

Jump back into 1 Corinthians (Spiritual Gifts) and we have a doozy: Prophecy & Tongues

- There are three questions I'm most asked: Predestination – Women – Tongues
- **Pentecostalism traces its roots to 1901 in Topeka KS – Holiness Movement...Boomed 1960's**
- **Here at Vertical Church = Non-Charismatic not Anti-Charismatic | My Research = 3 steps**
- **Prophecy: Forth-telling (Not future) the revealed Truth of God's Word in a known language**
- **Tongues: Speaking in languages, either human or heavenly, not previously known.**
- **Glossolalia (glos-so-lay-li-a) - speech-like sounds that are unintelligible**
- **Xenolalia - speaking in unlearned human languages | Cases where tongues permitted**
 - **In private prayers, or for evangelistic purposes to build up the Body of Christ**

Paul is writing to the Corinthians to make one thing incredibly clear...

Big Idea - Prophecy is greater than tongues

The articulation of God's Word in a known language is far more valuable than tongues

- Paul is imploring us all to 'Speak Up'...to use our voices with love and compassion

Take this text apart one section at a time...encouraging you to pursue speaking up

1. Pursue speech that: Benefits others (1-5)

¹⁴ Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. ² For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

- Three things happen in this section – Love | Prophecy over Tongues | Door is open
 - This could be a 'Glossolalia' tongue...but no one understand him...it's a mystery
- ³ On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. 'In contrast to speaking in tongues' – **Prophecy is good for 3**
- **When we speak God's truth, the result is: Upbuilding - Encouragement – Consolation**

⁴ The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.

- So we see there isn't a prohibition, but the application is really limited (Tools)
- ⁵ Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up. – Tongues is fine, but the one who speaks in intelligible language is greater!
- **Elementary School Twins – Had a made-up language...benefited them, no one else**
- **Think about your speech...is it upbuilding? Encouraging? Consoling? – Is it loving?**
- **The way we speak to one another should be a benefit...not a detriment**

2. Pursue speech that: Builds clarity (6-12)

⁶ Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? – Is gibberish any use without words? (Illustration) ⁷ If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? ⁸ And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? ⁹ So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.

- **Charismatic church in Chicago – Instruments anyone could play...it was chaos**
- Paul is speaking of if you come speaking in tongues instead of prophecy...it's unclear
- **(Imitate Tongues with someone) – What good would that do? Speaking into the air**
 - I'm not okay people leave here because they didn't understand what we believe
 - I'm fine if people hate us because they heard what we believe clearly

¹⁰ There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, ¹¹ but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. **Have felt out of place? Puerto Rico – I had NO idea what was happening**

- **What if I delivered sermon in Polish...no interpreter...best sermon ever...Polish...useless**

¹² So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church. – I speak in English because it is the most useful for the building of the church

- **Set tongues aside...here is the question...are you clear in your presentation of doctrine?**

3. Pursue speech that: Brings understanding (13-19)

¹³ Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.

- Paul paints 'spirit praying and mind is unfruitful' negative things...prayer engages mind
- Now there are times when we don't know what to pray and the Spirit intercedes for us
- **Tongues without interpretation are evangelistically and publicly useless**

¹⁵ What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. ¹⁶ Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷ For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

When come to Vertical Church...we fight for understanding...desire people understand

- If we speak in an unknown language...how can there possibly be understanding
- **What if we sang all of our songs with only syllables...would you engage the same way?**

¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹ Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

- Paul is thankful for his spiritual ability to speak in tongues...says profound | 5 to 10K
- **University of Arizona estimates that people use between 6k – 16k words a day (Joke)**
- **Paul spoke to you all day in tongues, no interpretation, vs. I say 5 words...Jesus Died... Which would bring you clearer understanding? | Improve Group...gibberish**

- **We should pray for clarity in our speech and understanding for our listeners**
- **Know what I've never heard a story of...someone coming to Christ through gibberish**

4. Pursue speech that: Begets worship

²⁰ Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. ²¹ In the Law it is written, "By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord."

- Paul saying...don't get your spiritual walk backwards...staying infant in understanding
- **Staying biblically literate gives evil a foothold into your life**
- ²² Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.

Tongues, with interpretation, can be used evangelistically...it's not meant corporate

²³ If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?

- The term here is 'mad' will they not think you are mad...crazy...out of your mind
- Context: Roman religions, worship gatherings emotionally charged ecstatic chaos.
- Spiritual rave - whip themselves...emotional frenzy...music and dancing and shouting.
- Whole place flailing around and shouting nonsense into the air...physical or violent

Revival on the River Story

²⁴ But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, ²⁵ the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

How worship serveries supposed to be: Ordered – Purposeful – Teaching – Fellowship

- That an unbeliever would come in here and be convicted...fall on face...worship
- **How I want to end**...if you speak in tongues as a private prayer language...no judgment
- Lord gives you an unknown language in an unknown land (interpreter) – Praise God
- **Speaking in tongues in corporate gatherings that is chaotic is flat out unbiblical**