



## WEEK 6 – “The Misuse and Abuse of Scripture”

### REVIEW

- WK1** We must judge every EXPERIENCE by the infallible standard (**the word of God**) which is GREATER than any experience (**2 Peter 1:19-21**).
- WK2** “Tongues” are **not** an unintelligible language. No person in the entire Bible spoke in an unknown, unspoken, unintelligible language. “Tongues”, as defined by the Bible, is a known, spoken, understandable language... foreign to the speaker, but understood by hearer.
- WK3** The Bible teaches: **Tongues** are for a **SIGN** to **unbelieving Jews** (**1Cor 1:22; 14:22**)
- WK4** There are only 3 places in the Bible someone *speaks in tongues* (**Acts 2, 10, 19**). **Every time this sign occurs, an unbelieving Jew is present.** All other references are to use or misuse.
- WK5** Many churches teach bad doctrine on signs from **1 Corinthians** – specifically chapters 12-14. The church of Corinth had lost its purpose and was operating in the flesh instead of the wisdom of God (**2:5**). They were spiritual babies (**3:1**) and involved in all manner of sinful practices which center on self. Paul wrote to reprove, rebuke, correct, and instruct them. In every chapter, he addressed a problem they had; the entire book was designed to correct them. They were a church living in error; it is **NOT** a church that is a pattern for what to do.

**NOTE** Anything you read in this book must be understood in this context.

## 1 CORINTHIANS 12-14 EXPOUNDED

### 1. Chapter 12

- 12:1 – Paul set the context: they were **IGNORANT** concerning **spiritual gifts**.  
**NOTE** He wrote this series of chapters (12-14) ... so they would **no longer** be ignorant!
- 12:2-3 – They had a **FALSE** sense of spirituality and were not operating in God’s power.  
**NOTE** They WERE Gentiles, but now they are Christians. The church then, as today, is primarily made up of Gentiles, but there were Jews in the area and city (see **1 Cor 10; Acts 18**). They used to follow “*dumb idols*”... when they were lost, they cursed Christ ... but now that they are saved, they call Him Lord!! Amen. (This can only be done by His Spirit!)
- 12:4-7 – They were elevating a particular gift above another when **all** are by God’s **SPIRIT**.
  - ✓ **Differences of administrations** – given for different kinds of purposes
  - ✓ **Diversities of operations** – given to accomplish different things

**KEY** Paul explains (vs 7) gifts are not to profit the individual but for the entire church (**withal**).

- 12:8-11 – At this time in history (*Acts 18-20*) sign gifts were still in operation to minister to the dispersed Jews in the outer regions of Asia (*particularly Achaia and the city of Corinth*). This is a detailed list of the types of gifts God had given to this church at this particular time in **HISTORY**. They were reminded that though some individuals were given particular gifts, those gifts were given by the Spirit of God for His purposes NOT to bring attention to the individual believer's own selfish purposes.
  - ✓ **Word of wisdom** – applying what you know...**not** a sign gift.
  - ✓ **Word of knowledge** – what you know... **not** a sign gift.
  - ✓ **Faith** – believing what God says above what man says...**not** a sign gift.
  - ✓ **Healing** – making the sick and infirmed physically right...**apostolic** sign gift.
  - ✓ **Working of miracles** – all manner of supernatural acts...**apostolic** sign gifts.
  - ✓ **Prophecy** – Forth-telling and fore-telling...apparently **not a sign gift in the NT**.
  - ✓ **Discerning of spirits** – Judging, making right determinations...**not** a sign gift.
  - ✓ **Divers kinds of tongues** – speaking foreign languages...**apostolic** sign gift.
  
- 12:12-27 – Instruction was given to bring a basic understanding of a fundamental principle to light. The body is **ONE**. Every member needs each other, and every member is very important, not just the “*comely*” gifted believers. Amen.
 

**NOTE** Remember the title of the Book means “*showy*” or “*comely*” ... pleasant to look at...
  
- 12:28-30 – Again he reviewed certain offices that represented a variety of gifts that were in operation at that time in history (*Acts 18-20*). Notice the key word “**SOME**”... meaning “*not all*.” (*By the way - notice the gift that is listed last in order.*)
 

**NOTE** NO is the implied answer to all the questions! This is important to our subject because most so-called “*Churches*” with false doctrine say ALL should *speak in tongues*...
  
- 12:31 – Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, said that it is right to want these gifts (*to profit withal*). However, there is something much better (*chapter 13*)...“**CHARITY**.”
 

**NOTE** Charity is the *MORE EXCELLENT* way! No power is greater than true love and charity!

## 2. **Chapter 13**

- 13:1-3 – Paul is clearly speaking in what is called “*hyperbole*” (aka exaggeration such as “*a bottomless cup of coffee*”). He concludes exaggerated statements with the key point...you may have all these miraculous abilities but *without charity have nothing!*

**NOTE** Even if someone could do all these things (which is not possible), without charity they would be for nothing! The foolish, faking, pseudo-spiritual healer that does not go to the children's cancer ward is NOT being CHARITABLE! Amen.

The Corinthians did NOT have charity. What they did have was a self-fulfilling form of Christianity that gave them, as individuals, a sense of divine purpose (speaking with *unknown* tongues, **14:4**), but left them with **NOTHING** of any godly substance.

When comparing *scripture with scripture* we learn something very interesting about the tongues of men and angels. NO other place in the Bible refers to “*tongues of angels*.” However, every time an angel is found speaking in the Bible, they are speaking a KNOWN and understandable language! There is NO PLACE in scripture that indicates that angels speak in an *unknown heavenly* language. Remember, Corinth was a church that was IGNORANT of **many** things. Consider this related to the so-called “*heavenly angelic language*” ... in **2 Corinth 12:4**, Paul was caught up into paradise (the Holy Spirit called, “*the third heaven*”) and heard unspeakable words that were not lawful for a man to utter.

**NOTE** So, apparently, if you speak in a heavenly language, it is against the law!

- 13:4-7 – Paul explains the **TRUE** meaning of charity which they did not do; thus, a rebuke!
- 13:8-13 – Clear, obvious instruction is given concerning the fact charity is the **GREATEST** thing. When the TEMPORARY gifts all pass away, charity will be present with us throughout all eternity. There will be no more faith, no more hope...only charity!

**“THE SMOKING GUN”**

**2 Timothy 4:20**  
*Erastus abode at Corinth: BUT Trophimus have I left at Meliteum SICK.*

Notice what verse 8 says concerning tongues...*they shall CEASE*. Remember, at this time in history tongues were one of the signs given to JEWS. Although this passage (vs. 9-12) may be referring to the time when we meet Jesus “*face to face*”, it is also true that gifts would no longer be necessary after the NT was **COMPLETED**. It is the NT that records the operation of signs in the life and ministry of Jesus and His apostles – confirming the OT prophecies to anyone (Jew or Gentile) who would BELIEVE the record of NT scriptures.

### 3. Chapter 14

- 14:1-2 – Paul states the church should be focused on *prophecy (speaking God’s Word by existing scripture or revelation)* rather than majoring on spiritual gifts. This is the first time we encounter the term “*unknown tongues*.” **The term is NEVER used again anywhere in the Bible** outside of **1 Corinthians 14**. Remember, the Bible says that “*tongues*” are specific, understandable, known languages. You can set the context and meaning of chapter 14 by differentiating between “*unknown tongues*” and “*tongues*.” God preserved his Word perfectly.

**KEY** It is no coincidence that the word appears in *italics* in the *King James Bible (AV)*. Without a final authority, this chapter and passage can be in question!

*Unknown tongue: 1) An unintelligible language. 2) A language that no one present can understand.*

- 14:3-5 – Paul draws a contrast between *unknown tongues* and *prophesying* (preaching the Word of God). He states openly that prophesying is **GREATER** because it edifies, exhorts, and comforts the church. *Charismatics* say tongues are to edify SELF. However, the Bible teaches us to edify OTHERS, **not** self (**1 Co. 10:24; 13:4-5; Phil. 2:3**). The only way an *unknown tongue* can edify is if someone understands the tongue and can tell the church what was being said (*interpret*).
- 14:6-9 – Once again, the point is made (**a fact**) that tongues must be **UNDERSTOOD**. If tongues are NOT understood (in the sense that there must be a purpose that can edify) there is NO POINT to them as far as THE CHURCH is concerned (because tongues were **for a sign to unbelieving Jews**).

These terms as they apply to Paul:

*Revelation - Truth that God was CURRENTLY revealing to Paul.*

*Knowledge - Truth that God revealed to Paul in the PAST.*

*Prophesying - Paul PREACHING the Word of God.*

*Doctrine - Paul involved in pointed, structural TEACHING from the Word of God.*

- 14:10-19 – Paul clearly preaches his point: **UNDERSTANDING** is the most important thing!  
**NOTE** This is not hard to understand! Amen.
- 14:20-25 - The church is told to grow up (**13:11**). He reminds them what the OT (**Isa 28:11**) says about the original use of tongues – the ones who would speak *other tongues* to Israel were *the Assyrians*, who spoke a KNOWN, understandable, language

(Assyrian). He reminds them **tongues were for a sign to unbelieving Jews** (only JEWS present in **Isa 28**). He states that if everyone spoke in tongues, unbelievers (primarily Gentiles) who would come in would think the church had gone mad, but if everyone spoke the word of God, they would be convicted of sin and get saved!

**NOTE** Amen! That is what happens when the Bible is preached in understandable language!

- 14:26-33 – Everyone, it seemed, wanted to say something publicly. Events in their church services were getting out of order. Instructions were given on how to **OPERATE** the sign gifts. If someone perceived **an unbelieving Jew** was present, he would inform the pastor, and the pastor would give him permission to *speak in tongues*.

This could happen up to TWO or THREE times, as long as there was someone present to INTERPRET the language in order for the CHURCH to be edified from the messages being spoken (*obviously this would stop the nonsense of unintelligible languages from flying around since no one could ever understand it*).

After two or three times, THE SIGN would END, and the pastor would get to the purpose of their Sunday assembly... the preaching and teaching of the Bible. Amen. Verse 33 really deals with the issue at hand, *“for God is not the author of **CONFUSION**, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”*

**NOTE** This part is INSTRUCTION (**their correction is our instruction**). The term pastor or leader is not shown...who would lead the service to ensure instructions were followed?

- 14:34-35 – The CONTEXT OF THESE TWO VERSES is the MISUSE of TONGUES. **WOMEN** were **not** PERMITTED to *speak in tongues*. This closes down practically every Pentecostal and Charismatic meeting because the primary people who, supposedly, speak in *unknown* tongues are WOMEN.

**NOTE** Women are more susceptible to being emotionally moved. Remember chapter 11 – they were messed up in gender roles; so, drastic problems require drastic measures.

- 14:36-38 – Paul is strongly REPROVING them. He says, *“who do you think you are, acting all super spiritual and haughty”, “If you are so spiritual, CONFIRM that what I am saying is the word of God and equal with the other scriptures.”* If they would do this, it would correct their problem concerning this issue! Amen.

**KEY** Then in *verse 38* he tells them that if they want to keep on doing what they are doing, even though it is WRONG, go ahead and remain ignorant. (*This is an important verse that God gives us for dealing with FALSE TEACHERS that just does not really care what the Bible says, but would rather go on doing what they want to do*). If you do not want to hear what the Bible says, then just be ignorant – willingly ignorant is far worse!

- 14:39 – Paul loves his own PEOPLE the Jews (**Romans 9:1-5; 10:1; 11:1**). At this time in history (**Acts 18-20**) the sign gifts are still in operation. In Corinth and surrounding areas, there are dispersed JEWS present. Paul wants the gifts (*apostolic healing too*) used to reach his people with the better news of Jesus Christ. Afterwards, when they got saved, they can get regular doses of Bible teaching and preaching.

**NOTE** Do not be CONFUSED by this verse.

- 14:40 – God’s final instruction to the church on this mixed-up issue of *unknown* tongues. Oh, that our Pentecostal and Charismatic brethren would **REPENT** and testify of this verse in their own churches. Amen.

## CONCLUSION

### 1. Biblical lessons we can learn from this study

- There was an actual, historical purpose for the SIGN GIFT of “*tongues*.” ***It was spoken as a sign to Jews in a known language.*** This was the fulfillment of the O.T. scriptures for Jews to confirm that Jehovah God was at work.
- ***The gift of tongues would cease when the Bible was completed.*** The N.T. record, of the signs and wonders in fulfillment of O.T. scriptures, are all that is necessary for a Jew to get saved TODAY.
- The modern-day so-called “*gift of speaking in tongues*” should actually be referred to as “*speaking in unknown tongues.*”
- The modern day so-called “*gift of tongues*” is **false** and is one or more of the following:
  - ✓ A **FAKE** act performed by someone to fit in with the church group and/or to look spiritual to their peers...
  - ✓ A hyper reaction actually experienced by someone while raising their emotions to a sensual, uncontrollable peek...
  - ✓ A counterfeit gift provided by the **DEVIL**. (NOTE: This is rare, but real!)

**NOTE** We must rightly divide the Word of Truth (**2 Timothy 2:15**) or we will be in trouble, and NOT ABLE TO DISCERN what God **IS** doing and what God **IS NOT** doing.

### 2. Biblical response to a Pentecostal or Charismatic on signs and wonders

- We must NOT take these Biblical truths and look for someone to beat up. We will gently teach them to a person who is willing and open to hear “***what the Bible says.***”
- Keep in mind **there are many different types of people** who “*speaking in unknown tongues*” today:

- 1) Those who are TRULY ignorant of Biblical truth...
- 2) Those who are WILLINGLY ignorant of Biblical truth...
- 3) Those who KNOW THE TRUTH and have **REJECTED** it.

**NOTE** In order to fulfill the Word of God concerning “*redeeming the time*” (**Ephesians 5:16**), conversation with the LATTER TWO on the subject of *tongues* SHOULD BE AVOIDED (**Proverbs 9:8**). Certain confrontations may be unavoidable (**Titus 1:9**), so be ready to respond in a manner that would leave you blameless before the Lord (**2 Peter 3:14**).

**1 Peter 3:15**  
*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and BE READY ALWAYS to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

\* **Next Week** we will be closing this study with the history and basic structure of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements...don't miss it!