

Green Lights & Guardrails

Series: Spiritual Gifts

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:26-33



1. Regulating Tongues Among Believers (14:26-28)

- a. The governing principle for all gifts (26) - "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."
- b. Specific instructions for the gift of tongues (27) - "If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret."
- c. Tongues in the gathered assembly are valid if: 1) no more than three in each gathering offer a word in tongues, 2) none of those people are offering a tongue at the same time as one of the others, and 3) the offered tongue is always interpreted.
- d. Self-regulation of tongues by the individual (28) - "But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God."

2. Recognizing Prophecy Among Believers (14:29-33)

- a. A limit to the number of prophets (29a) - "Let two or three prophets speak..."
- b. An evaluation of the content of what is said (29b) - "...and let the others weigh what is said."
 - i. "Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said." - 1 Cor. 14:29
 - ii. "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world." - 1 John 4:1
 - iii. "Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good." - 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21

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- c. A commitment to patience & humility (30) - "If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged."
- d. A display of self-control (32-33) - "...the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. 33 For God is not a God of confusion but of peace."

3. Respecting Authority Among Believers (1 Cor 14:36-40)

- a. Paul asserted his authority (36-37) - "Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached? 37 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."
- b. Paul revoked independent autonomy (38) - "If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized."
- c. Paul affirmed both tongues and prophecy (39) - "39 So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues."
- d. Paul emphasized a need for an intentional approach to tongues and prophecy (40) - "But all things should be done decently and in order."

