

## ***Gift of Tongues & Prophecy***

### **1Corinthians 14:1-19**

Apostle Paul exhorts the church to earnestly desire *zelo* greater gifts  
12:31--now he looks back & sums up the two preceding Chapters

*1 Pursue love(13), yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts(12), but especially that you may prophesy.*—be zealous, fervent-bring to a boil, run/stretch out after in order to catch (*waves*). *Zelo* in good or bad way **James 4:2-kill, fight, war**

*Prophecy*-speaking forth the mind & heart of God. His messengers communicating His message to others--so much a part of them, they own it  
*'I say unto you...'*

Always sensitive to culture & social conditions & what God thinks about it & how He feels, which prompts a prophetic message. *Repent or face the consequences*. Prophets took on the role of revivalists, social & political reformers announcing Gods will for the people.

*2 For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men, but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. 3 But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. 4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.*

*Tongues* Grk glossa-ecstatic utterance, mysteries, beautiful secrets of believers to God. Always Godward for personal edification--your spirit in harmony, union, communion w/ Gods Spirit—bypass intellect (hang up).

Deep spiritual union w/ God where words become inadequate to express depth of emotions so spiritual gift of tongues-bypasses human weakness—

*Savanorola* 14<sup>th</sup> c 'when prayer reaches its ultimate words are impossible'

***Rom 8:26 And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us w/ groaning too deep for words.***

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Tongues benefits the believer Prophecy benefits the Church (word of God to the people of God) for edification-to build up, become strong in faith; for exhortation to get going, act on what you know, exercise your faith for lifestyle of pleasing God; comfort-assurance of your faith, strength to trust God He will work on your behalf.

Paul uses a word from architecture 'edifice' or edify. To build up- a building or body building. Corinthians selfishly ignoring others to build up themselves. WW 'A ministry that does not build up will tear down, no matter how spiritual it may seem'

***5 Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.***

Superiority of prophecy—because church is edified, built up whereas tongues edifies/build up only the believer. Unless interpretation of tongues then church is edified. It is always a greater value to have God speak to the church (prophecy) than to have the believer speak to God (tongues).

Note the gift of tongues is always us to God. Acts 2 'mighty deeds of God' Acts 10:46 'exalting/magnifying God' 1 Cor 14:2 'speak to God' ;16 'bless in the spirit only...at your giving thanks.' Never used for preaching the gospel or a message to the people. Illus tongues – 'little children thus says the Lord'

***6 But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what shall I profit you, unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching? 7 Yet even lifeless things, either flute or harp, in producing a sound, if they do not produce a distinction in the tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp? 8 For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle? 9 So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.***

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### **1Corinthians 14:1-19**

No value w/ tongues because it's for personal edification. To profit one to another there needs to be understanding—revelation, knowledge, prophecy, teaching. Illus musical instrument—Flute or harp are only sounds w/o meaning if can't distinguish the tune. 'Name that tune' not name that noise.

Bugle doesn't just blare but notes are played to alert military to various tasks—wake up, go to bed, assemble, chow, charge.

Bugle calls are musical signals that announce Army schedules and events.

**First call** (Assemble for a formation)—**Reveille** (Awaken for roll call. Also for raising the flag)—**Assemble** (Troops to assemble)--**Mess call**---**Lights out/Tattoo**

If indistinct noise some troops charge, others retreat others go to chow. don't know charge, retreat, go to chow. Tongues to you is worship to others it's indistinct gibberish and has no effect—Those who like to show off the gift.

*10 There are, perhaps, a great many kinds of languages in the world, and no kind is without meaning. 11 If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me. 12 So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.*

In foreign country not knowing language you feel isolated, helpless and try to find someone who speaks your language. Great relief when do.

Churches I've been in all speaking in tongues is not edifying and a misuse of gift. But we are to abound/excel be in excess of superabound in quantity or quality.

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*13 Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 What is the outcome then? I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind also; I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the mind also. 16 Otherwise if you bless in the spirit only, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? 17 For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified. 18 I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all; 19 however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind, that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.*

Paul makes a point of edification in congregation by means of clear speech. Tongues a gift for prayer closet not church service unless interpretation. Not a language but thoughts inspiration behind tongue

8 times understanding when speaking in church, he not opposed to tongues only the exercise in unspiritual and immature manner. I've been in service where all spoke on and on freak the kids out and Danita fanatics. Not quantity of words but quality of communication. Acting like kids w/ toys or immature proving spirituality. God wants to speak to His church clear language they can understand for edification-building up, exhortation-start doing, comfort-surround w/ strength.

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