

- I) V1-5 INTRO: Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may
Paul has been correcting and encouraging the church in Corinth
- II) In ch 12 he wrote concerning spiritual **gifts** and the spiritual **unity** of the body
In ch 13 he shared what he had called a **more excellent way**, the way of Love
- III) Here Paul returns to his teaching on the gifts of the Spirit
He instructs them concerning the proper use of two gifts: tongues and prophecy
HE BEGINS
- IV) V1 Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy
This section by issuing two commands
First: Pursue (hunt follow after, or chase) love
Second: Desire spiritual gifts (especially the gift of prophecy)
- V) V2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one u
This is because he who speaks in tongues **doesn't speak to men** but to God
- VI) Tongues is a language of worship and praise, to God
- VII) On the day of Pentecost, the 120 left the upper room and went into the street
The people who were there heard them speaking, and they responded
Ac 2:7-8 Astounded and amazed, they asked, Are not all these who are speaking
Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?
V11 (they say) we hear them **declaring the wonders of God** in our own language
NOTICE
- VIII) V2 In the Spirit **he speaks mysteries**
Mysteries: A hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding
THOUGHT
- IX) It is to God you are speaking, and is not understandable to those in the room
- X) V3 But he who **prophesies** speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men
Prophecy is for the purpose of the **entire fellowship's** well being
NOTICE
- XI) Edification, exhortation, and comfort and is the main purpose of the gift
Edification: The act of building up; to promote another's spiritual growth
Exhortation: Encouragement; consolation, comfort
Comfort: Any address made for the purpose of calming and consoling

- I) V4 He who speaks in a tongue **edifies himself** but he who prophesies edifies the Tongues has a **personal effect** and doesn't, by itself edify the entire church
- II) V5 I **wish** you all spoke with tongues but even more that you prophesied
Wish: Not simply a **desire** but more of **a command for** them to desire to prophesy
THOUGHT
- III) I am not commanding that you stop speaking in tongues: **I want you to**
I want you to speak in tongues, but my greatest desire is that you **prophesy**
WHY
- IV) V5 Because he who prophesies **is greater** than he who speaks with tongues
Greater: In this context, more **necessary**
THOUGHT
- V) The gift of prophecy is a gift that builds up the *entire* church
He writes this for the sake of **emphasis**
- VI) Obviously, the HS knows **who** to gift with **which** gift
1 Co 12:11 One and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually **as He wills**
- VII) V6 But now brethren if I come to you speaking with tongues what shall I profit you
If Paul came and only spoke to them in tongues, what profit is there for them?
He himself would be edified, but they would not what he is saying
WHAT GIFTS WOULD EDIFY THEM?
- VIII) V6 What shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by **revelation**, by **knowledge**
Revelation: A disclosure of truth; instruction concerning things before unknown
FIRST
- IX) V6 It will profit them if he comes to them bringing **revelation**
As an apostle, Paul could reveal to them the depth of the mysteries of God
Gal 2:1-2 Fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also. And I went up **by revelation**, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run in vain
SECOND
- X) He speaks of the **deeper knowledge** of Christ, belonging to the **more mature**
Babies in Christ cannot perceive the deeper things of the Spirit
Depth in the things of the Lord occurs over time and with faithful experience
Ps 42:7 Deep calls unto deep

I) Heb 5:12-14 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

BY PROPHECYING

II) V6 Revealing the mind of God; speaking forth His mind to them
This could speak of revealing a future event as well as deeper insights

AND BY TEACHING

III) V6 Provoking people to learn as he gives them more knowledge and information
2 Ti 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

INTERESTINGLY

IV) V7 Even **things without life** whether flute or harp when they make a sound unless
Even music has to **make musical sense** to the hearer or it is just noise
Rhythm, chords, melody, harmony, and simple structure are all important
Music must have organization

V) V8 If the trumpet makes an **uncertain sound** who will prepare himself for battle?
Used for various reasons: a call for the Jews to assemble before the tabernacle
They were used to signal the gathering and movement of the Israelite camps
They were used to announce the beginning of festivals
They were used to enter in to battle with their enemies (Nu 10)

VI) They were used at certain times in certain ways to direct the people

VII) V9 **So likewise you** unless you utter by the tongue words *easy to understand* how
THOUGHT

VIII) Communication takes into consideration the hearer and their ability to understand
If you are speaking in tongues, nobody will understand what you are saying
You are not benefitting anyone because they don't understand

IX) V10-11 It may be so many kinds of languages in the world and none of them is
Communication is two-way: It is intended **to communicate** with someone else
Do not be speaking a language no one understands

- I) V12 Even so you **since you are zealous for spiritual gifts** let it be for the edification
Be zealous to minister to edify everybody, which is the purpose of the gifts
1 Co 12:7 The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for **the profit of all**
- II) V13 Therefore, let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret
If one speaks in a tongue, let there be an interpretation (not a translation)
- III) If there is no one present who can interpret, pray to interpret
If you do not receive the interpretation then remain silent
WHY
- IV) V14 For if *I pray* in a tongue my spirit prays but my understanding is unfruitful
My spirit prays: My spirit gives vent to the Spirit's utterances (I control this)
FACT
- V) Neither my mind nor those hearing me understand what is being said
Without interpretation, there will be no blessing for those who hear the tongue
- VI) V15-17 What is the result then **I will pray** with the spirit and **I will** also pray with the
This is a choice, not compulsion: I pray and I sing in the Spirit
I pray, sing, bless, and give thanks by the Spirit's empowerment
INTERESTINGLY
- VII) When I speak in tongues, I also can *bless* with the Spirit
Bless: To praise; to celebrate with praises
KEY
- VIII) Tongues is a language that praises God and celebrates His greatness
This is what we are to do as our way of life
Ps 66:8 Oh, bless our God, you peoples! And make the voice of His praise to be heard
- IX) **You bless God in** tongues, speaking concerning how great He is and thanking Him
When tongues are interpreted, people will hear of His glory and power
Ac 2:11 We do hear them speak in our tongues **the wonderful works of God**
Ac 10:46 They heard them speak with tongues, and **magnify God.**
QUESTION
- X) V16 How will he who occupies the place of the **uninformed** say Amen at your
Uninformed: An untaught man as opposed to the educated
This would speak of a novice in the faith who is yet untaught concerning this
- XI) V17 For you indeed give thanks well but the other is not edified

- I) In prayer, there is the normal inclusion of giving thanks to God
Phil 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God
Ps 136:1 O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endures forever
- II) Your praise is good, but the untaught novice does not join in with you in it
They don't understand your words, so they can't raise their praise to God
- III) By doing this, it is in fact a selfish exercise of the gift of tongues
The gifts are intended for the edification of the body, not just the individual
It is another expression of the carnality the Corinthians were infected by
- IV) V18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all
Paul exercised the gift of tongues more regularly than any of them
He understood its value, and exercised his gift often
- V) V19 yet in the church I would rather **speak five words** with my understanding
With my understanding: coherent, understandable, with meaning
I would rather speak five words that people can understand
- VI) Tongues is not *primarily* a public gift
In church, speaking plainly in a language all understand is to be desired
- VII) Often in prayer, something is said that teaches and inspires us about God
- VIII) V20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however in malice be babes
Grow up spiritually, and cultivate mature desires (V12)
Ps 131:2 I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother,
like a weaned child is my soul within me.
1 Pe 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow
thereby
- IX) **In malice**: Wickedness, as an evil habit of the mind; the *willful* desire of evil
Live caring lives, not selfish lives that revolve around your own satisfaction
Grow up intellectually as well as spiritually
2 Pe 3:18 Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.