

I. 1 Cor 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

- A. We are to greatly desire spiritual encounter as the undiluted move of the Holy Spirit is part of God's plan to produce a victorious church. We see this as the victorious church at the end of the age will be fueled by the greatest global move of God in history with signs, wonders, and prophecy bearing witness to the gospel (**Joel 2:28-32, Acts 2:16-21**).
- B. The gifts of the Spirit are given for "the benefit of all" (**1 Cor 12:7**), and since the Lord determines the measure (gifts of grace: Gk-charisma) we can ask with confidence for all that He has for us (**1 Cor 12:11**)
- C. It is as we pursue love, namely to love God, that we want to know what He is thinking and feeling toward us, our family, and others. This is why Paul connects love to the prophetic.
 - 1. There is a distortion in the church related to talking about being loving without reference to first encountering love from God and love to God. It is a prideful statement of confidence in man's own ability to love.

II. Verse 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.

- A. the unknown heavenly language enriches our speaking to God, as it produces faith that God understands what we don't and leads us perfectly.
- B. When we speak in tongues we become tender and receptive to the prophetic, to the mysteries of God.

III. Verse 3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

- A. Edification: to build up with strength to stay the course of what God has invited you into. (I.e. Haggai and Zechariah)

- B. Exhortation: charge or instruction to not give up in the face of adversity
- C. Comfort: receiving God's perspective to navigate pain.
- D. Prophecy itself is not the rock that we rest our life's assignment on, but rather we stand on what is revealed in scripture. Prophecy draws our attention to a scriptural truth or assignment to which God has called us specifically. Prophecy embolden us to stay with it when it is hard. (1Tim 1:18, 4:14, 2 Tim 1:6)

IV. Verses 4-5 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 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.

- A. "I wish you all spoke with tongues..."
 - 1. Paul here is no wishing for something that is not available to them.
- B. "Is greater"
 - 1. Greater in kingdom impact not in value before God

V. Verse 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?

- A. Paul here begins a train of thought in which you would "come to" a people intending to deliver a message. He says that if he were to deliver a message to them in tongues that it would be of no benefit unless there was interpretation. So rather he would come to them with a prophetic word or with teaching.
- B. **Verses 7-11 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? For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle? 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. There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world,**

and none of them is without significance. Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks will be a foreigner to me.

VI. Verses 12-13 Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel. Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

A. This, again, is why the “love chapter” is set between two chapters about the gifts. Paul is saying when you come together, express the gifts in a way that’s full of love that seeks the edification of all. This is why he says to pray for interpretation, and this thought will go on to frame how Paul thinks about “order” later in the chapter.

VII. Verses 14-15 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. 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.

A. Praying and singing in tongues occupies a rich place in the devotional life of a believer. As we pray in tongues our faith is stirred and as we sing in tongues our emotions engage with loving trust in His leadership.

B. Since anxiety manifests in mental traffic, praying in tongues is a place where we can find rest from that traffic and receive the peace of God in our minds.

VIII. Verses 16-19 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? For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified. I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; 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.

A. Paul begins these verses with a conjunction which in the Greek is here introducing a question that reinforces his thought in verses 6-11.

IX. Verses 20-22 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature. 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,” says the Lord. 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.

A. Isaiah 28:11-12 gives a prophecy that has a dual fulfillment. It had partial fulfillment in its own day when Assyria would invade them speaking a language foreign to the Jewish people. This would be a sign of judgment, but Israel would not heed it. The later fulfillment is at Pentecost when the gift of tongues was first given to believers doubling as a sign to the Jewish people gathered for the feast, the preaching of the gospel which followed this, the leadership of Israel still did not heed. This is what Paul means when he says “a sign to unbelievers.”

X. Verse 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?

- The type of speaking referenced here should be understood in light of Paul's earlier predominant thought about speaking with the intent to deliver a message.
- “God will offend the mind to reveal the heart”

XI. Verses 24-25 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. 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.

- A prophetic culture attracts the move of God and primes the atmosphere for revival.