

## ***Gifts of Prophecy and Tongues Pt 2***

### **1Corinthians 14:20-40**

Paul is explaining the use of tongues for personal edification and gift of prophecy to edify the church. They were misusing & abusing the gift of tongues which was having a negative effect on the church. So

*20 Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be babes, but in your thinking be mature. 21 In the Law it is written, "BY MEN OF STRANGE TONGUES AND BY THE LIPS OF STRANGERS I WILL SPEAK TO THIS PEOPLE, AND EVEN SO THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME," says the Lord. 22 So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers, but to those who believe.*

Be not child in thinking **13:11** A child has not yet developed, immature selfish, want what they want. But mature has understanding wants what God wants.

Paul illus effect of tongues by Assyrian captivity w/ language not understood—a sign of judgment on disobedience, those who would not listen. **Isaiah 28:11,12 Deut 28:49**

Not listen to God so captivity & listening to tongues not understood.

So then :22 makes connection. Tongues as a sign (not to believers who listen--a gift used for personal edification) but a sign to unbelievers-unconverted who do not yet listen to God.

Also to church in Corinth (not listening) & Pentecostal church today. Describing the effect tongues has on them who do not heed Paul's instruction. But prophecy is for believers effective in church to build saints & convert unbelievers

*23 If therefore the whole church should assemble together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad? 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; 25 the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.*

*If therefore*—points back to what just said—whole church speaking in tongues & ungifted & unbeliever come in—to them it's pandemonium-

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will think you mad. Tongues then is a sign to unbelievers **you are mad.**

*But* on other hand, prophecy w/ understanding has different effect. If unbeliever & ungifted enter hearing Gods truths spoken clearly— conviction & conversion results hearing God's word expressed.

*Secrets of heart* – **'why tell pastor about me'** conviction results in faith, repentance and salvation.

CH Spurgeon preached what he felt was one of his worst sermons. He stammered & floundered & struggled his way thru & when he finished he felt it was a complete failure. He was terribly humiliated. When he got home he fell on his knees & said **'Lord God, You can do something w/ nothing. Bless that poor sermon.'** All thru the week he prayed that prayer. He woke up in the middle of the night & prayed about it. He determined that the next Sunday he would redeem himself by preaching a great sermon. Sure enough, that next Sunday the sermon went off beautifully. At the close, people crowded around him pouring out praise. Spurgeon went home pleased w/ himself, & that night he slept like a baby. But he said to him-self **'I'll watch the results of those two sermons.'** He did & discovered, from the one he thought went so poorly he was able to trace 41 converts. And from the other that he felt went so wonderfully he was unable to track even a single soul that was saved. God's spirit used the one & not the other. **Spurgeon concluded** **'My brother, you think you will put the gospel so clearly that they must see it, but their blind eyes overcome you. You think you will put it so zealously that they must feel it, but their clay-cold hearts defeat you. You may think you are going to win souls by your pleadings, but you might as well stand on the top of a mountain & whistle to the wind, unless the Holy Spirit be w/ you. After all your talking, your hearers will, perhaps, have caught your idea, but the mind of the Spirit, the real soul of the gospel, you cannot impart to them, this remains, like creation itself, a work which only God can accomplish.'**

It's the prophetic message not the messenger that reaches others.

Paul has contrasted gift of tongues w/ gift of prophecy

Gifts of the spirit are given to the church for the common good. Every member has a gift or gifts for the building up of the body. **Prophecy** is greater than **tongues**. Tongues edifies **self**-Prophecy the **church**.

**26** What is the **outcome** then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for **edification**. **27** If anyone speaks in

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*a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and let one interpret; 28 but if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God.*

*Outcome*—a variety of gifts expressed for edification, building up one another. All things done to edify--you know it in & after a service if--grieved, empty, bored or filled w/ sense of God's presence.

Tongues :27 in meeting 2 or 3 at most w/ interpretation-Godward but if no interpretation speak to self & God under breath.

*29 And let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment. 30 But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, let the first keep silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted; 32 and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets; 33 for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.*

Prophecy (2 or 3) & to be judged by prophets--discerning if biblically accurate—*ill Sandy Islands inundated* --if *Revelation apokalupto* – to uncover--remove a veil--open what was hidden--reveal a secret unknown thing - takes priority *ill guys in staff mtg* Prophecy one by one that all learn & be exhorted—Paul is dealing w/ church in the home.

*2 avid golfers-'you know how we always wondered if there's golf in heaven'. Ya! God gave me a prophetic dream last night & told me two things. The first is yes there is golf in heaven. What's the second? You tee off tomorrow.*

*Spirits of prophets* subject to prophets-Holy Spirit is in you & you know scriptures so you discern & determine if biblical.

God doesn't **confuse** His people & if confusion or chaos in a meeting get it back on track—spiritual atmosphere is one of peace not confusion, or weirdness--if uneasy & out of order it's not the Lord but the flesh. *ill ladies AG church wailing. Illus me in room after dick*

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*34 Let the **women** keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but let them subject themselves, just as the Law also says. 35 And if they desire to learn anything, let them **ask** their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church. 36 Was it from you that the word of God first went forth? Or has it come to you only?*

Paul already mentioned women praying and prophesying in church **11:5** so here he is dealing w/ disruptive behavior. Men on one side women on other in larger gatherings.

Women shout across *'what's he mean?'* so keep silent ask at home.

Women are as free & gifted as men to participate, some far more, but not to disrupt. **Heavy weight visiting apostle (so called) wailing women disrupt**

**36** No single church has special anointing--spiritual elite. God's gifts are for all believers who zealous seek after.

*37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's **commandment**. 38 But if anyone does not **recognize** this, he is not recognized. 39 Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues. 40 But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.*

It's possible to use God's gifts in a carnal way--pride yourself on being a little better than the rest of us. **Spiritual pride is an ugly thing.**

Puffed up because God is using you & thinking *'I'm a cut above the rest of them'* is sickening in God's eyes. *'Let another praise you and not you yourself'* **Pr 27:2 'A person is tested by the praise accorded him'** **Pr 27:21 Do not think more highly of yourself than you ought to think but think as to have sound judgment Rom 13:3 Spiritual pride brings w/ it ignorance.**

What Paul writes are God's commands--instructing the use of gifts. To reject & continue on w/ unbiblical traditions which violates God's word

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'*God not recognize*-KJ ignorant' *Agnoeo* agnostic-not in the know  
unacquainted w/--having no discernment of. *God not recognize you*

Then Paul comes back to *zelo* prophecy & ok tongues. But decently  
and in order so Gods peace & work of Spirit has maximum effect on  
body of Christ and ungifted & unbelievers who come into meeting.

***Jesus is the spirit of prophecy Rev 19:10***--the embodiment of  
God's word, outshining of God's glory & truth—therefore prophecy  
glorifies Christ, exalts His redemptive work, displays the divine  
character of His word. *Bible is 1/4 prophecy.*

Also prophecy has a predictive element--over 300 prophecies  
concerning Jesus Christ 1st coming w/ precise details & accuracy.  
Even more of His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

Often a prophet declared future events based on present conditions.  
Predictions were viewed in the light of how God dealt in the past  
under similar conditions. *BG 'If God does not judge America.'*

More true today than ever before—rejecting what Christ has done for  
you is to spit in the face of God but to believe and receive is to have  
life and that more abundant.

**COMMUNION**