

# Spiritual Gifts & Worship

Notes created on August 9, 2026 at 2:17 PM by Minutes AI

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## Service Logistics

- **Introduction:** Teresa, Pastor Robert's assistant, welcomed attendees to the "Second service."
- **First Service Streaming Issue:** The stream was not tested during the first service because the phone was left at home.
- **Decision for Second Service:** The recording from the first service was unsatisfactory, leading to a decision to "try to make it better this time."
- **Prayer Focus:** Centered on open hearts and minds, divine presence, spirit movement, hearing God's voice, seeing glory, receiving blessings, serving others, and unity in Christ, with the goal that worship brings honor and glory.
- **Worship Instruction:** Attendees were encouraged to "feel God's presence among us and share the peace with one another" before transitioning to worship.

## Sermon: The Gift of Tongues and Prophecy

- **Sermon Title:** "to edify or prophesy. That is the question."
- **Scripture Passage:** First Corinthians, chapter 14, verses 1 through 19.
- **Core Theme:** Following the way of Love and eagerly desiring gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.

### #### The Primacy of Love

- Recalls 1 Corinthians 13: "Faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."
- Love is identified as the main driver of the Christian life, governing God's kingdom, and central to God's church.
- Believers should pursue and exhort love, in addition to desiring spiritual gifts.
- The Corinthian believers mistakenly prioritized gifts over love, which "will always

lead to issues in the edification of the church."

- The second greatest commandment is "to love our neighbors as ourselves."

#### #### Misconceptions About Spiritual Gifts

- The belief that "God has stopped giving these special miraculous gifts of the Spirit" is stated as "not true."
- The idea that gifts died with Paul and the apostles is also stated as "not true."
- Interpreting prophecy as "just some inspired preaching or teaching" is deemed "wrong," with the speaker stating, "Preaching... even good preaching is not prophecy."

#### #### The Gift of Prophecy

- **Definition:** "Prophecy is declaring what God has revealed about someone else's heart."
- **Audience:** "the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. All positive things."
- **Purpose:** To give strength, encouragement, and comfort to men, to help, edify, and build up the Church.
- **Edification:** "edifies the Church."
- **Distinguishing True Prophecy:** True prophecy "strengthens you, it encourages you, and it comforts you." If someone "keeps prophesying that 'things are all bad and destruction's coming and you need to repent,' that is not true prophecy."
- **Four Terms of Prophecy (from 1 Corinthians 14:6):**
  1. **Revelation:** Paul's unique apostolic inspiration for writing God's word, believed to be "no longer available today" for canon. This kind of revelation "died with the apostle."
  2. **Knowledge:** The knowledge of these writers made God's word complete, a gift from God.
  3. **Prophecy (Prophesied):** God's thoughts and words communicated by the Holy Spirit to edify others and build up His church.

#### 4. **Word of Instruction:** Derived from the Word of God itself, which "never changes."

#### #### The Gift of Tongues

- **Audience:** "anyone who speaks in tongues does not speak to people, but they speak to God." "Indeed no one understands them. They utter mysteries by the Spirit."
- It is "God's language" and is directed "to God, just like our prayers are to God."
- **Edification:** "Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves."
- **Misunderstandings and Abuse:**
  - It is incorrect to think tongues is "a supernatural way for Christians to talk to each other." "You're not going to see two Christians speaking in tongues to each other."
  - Misunderstanding can lead to abusing the gift by "trying to draw attention to ourselves rather than God."
  - It "can be disruptive... if it's done during the church service or at the wrong time."
  - It is "unnecessary because God even knows our thoughts."
- **Biblical Examples (Acts):**
  - In Acts chapter 2 (Day of Pentecost), the disciples were speaking \*to God\*, not to the crowd. The crowd "heard them and understood them in their language," but the language was directed "to God." Acts 2:11: "We hear them declaring the wonders of God. In our own tongues."
  - Acts 10:46: "they heard them speaking in tongues. And what. They were praising God." This confirms that "if a person is really speaking in tongues, they're speaking to God."
- **Nature of the Language:** It is not "just the ability to speak in another language" that one learns, but "it's God's language, and God gives us the words to say."
- **Salvation:** Speaking in tongues is not a requirement for salvation. The belief that one must speak in tongues to be saved is "just not true." Salvation requires: "Believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and you will be saved." "Everything else is a bonus." The thief on the cross was saved without baptism or speaking in tongues.

- **How the Gift Works:** "The gift of tongues works like a language that we already know." It involves feeling God prompting one to speak at His will and trusting that God understands. Those who have received the gift will know.
- **How the Gift Does Not Work:** It does not happen by simply opening one's mouth, wiggling the tongue, reading a phrase faster until it sounds like gibberish, or by taking a class or studying. "You can't train to learn this gift... Because it's a gift from God. It's a gift of the Spirit."
- **Free Will:** "it's a free will gift. You don't have to receive it." The Spirit does not compel one to take or use the gift; it is based on free will.
- **Paul's Personal Practice:** Paul stated, "I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you." He used it often in prayer and singing, considering it a big part of his private devotional life.

#### #### Edification

- **Definition:** Originally a construction term meaning "to build someone up" or "to strengthen them." As Christians, this is done "in love."
- **Components:** Includes encouragement (like a coach) and comfort (giving hope and strength).
- **Goal:** The goal of every church meeting/event should be mutual edification (building each other up in God's word).

#### #### Tongues vs. Prophecy: Preference and Context

- Paul desires everyone to speak in tongues but prefers prophecy.
- "The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets so that the Church may be edified."
- Speaking in tongues for self-edification is not wrong, as "we all need to be built up."
- Prophecy is better for church life, while the gift of tongues is better for a personal relationship with God.
- The choice of gift use is "all about the context and it's all about the timing."

#### #### Interpretation of Tongues

- **Necessity:** Speaking in tongues without interpretation offers no revelation, knowledge, prophecy, or instruction to others.
- **Role of Interpreter:** An interpreter is needed so the church can understand and be built up. An interpreter can confirm a real speaking of tongues. "If the interpreter says the message is to anyone other than God, it's not true." "The interpretations of tongues is going to be addressed to God."
- **Action Item:** "The one who speaks in a tongue should pray for the ability to interpret what they say."
- If one prays in tongues, their spirit prays, but their mind is unfruitful (does not understand).
- If God gives a message in tongues for others, the speaker could interpret it into a regular language for the church to understand, combining two gifts to edify the church.

#### #### Clarity in Communication

- Paul emphasized that even musical instruments (pipe or harp) need "distinction in the notes" to be understood.
- "If the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?"
- "Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air."
- Unintelligible sounds are not edifying or useful. Speaking in tongues in church without understanding is like "speaking into the air," a disruption, and benefits no one else.
- **Languages as Divine Origin:** All languages in the world have meaning. If meaning is not grasped, speaker and listener are foreigners. Language is so complex that it can only be explained as being created by God, who understands all languages, including tongues.

#### #### Conduct in Worship

- **Respect for Others:** In corporate worship, "we got to be respectful of other

people" and avoid being an "unnecessary distraction."

- **Focus:** The goal should never be to take focus off Jesus or bring attention to oneself.
- **Humility:** Believers must practice humility and reverence to God and His service.
- **Paul's Example:** In the church, Paul stated, "I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than 10,000 words in a tongue."
- **Amazing Grace Church Practice:** Those who speak in tongues are thanked for being polite and keeping it down, as they are speaking to God.
- **Worship Music:** "all the glory goes to God." Avoid drawing attention to oneself (e.g., singing in the wrong key on purpose, singing louder than everyone else, drum solos). "Draw the attention to the holy."
- Avoid "too much praise" or excessive interjections during preaching. "We should never be trying to draw attention to ourselves during worship. That's why we call it worship. Not to worship us, to worship him."

#### #### General Action Items for Spiritual Gifts

- "Read your Bible, respect your gifts and trust your God."
- If one truly has a gift, they will know it and know when to use it; God will guide them.
- "If you have any spiritual gift, appreciate it and exercise it to edify and build the church."
- The purpose of God-given gifts is "to edify his church," "to build up his church," "to give us strength and encouragement," "faithfulness," and "to build each other up."

## Prayer and Offering

- **General Prayer:** Focused on open hearts, divine presence, spirit movement, hearing God's voice, seeing glory, receiving blessings, serving others, unity in Christ, and worship bringing honor and glory. Also, for patience, strength, hope, resilience, and trust in God's plan during trials and tribulations.
- **Specific Prayer Requests:**
  - Clarinda Curly: for healing, strength, and peace.

- Donna Xe: for God's leading, protection, and provision as she awaits and relocates to her new home in Maricopa, and for family to visit her often.
- Speaker's sister's family: for those who do not believe and are struggling financially, for the believing sister, and for guidance and help from God during a rough time.
- Mother's health: for a doctor's appointment concerning veins and circulation, praying for a good outcome and a "clean bill of" health.
- Spiritual growth: "Light that fire in our hearts, Lord. Let it become a flame... that we might have a closer walk with you. To be on fire for your glory."
- Youth and children (returning to school): for protection, watch over, provision, hope, peace, desire to learn and make friends, and protection from evil and sin.
- **Gratitude:** Expressed for God answering prayers, His deep love, being cherished and known, unfailing love, goodness, kindness, and faithfulness.
- **Offering Prayer:**
  - Acknowledgment: "Heavenly Father, we bring you the first and best of our increase. We acknowledge you as the one who gave it all to us."
  - Request: "May this first fruits offering be pleasing in your sight."
  - Commitment: "We trust you to bless the rest and fill our lives with your abundance. Help us keep you first in everything we do."
- **Action:** The offering was then conducted.