**1 Corinthians 14**

*Paul specifically discusses the gift of tongues – the purpose, relative importance, and proper use of tongues in the assembly. He again deals with the role of women, and their subjection in the assembly. (Synopsis by Stan Cox)*

1. Inquiry from Corinthians **(7:1-16:4)** – *“Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me:”* **(7:1)**.
   1. Conduct in worship assembly **(11:2-14:40)**
      1. Spiritual Gifts **(12:1-14:40)**.
         1. The gifts of tongue speaking and prophecy **(14:1-25).**
            1. Prophecy is better than tongue speaking **(vv. 1-5).**

Pursue love and desire gifts – especially prophecy **(v. 1).**

Speaking in tongues (without an interpreter) is not understandable by men, so it is only speaking to God **(v. 2).**

Prophecy needs no interpreter, and is always able to edify, exhort, and comfort men **(v. 3).**

Prophecy edifies the church, whereas tongue speaking with no interpreter does not. Prophecy is better than tongue speaking **(vv. 4-5).**

* + - * 1. When speaking in tongues is profitable **(vv. 6-19).**

Without understandable language, which leads to revelation, knowledge, prophecy, or teaching tongue speaking is without profit **(v. 6).**

It is like playing an instrument without distinction between the sounds **(vv. 7-9).**

Without the interpretation, the speaker and listener are like foreigners to each other **(vv. 10-11).**

Therefore **(vv. 12-19):**

Be zealous for gifts for the edification of the church **(v. 12).**

Tongue speakers should pray for the interpretation **(v. 13).**

Prayer and singing in the Spirit should also be with the understanding **(vv. 14-19).**

* + - * 1. Tongue speaking and prophecy to believers and unbelievers **(vv. 20-25).**

Tongues are a sign to unbelievers, but prophecy is for believers **(vv. 20-22).**

Tongue speaking in the assembly without interpretation will give unbelievers the wrong impression **(v. 23).**

Prophecy – because it can be understood – will convince and convict the unbeliever, and he will turn to God **(vv. 24-25).**

* + - 1. The regulation of the use of gifts **(14:26-40).**
         1. Everything is to be done for edification **(v. 26).**
         2. Regulation for tongues **(vv. 27-28).**

Two or three can speak in turn with an interpreter **(v. 27).**

If there is no interpreter keep silent **(v. 28).**

* + - * 1. Regulation for prophecy **(vv. 29-33).**

Prophets are to speak in turn with others present to judge **(vv. 29-31).**

There should be no outbursts for the prophets are given control by God, for He is not the author of confusion **(vv. 32-33).**

* + - * 1. Regulation for women in the assembly **(vv. 34-38).**

Women are to keep silent in the assembly **(v. 34).**

If they have a question they are to ask their husband at home **(v. 35).**

These commands are given to every church, and they are from the Lord **(vv. 36-38).**

* + - * 1. Concluding remarks **(vv. 39-40).**

**Questions**

1. Why is prophecy considered better, or more advantageous, than speaking in tongues **(vv. 1-5)?**
2. What is the primary purpose of tongue speaking **(vv. 21-22)?**
3. Ultimately, how were spiritual gifts supposed to be utilized in the assembly **(v. 40)?**

**Another Question to Consider**

What are some contrasts between the modern “tongue speaking” and the tongue speaking described in **1 Corinthians 14?**