

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH" PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



1 CORINTHIANS 14

¹ Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. ² For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. ³ But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. ⁴ One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵ Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

⁶ But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what will I profit you unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching? ⁷ Yet even lifeless things, either flute or harp, in producing a sound, if they do not produce a distinction in the tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp? ⁸ For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle? ⁹ So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. ¹⁰ There

PURSUE LOVE BUT EARNESTLY DESIRE SPIRITUAL THINGS (GIFTS)

- But especially that you _____
 - Tongues in the assembly speak not to men but to _____
 - No one in the assembly _____
 - Instead, the tongue speaker in the assembly speaks _____
- But prophecy
 - speaks to _____
 - _____, what's this
 - _____, what's this
 - _____, what's this
 - Tongue speakers edify only _____, but prophets edify the whole _____
- Therefore, I wish you could all speak in tongues, but even more that you all _____
 - Greater is the _____ in the assembly
 - Unless the tongue speaker has an _____
 - So that the whole church gets _____

THE PROBLEM WITH TONGUE SPEAKING

- Tongues don't profit the _____ -
- Profit to the church is done by
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- Example — musical instruments
 - the tones must be recognizable _____ to be of any good

are, perhaps, a great many kinds of languages in the world, and no kind is without meaning. ¹¹ If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me. ¹² So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.

¹³ Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵ What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.

¹⁶ Otherwise if you bless in the spirit only, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷ For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified. ¹⁸ I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all; ¹⁹ however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.

²⁰ Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature. ²¹ In the Law it is written, "BY MEN OF STRANGE TONGUES AND BY THE LIPS OF STRANGERS I WILL SPEAK TO THIS PEOPLE, AND EVEN SO THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME," says the Lord.

²² So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe.

²³ Therefore if the whole church

- bugles must sound a certain tune to be of any use to the _____
- Thus, if the sounds you are making in the assembly are not recognizable words, you benefit _____
- because no one will _____ what you're saying,
- you're just making _____.
- Sure, your language does have meaning, all languages do,
- but if the language that you're speaking isn't _____, you'll seem like a _____ to the rest of the assembly, because they don't understand you.
 - What good is that?
- So, be zealous for spiritual things that _____ the church

A SOLUTION OR DIRECTION FOR TONGUE SPEAKERS

- Pray that you may _____
- Sure praying in tongues is a prayer, but not even _____ know what you prayed for (v.13)
 - You may be letting the _____ pray through your spirit, but your own _____ doesn't know what is being said, and there's no practical _____ even to you
 - You instead need to pray or sing or bless (v.16) not just with the spirit, but so that your _____ is aware of what you are saying.
 - Think of others, too, because after you've spoken in a _____, they won't know whether or not to say "_____".
- How Paul prefers to use his own gifts
 - Paul spoke in tongues more than all of them — How?
 - But in an assembly setting he would rather speak _____ words that people understood and were edified by than _____ unintelligible words in a foreign language.

AN APPEAL TO MATURE THINKING IN THE USE OF TONGUES

- Remain _____ in your life in this world, but think this issue through _____
 - Is it possible to be naive, but mature?
 - Explain how Isa. 28:11 is the Law...
 - And how this applies to Paul's point...

assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad? ²⁴ But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; ²⁵ the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.

²⁶ What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. ²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret; ²⁸ but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God. ²⁹ Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment. ³⁰ But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, the first one must keep silent. ³¹ For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted; ³² and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets; ³³ for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

³⁴ The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says. ³⁵ If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church. ³⁶ Was it from you

- Paul interprets this through inspiration to underscore the _____ of tongues, to evangelize _____
- Prophecy, on the other hand, is a sign to _____
- What if all the church spoke in _____? (v. 23ff)
 - ...what would unbelievers think?
 - ...what would the ungifted say?
- But what if all _____?
 - the unbeliever and ungifted will _____, be _____, and called to _____ by all
 - _____ of his heart are exposed and he _____ God with proof of God being with them

CONCLUSION OF THE TONGUE SPEAKING INSTRUCTION (v. 26)

- The assembly is for the purpose of building up the church, including _____
- _____ regarding tongues...
 - only _____ or _____ at the most
 - in _____, not all at _____
 - someone must _____; without an interpreter tongue speakers must be _____ and commune _____ with God
- Rules regarding _____
 - _____ or _____ speak
 - Let others pass _____
 - _____ at a time
 - The spirits of the prophets are _____ to the prophets (this is not uncontrolled _____)
- God is not a God of _____, but of peace;
 - this applies to _____ churches (v.33)

INSTRUCTION CONCERNING WOMEN IN THE ASSEMBLY

- Women must keep _____ in the _____; not permitted to _____
- Must _____ themselves as the _____ commands (where is this?)
- If they have questions, they are to ask their _____, because it is _____ for a woman to speak in the _____
 - Was it from a woman that God's word first came? What does Paul mean by this?

that the word of God first went forth?
Or has it come to you only?

³⁷ If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment. ³⁸ But if anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.

³⁹ Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues. ⁴⁰ But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.

- Or are you the only one to whom a particular revelation has been made? What does Paul mean by this?

PAUL'S COMMANDS ARE FROM THE LORD

- They are to _____ any thing else you might have heard
- _____ to recognize this is to fail to be _____ as a _____

FINAL COMMENT

- Don't _____ prophesy and speak in tongues
- But everything must be done _____ and in an _____ manner.