

1 Corinthians chapter 14 (Gathering)

1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but rather that ye may prophesy. **In the last verse in the previous chapter we find out that Charity is the greatest of all gifts.**

2 For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

The unknown tongue is different that the "New tongue" of Mark 16:17: and Acts 2:3 Cloven tongues; 2:4 Other tongues

Interesting: Paul is giving us an in depth insight into the workings of these gifts. An unknown tongue in this context is an unknown language, that is not meant for men. The spirit here in this verse is not the Holy Spirit, it is the human spirit.

3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men *to* edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

Paul is changing course:

1. **Prophesieth = Third-person singular. Simple present form of prophecy; Foretelling events.**
2. **Edification = A building up, in a moral and religious sense;**
3. **Exhortation = The form of words intended to incite and encourage**
4. **Comfort = To strengthen: to invigorate; to cheer**

4 He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater *is* he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

Greater is he that prophesieth, than he that speaketh in tongues.

6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

1. **By revelation**
2. **By knowledge**
3. **By Prophesying**
4. **By doctrine**

7 And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?

Pipe is a wind instrument.

Harp is a string instrument.

Q: How shall it be known what is a pipe or harped? The only way is to watch and hear for oneself.

8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

Right order and preparedness is the key, for preparing to do battle.

Proverbs 21:31

The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.

9 So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.

Utter words by the tongue that are easy to understand.

Romans 10: 8-10 talks about the mouth confessing. The tongue is an intricate part of the action.

10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them *is* without signification.

Of all the many people groups and dialects spoken in the world today. The LORD is faithful and just to hear the words. Romans 10:13

11 Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh *shall be* a barbarian unto me.

"I know not the meaning" Paul is underlining the Original purpose of all spiritual gifts: They must serve the church.

Also: if Paul is preparing for the tribulation period. He must know that having the ability of speaking to the "barbarian" (A person of an unknown language).

12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue pray that he may interpret.

The unknown language will almost always need an interpretation.

14 For if I pray in an *unknown* tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

This could be because, it's not what praying, but the spiritual infancy of who you're praying with. (:20)

15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

Amen: means "so be it" saying "Amen" indicates agreement with what is being said.

17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that *by my voice* I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an *unknown* tongue.

Five words with understanding, is much better than 10,000 words of misunderstanding.

20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

21 In the law it is written, With *men of* other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying *serveth* not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

Tongues are a Jewish sign. (1 Corinthians 1:22)

The order of the ministry of gifts in the local church.

23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in *those that are* unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

24 But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or *one* unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:

25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on *his* face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

27 If any man speak in an *unknown* tongue, *let it be* by two, or at the most *by* three, and *that* by course; and let one interpret.

Verse 27-34 gives the rules for speaking in tongues.

1. No woman is to speak in tongues in the assembly.
2. Only men are to speak.
3. Only three are to speak in any service.
4. They are to speak only one at a time. Not all together.
5. If there is knowone to interpret, knowone is to speak.
6. Paul calls this a commandment from the Lord verse :37

28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

Key

29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

The meeting of the church should be characterized by orderliness and moderation.

30 If *any thing* be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.

31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

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

“Subject to the prophets” Paul is teaching us that the “Holy Spirit” does not overpower the person through whom He speaks.

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

Many times when we run into verses that we can work out quickly, or don't quite fit in our denominational box. We need to read this verse.

34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but *they are commanded* to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

1 Timothy 2:11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

The context has to do with women speaking in tongues; not testifying, or singing, or even witnessing.

36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?

37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

Paul is writing this: Commandments of the Lord.

38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

40 Let all things be done decently and in order.