

- I. The Bible both condones and encourages the pursuit of spiritual gifts.
 - A. 1 Cor 14:1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. (ESV)
 - B. 1 Cor 14:37-40 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.³⁸ If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.³⁹ So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.⁴⁰ But all things should be done decently and in order. (ESV)
 - C. 1 Cor 12:4-7 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (ESV)
 - D. A division at hand throughout large segments of the Church centers around whether or not these particular gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12 are still meant for the Church today.
 - 1. Cessationism: the view that the “sign” gifts had ceased with the death of the last apostle of Christ. Some cessationists would see this period as extending through until the early church’s corporate recognition of the New Testament canon.
 - 2. Continuationism: The view that the “charismata” or miraculous gifts of the Spirit in 1 Cor 12 continue to be part of the life of the church as the gospel spreads to the world until Jesus returns.
 - 3. With over 500 million professing believers around the world who identify as Pentecostal or Charismatic, the phenomenon presents us with 3 options:
 - a) Embrace
 - b) Reject

- c) Test all things and hold fast to what is good (1 Thess 5:21)

II. Tongues

- A. Acts 2: Unintelligible sounds or foreign languages?
- B. 1 Cor 14:2-4 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. (ESV)
- C. 1 Cor 14:14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. (ESV)
- D. 1 Cor 14:18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. (ESV)
- E. This is the only gift that Paul says is particularly for the building up of the individual. All the other gifts are for the building up of the whole church.
 - 1. Something profoundly strengthening takes place during extended times of praying in tongues.
 - 2. Paul tells us that this is not an endeavor of the mind but of the spirit.
 - 3. In a world of constant mental traffic, the gift of tongues is the gift of speedy retreat to the place of solitude where the Holy Spirit is your best friend and you don't even have to worry about saying the right things!

III. Prophecy

- A. 1 Cor 14:3 On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. (ESV)
- B. 1 Cor 14:24 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. (ESV)

- C. When we prophesy God shares just a couple of his thoughts about others in order to build them up, encourage them and comfort them.

IV. Healing

- A. Luke 10:9 Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' (ESV)
 - 1. Healing and the "kingdom motif"
- B. 1 Cor 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, (ESV)
- C. James 5:14-15 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. (ESV)
 - 1. I refuse to construct my theology according to what I experience