

1 Corinthians 14

Jesus

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with **the tongues of men and of angels**, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

- **Tongues:** gr. *Glossa* [Glowisa] 1. Part of the body. 2. Language different than our own. A language naturally unacquired. Known language? Ambiguous in def.

1 Corinthians 1:4b ...you were enriched in everything by Him **in all utterance** and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you **come short in no gift...**

Many in Corinth spoke in tongues

I. Prophecy and Tongues

1 Pursue love, and **desire spiritual gifts**, but especially that you may prophesy.

Pursue Love...Desire Gifts
Run Swiftly in to Capture Agape...Be Zealous for Spiritual gifts

- **Especially to Prophecy:**
 1. Speak forth the Word of God
 2. Men and Woman

1 Corinthians 11:5 But every woman who prays **or prophesies...**

Desire Spiritual Gifts...Especially the Gift of Prophecy
Tongues had been exalted as the best gift in Corinth...

2 For he who speaks in a tongue **does not speak to men but to God**, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. **3** But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and **comfort to men.**

- **Tongues:** *Glossa*
 1. Man speaking to God. Always.
 2. No one can understand those speaking
 3. In the Spirit he speaks mysteries
- **Prophecy**
 1. God speaking to man.
 2. Builds up others
 3. Encourages others
 4. Comforts others

1 Corinthians 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one **for the profit of all**

4 He who speaks in a tongue **edifies himself**, but he who prophesies **edifies the church**. 5 **I wish you all spoke with tongues**, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is **greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless** indeed **he interprets**, that the church may **receive edification**.

All gifts are given for the edification of others...except tongues
Unless an interpreter is available

Romans 14:19 ...let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

Romans 15:2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, **leading to edification**.

Yet tongues **is** a Gift from God. Thus it is good.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the **Father of lights**, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

After His ascension Jesus gave gifts to men
Gift of Tongues found only in the New Testament

Acts 2:1 [First mention. After being commanded by the resurrected Jesus to wait for the Promise...] When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to **speak with other tongues** [*glossa*], as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language [**KJV tongue**, i.e.. *dialektos*]. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language [*dialektos*] in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues [*glossa*] the wonderful works of God." ...**15** For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. 21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.'

Acts 2 is the only time tongues [*Glossa*] is joined w/the word *Language* [*Dialektos*]
IOWs the only time Tongues is plainly connected w/an Earthly known language

Acts 10:44 [Peter visits Cornelius] While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the **gift of the Holy Spirit** had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they [Jews] heard them [Gentiles] **speak with tongues** [Glossa] **and magnify God**. Then Peter answered, 47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

- **Glossa not Dialektos** everywhere except Acts 2 Pentecost

II. Tongues Must Be Interpreted

6 But now, brethren, **if I come to you speaking with tongues**, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by **revelation**, by **knowledge**, by **prophecy**, or by **teaching**?

Listening to tongues you don't understand is futile
Prophecy is always beneficial to build up

- Prophecy
 1. Revelation/Light of God found in **His Word**
 2. Knowledge of God found in **His Word**
 3. Forthtelling from **His Word**
 4. Teaching **His Word**

These are what Build up/Edify/Exhort the Church

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. **Convince, rebuke, exhort**, with all longsuffering and **teaching**.

Titus 1:9 ...hold fast the **faithful word** as he has been taught, that [you] may be able, by sound doctrine, both to **exhort** and **convict** those who contradict.

The Church of God in Corinth was speaking in tongues *Non-stop and Loud*
Incomprehensible to listeners/Useless by definition...

7 Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? 8 For if the trumpet makes an **uncertain sound**, who will prepare for battle?

If a trumpet blown for a battle sounds like a flute
People will be left scratching their heads...

9 So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words **easy to understand**, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be **speaking into the air**.
10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without significance. 11 Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of

the language, I shall be a foreigner [barbarian] to him who speaks, and he who speaks will be a foreigner to me. 12 Even so you, since you are **zealous for spiritual gifts**, let it be for the edification [building up] of the church that you seek to excel.

Ch. 14: Use the gift of tongues as God prescribes
V 4 Edify yourself or Interpret v 5 and Edify others

1 Corinthians 14:26 ...Let all things be done for edification.

13 Therefore **let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.**

A person with the gift of tongues may also have the gift of interpretation
Another may have the gift of interpretation if they don't

14 For if I pray in a tongue, **my spirit prays**, but my **understanding is unfruitful.**

When the *pneuma*, i.e., Holy Spirit w/in me is praying
My mind is bypassed/My understanding is unfruitful

15 What is the conclusion then? **I will pray with the spirit**, and **I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit**, and I will also **sing with the understanding.** 16 Otherwise, if you **bless with the spirit**, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your **giving of thanks**, since he does not understand what you say? 17 For you indeed **give thanks well, but the other is not edified.**

- **Public Praying/Singing/Blessing in the Spirit**

1. When I *pray* in the tongues I will then pray with understanding
2. When I *sing* in tongues I will then also sing with understanding. [Eph 5:19, Col 3:16]
3. When I *bless* in tongues I will then bless with understanding

IOWs What I do in the Spirit/In public...must be immediately interpreted
Why? That those listening can also be edified

18 I thank my God **I speak with tongues more than you all**; 19 yet in the church I would rather speak **five words with my understanding**, that I may teach others also, than **ten thousand words in a tongue.**

- **V 1** Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy
- **V 4** He who speaks in tongues edifies himself/He who prophesies edifies the church

Motivated by pride/competition...
The Church of God in Corinth was abusing the gift of tongues

III. Tongues a Sign to Unbelievers

20 Brethren, **do not be children in understanding**; however, **in malice be babes**, but **in understanding be mature.**

IOWs Don't be proficient in understanding things that tear down others
Lawsuits/Divisions/Pride

In their selfish desire to edify themselves at the expense of others in the meeting, the Corinthians showed themselves to be children, and selfishly immature. Paul points them to a higher call. [Guzik]

Be proficient in understanding what edifies
IOWs Focus on things that build others up

Ephesians 4:14b ... no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting...

21 In the law it is written: "With **men of other tongues** and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, **they will not hear Me,**" [Is 28:11. C.f. Is 33:19] says the Lord.

OT: If you won't hear My prophets in your language
You will hear your enemies the Assyrians/Babylonians in their language

IOWs Hearing strange tongues was not a blessing but a curse
In the same way it will not be a blessing to unbelievers who don't understand

22 Therefore **tongues are for a sign**, not to those who believe but **to unbelievers**; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.

- Tongues so far...
 1. Edifies self unless interpreted
 2. Always from men to God
 3. If done without an interpreter and/or out of order...

V23 A sign to unbelievers that the church is crazy...

23 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there **come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers**, will they not say that **you are out of your mind** [lit. Insane]?

Sign for Unbelievers?
These people are out of their mind

Acts 2:13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

Tongues are not a sign to the church of anything
Tongues w/out interpretation? Sign to unbelievers that the church must be insane

24 **But if all prophesy**, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is **convinced by all**, he is **convicted by all**. 25 And thus the **secrets of his heart are revealed**; and so, **falling down on his face**, he will **worship God** and report that **God is truly among you**.

After Tongues: Their Crazy!
After Prophecy: God is in this Place!

- The unbeliever would be convinced
- He would be convicted
- He would reveal his heart, i.e. get real
- He would fall on his face before God
- He would worship God
- He would tell everybody about what God said/did

When Prophecy is in operation in the church unbelievers leave saying...
God is in that place!

IV. Order in Church Meetings

26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification [building up]. 27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be **two or at the most three**, each in turn, and **let one interpret**. 28 But if there is **no interpreter**, let him **keep silent in church**, and **let him speak to himself and to God**.

Church Meeting Order when Gifts of the Spirit are in Operation

- **Gift of Tongues**
 1. 2-3 take turns speaking to God in tongues w/interpretation
 2. If there is no interpreter/Be silent...Go home/Speak by yourself in tongues
 - Important when asking is this a known language

29 Let **two or three prophets** speak, and let the others judge. 30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

- **Gift of Prophecy**
 1. 2-3 taking turns speaking Word of God
 2. Others discerning: Ch. 12 Some were cursing Jesus claiming the Spirit

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits**, whether they are of God...

Galatians 1:8 ... if we, or an angel from heaven, **preach any other gospel** to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed.**

3. If another has the same prophetic message...Stay silent/Don't repeat it

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies.

32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

The word of prophets now...are subject to the Word of the prophets then
IOWs The Spirit will never contradict the written Word of God

33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

God is not the author of confusion but of peace
The Spirit of God does not contradict the Father/Jesus/Himself

34 Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. 35 And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

IOWs Do not interrupt the Order of Service when gifts are in operation
Questions can be discussed with your husbands at home

Paul anticipates blow back...

36 Or did the word of God come originally from you? Or was it you only that it reached?

IOWs If you disagree w/what the LORD has given me for you...
Remember it was I who came to you with God's Word

37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if anyone is ignorant [does not recognize these things] , let him be ignorant.

My Epistles are God's Word
IOWs Paul/Other Apostles continued where Jesus left off/In His authority

1 John 4:6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Paul takes a breath and concludes with a summary...

39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Questions

- Is the gift of tongues for today? Yes. Till Jesus, that which is Perfect comes 13:8
- Is it a *known* language? Yes. Pentecost Acts 2

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with **other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them **speak in his own language.** [*dialektos*]

- Can it also be an *unknown* language? Spiritual Prayer language? Yes.
 1. If I speak with the **tongues of men and angels** [Glossa] 1 Cor 13:1
 2. No interpreter go home...*Speak in the Spirit in a known language? No.* v27
 3. In the Spirit praying/singing/blessing? Vv15-17
 4. Only in Acts 2 is *glossa* [word for tongues] connected to *Dialektos* [language]
 5. IOWs Pentecost may have been a one-off event w/re. to known languages
 6. Why would an interpreter be needed in a meeting w/people who all spoke the same language? Since interpreting is a gift would it be a gift of the Spirit to understand a known language such a German, Italian etc.

1 Corinthians 14:14 For if I pray in a tongue, **my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.**

1 Corinthians 14:2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, **in the spirit he speaks mysteries.**

V 6 But now, brethren, **if I come to you speaking with tongues**, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by **revelation**, by **knowledge**, by **prophesying**, or by **teaching**?

Prophesy is always beneficial to build up the Church

1. Revelation/Light of God
2. Knowledge of God
3. Forth telling His Word
4. Teaching from His Word...God was in this place

So? Desire tongues... Desire prophesy more
The Word of God always builds up...Above all love one another