**1 CORINTHIANS 14**

**“DECENTLY AND IN ORDER”**

**1 Corinthians 14:1** Pursue love, ***(The “more excellent way” CH12:31)*** and desire spiritual *gifts,* but especially that you may prophesy.

* Paul has not been shy about telling which gifts are more important than others… In this chapter he will take quite a bit of time comparing the gift of tongues to the gift of prophecy.
* IN THE CHURCH Paul will argue, prophecy is the superior gift. Why? Listen…

2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men **(people in Church)** but to God, for no one understands *him;* however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. (G3466 Silence… hand over mouth)

* Especially to those who do NOT speak in tongues – It IS mysterious. It gets less mysterious with time however, until someone comes along and abuses the gift.
* THEN it gets mysterious again as we wonder WHY they are making the gift about themselves??? **Tongues are for you and God… (Rom 8:26) *BUT…***

3 But he who prophesies **(Preaches)** speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, **(build (-er, -ing, up), edify, embolden.)** but he who prophesies edifies the church.

**THE APOSTLES WISH LIST**

5 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.

* In the Church – Interpretation ALWAYS accompanies tongues…

**TEACHING vs TONGUES**

6 But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you **(IE, little) unless** I speak to you either by revelation, ***(G601 – open the cover)*** by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching? ***Doctrine***

**DISTINCTION vs DYSFUNCTION**

7 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? 8 For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle? **(Bugle calls)**

* Teaching is distinction… Tongues can be dysfunction when misused.
* Does your cellphone ever make a noise you do not understand? (Not often, right?) When it does… it is annoying.
* Try to NOT be annoying with the gifts of the Spirit.
* When my dad gave me my first harmonica in 1970, he said, “Tim, don’t annoy people with this harp. Learn to play it well by yourself first.” **GOOD ADVICE**

9 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. **(Wasted)** 10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them *is* without significance.

* IE, being understood is VERY important! Especially when teaching.

11 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. **SO… We believe, Tongues are NOT for public consumption.**

12 Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual *gifts, let it be* for the edification of the church *that* you seek to excel. 13 Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, **(Eph. 6:18)** but my understanding is unfruitful.

* IE, Seek the gifts that will be a blessing to all of the Church. Not just yourself. BUT… Seek the gift of tongues as well for your relationship with God.

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN A PREACHER SAYS: “In Conclusion?”**

15 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. 16 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? 17 For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified.

* IE – Conduct church in the understanding (English) for us…
* We feel very strongly that teaching the word and worshipping the Lord in song is far more important than speaking in tongues.
* Our Pentecostal friends disagree, and though we love them, we disagree with them. It is a preferential difference, NOT a doctrinal difference as far as we are concerned.

**LISTEN TO PAUL’S PREFERENCE**

18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; 19 **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.

20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.

* NLT - Dear brothers and sisters, don't be childish in your understanding of these things. Be innocent as babies when it comes to evil, but be mature in understanding matters of this kind.

**TONGUES IN THE PROPHETS**

21 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. **Isaiah 28:11**

**HERE IS THE MOST DIFFICULT VERSE IN THE CHAPTER**

22 Therefore tongues are for a sign, [not] to those who believe but [not?] to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe. 

* In dealing with V22, we can take the high dive board or the low dive board approach to its hermeneutical interpretation.
* Here is my interpretation – YOU DECIDE which board I’m jumping off…
* It would be amazing IF miracles would cause people to give their hearts to Jesus… But **they will not**. FAITH is what people need to accept the Lord as Savior. IF miracles worked, then every sunrise and every sunset would do the deed for it is a miracle that in a universe of asteroids and chaos… that our meteorologists know to the second what time sunrise will be 100 years from today.
* SO… Speaking in tongues will not be what wins the lost… Teaching will!

**CRAZY vs NORMAL**

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?

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

* For those of us who have experienced some “CrAzY” stuff at church… We have an appreciation for the Apostle’s advice here.
* The Holy Spirit will never embarrass the Lord OR the Lord’s people. That means that His gifts will never do the same. SO…. Listen…

**ORDERLY WORSHIP**

26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. ***(It was rowdy)*** Let all things be done for edification.

27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, *let there be* two or at the most three, *each* in turn, ***(God never interrupts Himself)*** and let one interpret. 28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, **(V2 G3466 Silence… hand over mouth)** and let him speak to himself and to God.

29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. ***(With Scripture)***

30 But if *anything* is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

* Paul is describing what we now call an afterglow… A time set aside that is **NOT the church service** but a time afterwards where those who are comfortable with the gifts meet and enjoy them…
* HOWEVER, there is still an order to follow… Otherwise it can seem crazy. Listen…

32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

* NLT - Remember that people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can take turns.

33 For God is not *the author* of **confusion** but of **peace**, as in all the churches of the saints.

**QUIET Q & A**

34 Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but *they are* to be submissive, as the law also says. 35 And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak **(To their husbands)** in church. **Their church was divided by gender.**

36 Or did the word of God come *originally* from you? **(Corinthians)** Or *was it* you only that it reached?

* Paul has already spoken about women praying and prophesying in CH 11
* Here he is saying to NOT disrupt the service by hollering across the room.

**DO NOT FOLLOW REBELS**

37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.

39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

40 **Let all things be done decently and in order**.