

Tongues and Gifts

1 Corinthians 14

Introduction:

We have already seen how the Apostle Paul urged the people to desire the gifts that would benefit the cause of Christ and not _____. What we do should be moved by our love for Christ and not to exalt ourselves.

I. Prophecy Is Superior to Tongues

1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

To _____ means to forth-tell the truth of God or to proclaim the truth.

2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

Only God understands all languages. Man doesn't know them all. There are times man does not understand other men.

Note the word "spirit" here is not capitalized. Why?

3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

Notice the three benefits of forthtelling and how it benefits others.

1. It brings _____. **oikodome** (oy-kod-om-ay'). That word comes from the word oikos which means to "build up".

2. It brings _____. **paraklesis** (par-ak'-lay-sis)

It is akin to the word that describes what the _____ does in us. He comforts and brings us _____.

3. It brings _____. **paramuthia** (par-am-oo-thee'-ah)

It is from the word mueo (moo-eh'-o) which implies to instruct. Instruction from the Word of God gives comfort and consolation to the soul.

4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

In desiring spiritual gifts this verse reminds us we can desire gifts that will edify, or build up ourselves, or we can desire gifts that can build up _____.

5 *I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.*

If the church does not understand what we are saying, how will it edify the church and be a blessing to those who are hearing? Whatever language you speak in to the people needs to be one that can be _____ by the people in attendance.

6 *Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?*

God used Paul to convey revelations to the people. Probably, the most well known involves the church and truths about _____.

Compare 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

REMEMBER, A MYSTERY BIBILICALLY, IS A TRUTH REVEALED FOR _____.

7 *And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?*

8 *For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?*

You need to remember that in the Old Testament they used the trumpets that called the people to either worship, _____ or to warfare? Each call had a distinct, understandable sound.

9 *So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.*

The term "speak into the air" means what? I believe it suggests that speaking in an assembly in a _____ where people are attending do not have a knowledge of is not being responsible.

10 *There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.* **11** *Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.*

What does the word "barbarian" signify? Here it means one who speaks _____.

Paul considers it be absurd that one should speak in a language in the assembly that others gathered there does not understand.

12 *Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.*

There is nothing wrong with wanting to possess spiritual gifts. What we should desire is those which will _____, not something that can cause division and pit people against one another.

13 *Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.*

You need to remember the word tongues has reference to human languages and not some heavenly gibberish.

14 *For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.*

You can pray publicly in a language but if no one else understands, what you are saying it is unfruitful. God knows what you are saying, but no one else does. Thus, it is fruitless. Public prayer must be with _____.

15 *What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.*

If you will notice, the KJV translators did not capitalize the words "spirit" in this verse. In comparison, look at

Ephesians 4:30 says, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." If you will notice, the word Spirit is capitalized by the KJV translators, because it refers not to the human spirit, but to the _____. Many people try to say **v.15** speaks of the Holy Spirit of God. The KJV translators obviously did not feel that it referred to the Holy Ghost.

16 *Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?*

This is a good point, how can we say Amen, or so be it, if we do not understand what the person is saying? If you don't know what the person is saying, and you say amen, that person may be saying something about you that is not true.

17 *For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.*

We should pray publicly in a language others can understand. We want the choir to sing that way, so preaching, teaching and testifying should be that way as well.

18 *I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:*

The apostle Paul spoke in several languages or dialects. It is thought that Paul spoke in _____.

19 *Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.*

20 *Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.*

Look at Paul's summary in verse 19. Those who sought the gift of languages did not understand how _____ they really were.

21 *In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.*

22 *Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.*

Tongues, or speaking in a language you have not previously studied, was a sign gift. That gift was given before we had all the Word of God given to us. It was used to help authenticate the message of the apostles to unbelievers.

For instance, if God allowed the apostles to do a work of healing, it would substantiate the fact they were sent from God.

23 *If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? **24** But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced **25** And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.*

We want people to know that "God is in you of a truth." If we appear to be a disorganized, confused group of people, it will not go well in _____ others that God is in us.

What if people came into our auditorium and everyone was up jabbering in multiple languages. That would be confusing to say the least.

26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. **Let all things be done unto edifying.**

27 *If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.*

28 *But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.*

29 *Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.*

30 *If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.*

31 *For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.*

Note the words in v.31, "Prophecy one by one" for two reasons:

a. That all may _____ - Part of coming together is learning from the Word of God and learning from one another. Some believers are more advanced and mature in the faith than others.

b. That all may be _____ - We live in a very troubled world, so it is essential that when we come together that we receive comfort. Comfort can come through the Scripture (Rom.15:4).

Paul makes it clear if the congregation does not know what you are saying when you are before them, just hold you peace (or just be quiet, don't speak). What we do in the church is to keep in mind we are to have the right order.

THE KEY IS LEARNING AND THERE IS NO LEARNING WITHOUT _____.

32 *And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.*

33 *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*

If there is confusion in the church, you can be sure that God did not author it.

"Confusion= akatastasia (ak-at-as-tah-see'-ah) It refers to instability or disorder. It is translated two other ways in our KJV---and rendered as "commotion" and "tumult."

34 *Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.*

The man is to do the leading in the church. Women are to teach the younger _____ and each other, but are not to be in a place of authority over men in the local church.

It is also good to let the men take care of the business of the church

Genesis 3:16 God said to the Eve, *"Thy desire shall be to thy husband and he shall rule over thee."*

35 *And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.*

In the context this has reference to the exercise of spiritual gifts in the church. How can the woman be called to preach when women are to keep silence in the churches when it comes to the gift of prophesying or forthtelling?

1 Timothy 2:11-12 *"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."*

The word "usurp" is "authenteo" (ow-then-teh'-o) which means "to act of ones self or to dominate over."

36 *What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?*

Remember, the church at Corinth were Gentiles. So, Paul is saying "Did the Word of God come from you?" Of course not...the doctrines of the Lord, the word of the Gospel, the doctrine of grace came out of Jerusalem. The apostles that first preached it were Jews. They planted churches before the Gospel ever went unto the Gentiles.

37 *If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.*

A truly spiritual person will agree the things written by the Apostle Paul, were not just Paul's writings, they are the commandments of the Lord, by which we are to be guided.

38 *But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.*

It was ignorant people who rejected the authority of the Apostle Paul.

39 *Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.*

If there people to be reached in a congregation there may need to be groups set apart to teach and preach in another language. We have many Spanish people in America and it will take some of them time to learn English. If they do not try hard it will be a long time before many of them understand an English preaching pastor from the pulpit.

40 *Let all things be done decently and in order.*

There are two things in this verse that describes how the local church should conduct itself.

a. decently- euschemonos (yoo-skhay-mon'-ose);

It is from the word-euschemon (yoo-skhay'-mone).

It means "well formed, noble or honorable." Everything we should be do should be done in a decent way.

b. In order-

This same word "tax'-is". Its root word "tas-so" is translated other ways in the KJV as: "appoint, determine, ordain, set." It can mean to arrange something in an orderly manner. It can mean to assign or dispose something to a certain position or function.

Some people think the more disorganized things are in a service, the more of the presence of God there is present in the meeting. That is not necessarily so. Organization well reflects our God; He is a God of order.