

# Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth

## 1 Corinthians

Victory Christian Center    Elder Tim Herman    August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### Spiritual Gifts (Chapters 12-14)

- Chapter 14...order in church (tongues, prophecy)
  - 14:1-25...prophecy, tongues, interpretation
    - Vs 1-5...superiority of prophecy. In order (chapters 13 and 14):
      - Love
      - Faith
      - Hope
      - Spiritual gifts, led by wisdom, knowledge, and prophecy
    - Vs. 1...Greek for 'follow' is *dee-o'-ko* meaning to pursue in a hostile manner as a runner pursues the finish line...this is how we are to "follow" love. Greek for 'desire' is *dzay-lo'-o* meaning zealous pursuit. Greek for prophecy is *prof-ate-yoo'-o* meaning to either forth-tell or fore-tell. The context of verses 1-25 seem to indicate forth-telling is more what the Apostle Paul has in mind; to declare things that only be known by divine revelation.
    - Vs 2...tongues edifies a person, but benefits only one
  - 14:1-25...prophecy, tongues, interpretation
    - Vs 3...prophecy must do one of these three things
      - Edify (build up, strengthen)
      - Exhort (encourage, Greek means to 'stand beside')
      - Comfort (Greek is *par-am-oo-thee'-ah*, a compound word meaning a stimulating word of calmness and comfort)
      - There are times when a word of discipline or correction is needed, but the word of prophecy during a church service should not be used in that context
    - Vs 4...note the superiority of prophecy to tongues because of the benefit prophecy has to many people
    - Vs 5...tongues is equal to prophecy only if the interpretation is given.  
Example of tongues and interpretation:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odNyuqJjOac>
  - 14:1-25...prophecy, tongues, interpretation
    - Vs 6-25...use of tongues & interpretation
    - Vs 6...The gift of tongues will only benefit the church if the interpretation does one of 4 things:
      - Revelation...revealing things that were unknown
      - Knowledge...intelligence and understanding
      - Prophecy...telling forth the mind of God
      - Doctrine...teaching, instruction
    - Vs 7-12...speaking with clarity is critical in the church
    - Vs 13...conclusion of verses 7-12. A clear message is essential, therefore, the person speaking in tongues should pray that they interpret their own message.
    - Vs 14-18...private prayer is an excellent time to pray, sing, and worship in tongues, but during church the greatest purpose is to build up the whole church (requires interpretation and prophecy)
  - 14:1-25...prophecy, tongues, interpretation
    - Vs 6-25...use of tongues & interpretation

- Vs 20-25...use of tongues during a church service
  - Vs 20...don't be intellectually weak in the use or understanding of tongues
  - Vs 21...quoted from Isaiah 28:12. The prophecy in Isaiah referred to the Children of Israel being carried away to Assyria where God would speak to them in a language they did not understand as a judgment. The church should be careful to not do the same thing.
  - Vs 22...tongues with interpretation can be a powerful sign to unbelievers. But, note that Paul also states tongues are also for the benefit of the believers (verses 4, 15, 17, 18, and 39)
  - Vs 23-25...the use of tongues (and other expressions) must be tempered because there may be visitors who don't understand what's happening through tongues, but they will clearly understand prophecy. The goal should always be salvation and discipleship.
- 14:26-40...orderly worship
  - Vs 26..."Here's what I'm trying to say"...you all want to use your gifts, and that's a great thing. But everything must be done to strengthen the church.
  - Vs 27-28...note the specific instructions that tongues/interpretation must be done one at a time, and not more than three in any service. The gift of interpretation must be used with the gift of tongues.
  - Vs 29-31...gift of prophecy has similar restrictions as tongues/interpretation. Take turns, judge what is said, always instruct and encourage
  - Vs 32...critical verse for spirit-filled churches. A person's spirit must be kept under control...being out of control in church is not appropriate
  - Vs 33...God is not a God of disorder, Greek is *ak-at-as-tah-see'-ah* meaning confusion, disturbance, disorder
- 14:26-40...orderly worship
  - Vs 34-35...women should remain silent in the church...not allowed to speak in church...they are to be in submission...if they have questions, they should talk with their husbands at home...it's a disgrace for women to speak in church...see also 1 Tim 2:11, 12
    - Why did Paul say this?
    - Apparently this was a problem in the Corinth church, and may have been limited to Greek church culture
    - Similar problem with women found in chapter 11:3-16
  - Balance
    - Acts 21:8-9...4 daughters of Philip prophesied
    - Acts 2:17, 18...daughters and women (handmaidens) shall prophesy
    - Acts 18...Priscilla is a teacher and leader (note Acts 18:26)
  - Our view...this is a difficult passage doctrinally and socially. We believe women have full access and authority to all spiritual gifts, but should not usurp authority over men during church.
- 14:26-40...orderly worship
  - Vs 36-38...the church must receive instruction from leadership, not give it.
  - Vs 39...the conclusion: eagerly desire to prophecy, and don't forbid speaking in tongues
  - Vs 40...everything is to be decent and in order; Greek for order is *tax'-is* meaning a structured arrangement as in the military.
- Compare 12:1 with 14:40. I don't want you to be ignorant...God is a God of order.