

# WHAT ABOUT THE GIFT OF TONGUES?

1 Corinthians 14:1-25

- *“For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, will multiply teachers for themselves because they have an itch to hear what they want to hear. 4 They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths.” (2 Timothy 4:3-4)*

## SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS A VALID GIFT AS LONG AS THERE IS INTERPRETATION (vss. 1-4, 13)

- **The gift of Speaking in Tongues in the Bible was always known languages that could be interpreted.**
- **The gift of tongues is not for personal empowerment, but to proclaim the gospel and point people to Jesus. (vs. 22)**
- **Without interpretation, speaking in tongues causes confusion and distraction to the work of the Lord.**
- *“If, therefore, the whole church assembles together and all are speaking in tongues and people who are outsiders or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your minds?” (1 Corinthians 14:23)*

## PROPHECY IS A GREATER GIFT BECAUSE IT BUILDS UP THE CHURCH (vss. 5-12, 18-19)

- **Prophecy is speaking the word of God through the empowering of the Holy Spirit in a specific situation, while remaining subject to the authority of Scripture and the evaluation of the elders.**

## SPIRITUALLY IMMATURE CHRISTIANS MISUSE/ABUSE THE GIFTS OF PROPHECY AND TONGUES (vss. 14-17, 20-21)

- **Spiritually immature people boast about their gift of “tongues” while their lives are a reflection of a lack of spiritual empowerment. (i.e. sexual immoral, gossip, carnal living, etc.)**

## WHEN THE GIFTS OF TONGUES AND PROPHECY ARE USED PROPERLY, GOD IS GLORIFIED, CHRISTIANS ARE EDIFIED, AND NON-CHRISTIANS ARE EVANGELIZED (vss. 3, 22-25)

- **Spiritual gifts, including the gift of tongues, is given for the benefit of the church and the advancement of the gospel.**
- *“The gift of speaking in tongues is not so much to communicate to God, but to communicate for God.” – Dr. Daniel Akin*

## CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

### **Observation:**

- According to verses 1–5, how does Paul contrast the gift of tongues with the gift of prophecy?
- What examples does Paul use in verses 6–12 to explain why intelligible speech is important?
- In verses 13–19, what does Paul say about the role of understanding and interpretation when someone speaks in tongues?
- According to verses 22–25, what impact can properly used spiritual gifts have on unbelievers who visit a church gathering??

### **Understanding**

- Paul repeatedly emphasizes building up the church. Why do you think this is so central to how spiritual gifts should function?
- How can spiritual gifts be misused when people focus more on personal experience than on helping others grow?
- In verse 20 Paul urges believers to be “mature in their thinking.” What does spiritual maturity look like when it comes to spiritual gifts?
- Why do you think believers sometimes elevate certain gifts above others?
- Why is it important that worship gatherings be understandable and edifying for both believers and newcomers?
- How can you personally contribute to building others up when you gather with other believers (through encouragement, service, prayer, etc.)?
- What is one way you can grow this week in pursuing love while also seeking to serve others with the gifts God has given you?

### **Loving Outward:**

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?