

I Corinthians

(32) Prophecy is Greater than Tongues

1 Cor 14:1-17

14 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. 2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. 3 But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.

6 Now, brothers, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? 7 Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the flute or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? 8 Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? 9 So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. 10 Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. 11 If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and he is a foreigner to me. 12 So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

13 For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. 16 If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say 'Amen' to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? 17 You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified. NIV

Comparing the gifts of prophecy/tongues...14:1-5

What does Paul emphasize to the Corinthian church in 14:1-3? **12:7-11, 27-30**

What does he point out is the *fundamental* difference? 14:2-3; **14:4**

What does Paul specifically say is the *content* of speaking in a tongue? 14:2b; **Eph.3:1-9**

What does Paul mean in 14:5? Note: 12:7-11, 27-30 (already taught our gifts are *His choice*)

What is Paul's *penetrating* question to the 'tongues seekers'? 14:6

What object lessons does he now give? 14:7-8 And the application? 14:9

What truth is reinforced in 14:10-11? 14:9

How was this demonstrated at Pentecost? Acts 2:1-13; **2:8-11**

What action does Paul urge for one who speaks in a tongue? 14:12-13 Why? **14:5**

What truth does he point out about one speaking in tongues? 14:14-15

What's his next example? 14:16-17; 14:2; **14:26b**

And again, what is the acid test? 14:17; **14:26b**

Next: Then why tongues?

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Comparing the gifts of prophecy/tongues...14:1-5

What does Paul emphasize to the Corinthian church in 14:1-3? **12:7-11, 27-30**

He wants the church to desire the gift of prophecy rather than tongues. To edify!

What does he point out is the fundamental difference? 14:2-3; **14:4**

The church is not edified by tongues (no one understands) but prophecy edifies all.

What does Paul specifically say is the content of speaking in a tongue? 14:2b; **Eph.3:1-9**

The content is '...utters mysteries...'. Tongue = valid (human) language. Not gibberish.

What does Paul mean in 14:5? Note: 12:7-11, 27-30 (already taught our gifts are His choice)

I wish you all spoke in tongues, but unless interpreted, prophecy is better. Edify, 14:3!

What is Paul's penetrating question to the 'tongues seekers'? 14:6

Even if I, Paul, come to you speaking in tongues, what good is that to you? Not edifying.

What object lessons does he now give? 14:7-8 And the application? 14:9

Even musical instruments must give 'distinction'. So with you. Edify...or speak in air!

What truth is reinforced in 14:10-11? 14:9

Tongues is speaking real human languages. If you don't understand it, what good is it!

How was this demonstrated at Pentecost? Acts 2:1-13; **2:8-11**

Jews 'from every nation under heaven' heard the Galileans in their native language .

What action does Paul urge for one who speaks in a tongue? 14:12-13 Why? **14:5**

They should pray the Lord allows them to interpret. Ultimately it must edify the church,

What truth does he point out about one speaking in tongues? 14:14-15

If I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind isn't. I always want my mind in it!

What's his next example? 14:16-17; 14:2; **14:26b**

If you're praising God with your spirit (in tongues), how will others say 'Amen'?

And again, what is the acid test? 14:17; **14:26b**

You may be giving thanks well enough BUT others are not edified. It's always EDIFY!

Next: Then why tongues?