

Open Sails Series  
Prophecy, Tongues and the Church  
1 Corinthians 14:1-32

It was 1981 I was a junior in High School and it was a girl that got me interested in attending a certain Church.

A) I met her at a Christian concert – she was really cute – she invited me to come to her church. – So I went.

B) Side note: **The Lord can use anything to get somebody to church.**

1) My friend Jack Hibbs tells the story – the night he got saved – pulled up to two cute girls at a stop light – decided to follow them –

C) They pulled into CCCM – Monday night Greg Laurie –

So I was saved already – but it was this girl that got me to attend a new Church for a Sunday evening service.

A) Very different from my church – it was at Yorba Linda HS AND like the our Shadowridge Campus it met in a Gym

B) I walked in looking for this girl – harder than I realized since it was pretty packed –

1) **impressed – never been to Church in a School gym**

C) Music was great – the worship was Passionate – but then it happened, there was a break in the music

1) The Worship leader said: Ok lets all praise the Lord and all of a sudden 500-600 people were speaking in tongues.

D) I had never experienced anything like that before at my Church and needless to say – I was a little freaked out.

1) Even though it was pretty tame and actually sort of Sweet it left me wondering – what that was all about.

E) Lord what was that? – **IT SEEMED A BIT WIERD**

About that same time: Another friend of mine was going to a Bible study that was teaching her that if she was **really Baptized in the spirit she would speak in tongues.**

A) And so there she found herself – in a prayer circle with about 20 people and it happened, they all started speaking in tongues.

B) Not wanting to feel left out and isolated she started mumbling – the first thing that came to her mind, which was **hamburger, cheeseburger.**

C) Now Is that true? – is the sign that a person is really Baptized in the Spirit that they speak in tongues – **is that what the Bible teaches us?**

Well it seems that the Church in Corinth was wrestling with these same issues.

A) Recall in the introduction of this letter Paul wrote to this church and commended them saying:

1 Corinthians 1:4-7

**“I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup> even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift.”**

B) They were not lacking in any gift but the– but the problem was – not using them correctly.

C) So he wrote CH. 12-14 of 1 Cor. to give instruction – proper use.

And I want you to note that – Sandwiched between Ch.12 describing the gifts and **Ch. 14 Describing their use in Church**

A) Is Chapter 13 – Where the entire theme is love.

B) **That is significant:** The purpose of the gifts is not so that You can be **seen by others** or PUT ON A SHOW – NOT that **You get to have a voice** –

1) The theme is love and the body being built up – We will see that Clearly today!

C) **Speak with tongues ..... without love – gong Clanging symbol - noise**

As we look at this today – Talking about the gifts and their place in the Church we discover that Paul wants us to Pursue 3 things

- ❖ Pursue Love
- ❖ Pursue Understanding
- ❖ Pursue Order

### #1 Pursue Love

**Pursue love**, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy. <sup>2</sup> For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands *him*; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. <sup>3</sup> But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. <sup>4</sup> He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies **edifies** the church.

We notice here that Paul singles out two popular gifts to make his point clear.

A) Contrast Tongues and Prophecy.

B) Huge Distinction:

- ❖ Prophecy is directed to men
- ❖ Tongues is directed to God

C) Prophecy edifies the Church –

- ❖ Tongues edifies Self – individual

1) **Edification – is a major theme – in Chapter.**

D) The **word PROPHECY** derives from a Greek root which means "*to cause to shine*," & is linked with the prefix "**pro**" which means "**before**."

C) So a person w/ the gift of prophecy is one who stands before God's people and causes the word of God to shine. Heart REVEALED

D) More Forth telling than Fore telling or predictive in the NT

V.3 is key: **The Gift of Prophecy speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.**

**EDIFICATION** = TO BUILD UP

A) Word used in Architecture in referring to the establishing of a Building! Make Firm Solid

**B) EXHORTATION** = TO STIR UP -

1) parakaleo - ( PARACLETE ) primarily, "to call to ones side to help/ to admonish/ to urge one to pursue some course of conduct

**C) COMFORT** = TO LIFT UP!

1) Console – stimulate – encourage

D) SO the ministry of Prophecy is for:

- Building up!
- Stirring up!
- Lifting up!

E) So when someone comes and says something weird – (it happens ) "**I had a dream last night you were killed in a plane Crash.**"

1) Not Prophecy – probably – Pepperoni Pizza

❖ **Build up/ stir up/ lift up – Upwards**

**Think of it this way:**

A) Ever been out of gas on the side of the road? – Pushing

B) Along comes – help – they help push – they bring gas – they get you going again.

C) A word of PROPHECY works in much the same way – You come to a Bible study – out of gas – worn out / defeated

- 1) And what is taught is exactly what you needed – filling up the tank

D) Or your talking w/ a friend & they share a verse w/ you – **EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEEDED** – ( read your mind)

- 1) Wed. nights / RETREAT – scriptures shared – word of Prophecy – Someone needed to hear exactly that verse / cards / notes / e-mail

E) So that is prophecy – it builds up / Stirs up and lifts up the Body of Christ!

**What about the Gift of tongues – What is it?**

A) WHAT IT IS NOT! - It is NOT the ability to pick up a language quickly.

B) There are those that have the ability to pick up a language with great ease. **Greg Sivulka – Nick Cady**

1) But That is NOT the gift of tongues.

**What It Is?**

A) Speaking in tongues is speaking **TO GOD** in a language, that you don't know – by faith.

B) Words or phrases come to your mind that sound like gibberish – but you say them – you speak them

C) Known some people who thought my prayer language – sounds like Japanese – they repeat that phrase –

1) Sure enough – you are saying I praise you Lord

Example: First use: Turn to Acts 2 ( **KEEP PLACE IN 1 COR 14**

2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, **as the Spirit gave them utterance.**- KEY

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, **from every nation under heaven.** And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

**DIALECT**

V.7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8" And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?

**He gives a list of each background & language represented there & then says in v. 11 we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."**

**Note that again: we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."**

A) They were not preaching the gospel – If they were Peter would not have needed to preach a sermon.

B) So THE Disciples received this gift to speak in unknown Languages – even though they had no idea what they were saying

C) V.11 is key They were speaking forth the wonderful works of God – **in other words they were praising God!**

1) 1 Cor 14 – Paul told us - Tongues ARE directed toward God - They were Praising God!

D) **TURN BACK 1 COR 14**

Notice V. 15 Paul tells us that the gift of tongues is useful – **in individual prayer & individual Worship**

**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.**

**USED IN PRAYER: INTERCESSION - There are Times when I don't know how to Pray – when there is a tragedy!**

A) I have no idea how to pray – what the need is

**B) Sometimes – in worship – So moved in my spirit**

1) Sing in tongues – Public – very softly  
Private – might let lose!

C) So individually – tongues can benefit the individual believer – **Prayer & worship**

**Wow the gift of tongues sounds amazing – help me Worship God – created for – His pleasure**

A) Helps me pray – I definitely need help in that

B) Tongues sounds like an awesome gift — I want it!

1) That is a great DESIRE – You should pray for that.

C) But TONGUES is not the best gift!

**Notice what Paul tells us in V.5**

V. 5 *I wish you all spoke with tongues, (great for you – Also answers the question not everyone does – not the sign of Baptism....)*

V. 5 *I wish you all spoke with tongues, (great for you) but even more that you prophesied; (great for the church) for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.*

**So because I am pursuing love – thinking about building up – stirring up – lifting up others**

A) I am going to want to prophesy more than speak in tongues.

18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; (never heard me do that publically)

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.**

**B)Edification is the Heart - #1 Pursue Love**

**#2 Pursue understanding:**

<sup>6</sup> But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what **shall I profit** you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching? <sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle? <sup>9</sup> 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.** <sup>10</sup> There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them *is* without significance. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> **Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.** – GOAL

**See the Lord is forever trying to get us out of that Myopic –what is in it for me mentality that permeates – consumer minded Christian- today!**  
**A)NOT ABOUT ME – IT IS ABOUT HIM – WHAT HE WANTS TO DO WITH US! In us / Thru us**

**B)Understanding is a Key!**

**C)Paul uses 3 simple illustrations To make his point.**

**1)There needs to be understanding if there is to be any edifying spiritual ministry taking place**

**If the Musical instrument does not give a clear distinct sound nobody will recognize the music being played ( what is that? )**

**A)Me guitar (Smoke on water – foghat) – not worship**

**B)Trumpet in battle - unclear charge or retreat !**

**C)And there are many Languages in world / but if I can not understand - who cares, it is no use to me !**

**1)Foreign Country – you need to find a Bathroom - Bathroom? Giberish**

**D)BATH – ROOOM – slower – they will get it – (not gesture)**

**Paul in using these 3 illustrations Is basically stating A)that Tongues are great but if there is no one who can interpret, it is like being in a foreign country**

**B)Very frustrating / No one is going to be built up**

**<sup>13</sup> Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. <sup>14</sup> For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.**

**C)Since pursuing love – first – that means –We will pursue understanding –**

**D)Which means in the Church setting – Tongues needs to be accompanied with the gift of interpretation of Tongues.**

**E)The only way that Tongues benefits the body is if there is an interpreter.**

**1)Bring understanding to the utterance.**

**Goal – Church – Edified**

**So Pursue Love – leads Pursuing understanding**

**#3 Pursue Order – Not a free for all.**

**<sup>26</sup> 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. Let all things be done for edification. <sup>27</sup> If anyone speaks in a tongue, *let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret.* <sup>28</sup> But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. <sup>29</sup> Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. <sup>30</sup> But if *anything* is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. <sup>31</sup> For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.**

**<sup>32</sup> And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. <sup>33</sup> For God is not *the author* of**

confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

### SKIP TO

V.39 “Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. <sup>40</sup> **Let all things be done decently and in order.**

**So Paul is telling us here when the body comes together – church setting – home group**

A) Time of waiting on the Lord – gifts are functioning right way- there is peace – not confusion.

B) THERE IS AN ORDER! – Guidelines

**Tongues** V.27 – Two or at the most 3 w/ an Interpretation

A) The interpretation will be directed to God – NOT MEN! = **gift of discernment comes in -**

B) Often the problem Oh my people.....

1) Might be a prophecy but not interpretation

C) Tongues are Directed to God –not to men

**What if there is not a person with the gift of interpretation?**

A) V.28 No Interpretation let him keep silent –

B) Which - **I have Control** – Not Holy Spirit grabs your tongue and goes crazy – I couldn't help it

**What that would look like in a Church setting – Probably not on a Sunday am**

A) More of a time waiting on the Lord - Wed night

Sunday celebrate Jesus – Home group - Retreat

B) Someone speaks in tongues – PAUSE – WAIT – FOR INTERPRETATION no one speak...

1) NO ONE = NO MORE

**C) Courson story –**

D) Those are Guidelines for Tongues IN THE CHURCH SETTING.

1) One – three at the most – with an interpretation

**The guidelines for Prophecy are similar:**

A) V.29 One – Three and let the others judge.

B) This is where the gift of discernment comes in

C) Discern if the Prophecy is of the Lord

1) Follow the nature of the gift

D) **Building up / Stirring up / Lifting up**

V.32 **The spirit of the prophets is subject to the prophets**

So - Pursue Love leads to Pursuing understanding leads to pursuing order

### THE NEED FOR FAITH

A) Body edified – my place? God use me

B) OPEN SAIL -

C) In order for that to happen – it is going to take faith!

D) Don't be afraid to step out! –

1) RIGHT TIME – PLACE – SPEAK OUT

E) Friend – word of knowledge / wisdom / prophecy

**Pray for the gift of tongues : Private prayer or worship – brain – NUTS – BUT - Speak out –**

A) Sound like gibberish – believe – God says this is edifying me!

B) CAN'T BE AFRAID - OF THIS

C) Someone Sick – the gift of healing would be awesome right now!

1) Pray – Lord – He moves you to pray – Pray in faith

Supernatural God – Redemption – Supernatural work