

## A Better Gift

### **Intro:**

2 kings 18:1-4

In numbers Moses built a bronze serpent that healed all who looked upon it. Years later it became an idol and needed to be destroyed. The story had moved on...Hezekiah knew this and destroyed it...

The question is why did they worship it? I think they wanted their lives to look more like those of the Israelites in the wilderness where Moses was doing miracles...

We often feel less spiritual because our life looks more like the book of Ruth than the book of Exodus... but that's only because we misunderstand what we possess today and where we are in the story of God

### **Problem:**

Acts 18:24-28

There is a reason no one is buying vcrs this Christmas, or floppy disc drives. They still exist but when you understand their function and what we have today why would you go to them?...unless you don't understand what we have today

Apollos loved John the Baptist - Apollos was preaching a vcr but God had moved on to streaming, he was proclaiming a unicycle but the race had moved on to bicycles. If there was no narrative than we would all be free to be VCRs and unicycles but there is a narrative and we are further along in the story ...apollos got it and moved on to preach Christ crucified to great effect - the question was would the Corinthians

Only to use the first 25 verses of chapter 14 to examine the gift of tongues a gift the Corinthians clearly held in high esteem. Even though tongues was an impressive gift it was an inferior gift in light of God's goals - the story had moved on but the Corinthians had not, they were still focused on VCRs and unicycles.

### **Main Idea:**

Earnestly desire to build up the church  
Speaking in tongues does not build up the church  
It had a different goal  
And we have a better gift

### **Implication:**

1 kings 13:11-25

Prophecy is better than tongues but it has a fatal weakness...that has now been eliminated

2 Pet 1:16-21

We do not know how great a gift we have in the inscripturated Word of God...though our passage is not about the Word it certainly points to it as prophecy 2.0. Scripture is not only sufficient for a Spirit filled life it is superior to every other means of living a Spirit-filled life.

Heb 4:12-13

A spirit filled church is a church where the Word is preached...

### **Application:**

Col 3:12-17

what does a Spirit filled life look like today, If it doesn't look like fire from Heaven and walking on water and crazy everyday miracles and foreign tongues? It looks like a life saturated by the Word of God

### **End:**

<https://www.gracechurch.org/about/distinctives/gift-of-tongues>

<https://thecripplegate.com/are-tongues-real-languages/>

# A Better Gift

Text:

## **Earnestly desire to build up the church**

1Corinthians 14:1 ¶ Pursue love, and **earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.**

1Corinthians 14:2 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.

1Corinthians 14:3 On the other hand, **the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.**

1Corinthians 14:4 The one who speaks in a tongue **builds up himself**, but the one who prophesies **builds up the church.**

1Corinthians 14:5 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.**

*1 cor 12:1-7 (Paul told the Corinthians what the purpose of the gifts were - the criteria for evaluating their place in the church)*

*1 cor 12:31-13:13 (and what the highest manifestation of them looked like - other focused)*

*eph 4:9-16 (tongues did not fit this criteria or this crown of love - they were not aimed at building up others in love - the did not have a Spirit filled aim)(a church not aimed at maturity is not a spirit filled church)*

## **Speaking in tongues does not build up the church**

1Corinthians 14:6 ¶ 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?

1Corinthians 14:7 If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, **how will anyone know what is played?**

1Corinthians 14:8 And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, **who will get ready for battle?**

1Corinthians 14:9 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.

1Corinthians 14:10 There are doubtless **many different languages (phone)** in the world, and none is without meaning,

1Corinthians 14:11 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.**

1Corinthians 14:12 So with yourselves, **since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.**

1Corinthians 14:13 ¶ Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret.

1Corinthians 14:14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.

1Corinthians 14:15 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.**

1Corinthians 14:16 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?**

1Corinthians 14:17 For you may be giving thanks well enough, but **the other person is not being built up.**

1Corinthians 14:18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.

1Corinthians 14:19 **Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.**

*acts 2:1-13 (known language - acts 2:4 Glossa interchangeable with phon'e = known languages)*

*matt 22:37 (mindless worship is lesser than mindful worship)*

*rom 12:1-2 (maturity does not come through ecstatic utterances - for anyone...)*

*eph 5:1-2, 15-21 (walking in love = being Spirit filled - Spirit controlled...centered on the Word and good works toward one another building up church)(a church not controlled by the Word not a spirit filled church)*

## **It had a different purpose**

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

1Corinthians 14:21 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."

1Corinthians 14:22 Thus **tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers**, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.

*heb 2:1-4 (some gifts had a purpose a bit different than this - especially tongues -here tongues a genuine gift but it is inferior and not mentioned elsewhere - not a private prayer language not an angelic language but foreign language used as a sign for unbelievers...unbelieving jews in particular)*

*acts 2:12-21 (a sign...of what?)*

*(luk 4:16-29 (a scandalous announcement - a message to gentiles - eph 2:11-22)*

*isa 28:9-16 (Paul does not quote Joel - but Isaiah - tongues meant to be a judgment upon a stubborn nation)*

## **And we have a better gift**

1Corinthians 14:23 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?

1Corinthians 14:24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all,

1Corinthians 14:25 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.

*implication/application*

## Application Questions

MESSAGE RECEIVED  
(Do you understand what you learned?)

- What is the main point of this message? (Could you summarize it in your own words?)
- What is something new that you learned?
  - What was your knowledge in this area before you heard this message?
  - Any change you will make in your daily life based upon this new knowledge?
- What reference verse stands out to you and why?
- How did this message encourage you? Why do you think that is?
- Did the message pair with your weekly bible reading in any way?
- What is a struggle you had with this message? It's content or it's application?
- What are some truths that stand out to you in this message?
  - Any life testimonies that you can think of that are good examples of these truths?
- What character/attribute of God stands out to you the most in this message and why?
  - Any specific verse that puts this attribute on display?

MESSAGE APPLIED  
(What are you going to do with what you learned?)

### Culture

- What are the lies of the world/devil that we need to be aware of that are antithetical to this message?
- What do you think the cultural animosity is towards this message if we apply it rightly?

### Church

- How do you see this message impacting the church corporately? (locally/globally)
  - What prayers would be good to pray for the church body based on this message?

Individual

- Is there a sin in your life that this message convicted you of?
  - Why do you think this was a blind spot in your sanctification before this message?
- How did the message address any specific life circumstance you are going through right now?
  
- Select two questions from the below list and write down your answer to them:
  - How does this message change or impact your:
    - Prayer Life?
    - Evangelism?
    - Bible Reading?
    - Christian Relationships?
    - Non-Christian relationships?
    - Parenting?
    - Role as a Husband/Wife?
    - Workplace?
- **How have you been changed by this message? What is your one memorable takeaway. If I ask you “How did God sanctify you through the preaching of this message, how would you respond?”**