

Activating Our Position in Christ
1 Corinthians 14
Prophecy & Tongues in Public Worship

1 Corinthians 14:39–40 (ESV) — So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But all things should be done decently and in order.

ONE THING

The ABUSE of prophecy & tongues must never lead to their DISUSE, but rather to their proper USE.

1. The LEGITIMIZING of Public PROPHECY

1 Corinthians 14:1–5 (ESV) — Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. 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. On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. 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.

There are TWO IMPERATIVES...

The word, “Pursue”, is our first imperative/command...

διώκω (dioko) – to do something with intense effort and with definite purpose or goal—‘to do with effort, to strive toward.’

The phrase, “Earnest desire”, is our second imperative/command...

ζηλώω (zaloo) – to be deeply committed to something, with the implication of accompanying desire—‘to be earnest, to set one’s heart on, to be completely intent upon.’

→ Pic of Prophecy & Tongues

Proclaiming	
Prophecy	A supernatural utterance given by God to an individual in a language known to the person
Tongues	A supernatural utterance given by God to an individual in a language unknown to the person
Interpretation of tongues	A supernatural understanding given by God to an individual for the intpretation of a message in an unknown language

Again, I want to remind you of the Scriptural promise regarding prophecy...

Acts 2:17–18 (ESV) — ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

The abuse of prophecy & tongues must never lead to their disuse, but rather to their proper use.

1. The LEGITIMIZING of Public PROPHECY

2. The LIMITATIONS of Public TONGUES

The 1st LIMITATION of tongues

➤ **ENCOURAGING the CHURCH**

1 Corinthians 14:6–12 (ESV) — 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? If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? 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. There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, 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. So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

Let’s continue down in verse 18...

1 Corinthians 14:18–19 (ESV) — I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

Individualism is the assertion of self above the group...

This is very popular among Americans...

But it goes against God’s Word and God’s Plan for the Church...

→ See back of Outline

1 Corinthians 1:10 (ESV) — I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

When the members of a church place themselves about the body of Christ we reap division...

IN-DIVID-ualism

The 2nd LIMITATION of tongues

➤ **MATURING the BELIEVER**

1 Corinthians 14:13–15 (ESV) — Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. 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.

1 Corinthians 14:20 (ESV) — Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

The 3rd LIMITATION of tongues

➤ **IMPACTING the OUTSIDER**

1 Corinthians 14:16–17 (ESV) — 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? For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

1 Corinthians 14:21–25 (ESV) — 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.” Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. 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? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, 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.

1 Corinthians 14:23 (ESV) — 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?

1 Corinthians 14:23–25 (ESV) — 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? 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.

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1. The LEGITIMIZING of Public PROPHECY

2. The LIMITATIONS of Public TONGUES

3. The LEADING of Public WORSHIP

➤ **Everyone comes PREPARED**

1 Corinthians 14:26 (ESV) — What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

No believer is to be a spectator in public worship!

Every believer has gifts the Spirit wants to release!

➤ **Everyone serves PEACEFULLY**

1 Corinthians 14:27–32 (ESV) — If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets.

➤ **Everyone submits to PURITY**

1 Corinthians 14:33–38 (ESV) — For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints, the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church. Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached? If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.

Boy is this sticky...

Some things Paul is NOT saying...

He is NOT saying women cannot participate in the release of spiritual gifts...

1 Corinthians 11:3–5 (ESV) — But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven.

First Paul speaks to creation and the fall...

1 Corinthians 11:8–9 (ESV) — For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

1 Corinthians 11:10 (ESV) — That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

The covering of her head makes it clear that she is submissive to God's ordained spiritual leadership of her husband...

However, because we have become new creations in Christ...

1 Corinthians 11:11–12 (ESV) — Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.

Galatians 3:28 (ESV) — There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Women, protect yourself and respect your husband

Men, protect yourself and respect your wife

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The _____ of prophecy & tongues must never lead to their _____, but rather to their proper _____.

1. The _____ of Public _____

2. The _____ of Public _____

➤ _____ the _____

➤ _____ the _____

➤ _____ the _____

3. The _____ of Public _____

➤ Everyone comes _____

➤ Everyone serves _____

➤ Everyone submits to _____

