2:37 pierced to the heart, "to be stuck with a dagger"**

### **Application:**

**1.** Are My Convictions On Spiritual Gifts Based Upon Experience, People Or Upon Scripture?

**2.** The Corinthian Church Magnified The Gift Of Tongues, Which Edifies The Speaker. Edifying Ourselves Should Be A Byproduct Of First Ministering To Others:

**3.** Paul Said Prophecy Was Better Than Tongues. To Paul Communication Was Central To The Divine Purpose: