

The Gifts in Worship

1 Corinthians 14: 1 – 40

1) The Gift of Tongues

- Jesus said that those who believe in him will speak in new tongues (Mark 16: 17)
- At Pentecost the disciples spoke in tongues when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 2)
 - They spoke actual known languages that they hadn't learnt
 - There have many a number of contemporary testimonies of this happening.
- The Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles in Cornelius's house and they spoke in tongues (Acts 10: 44 – 46)
- In Ephesus Paul Baptised 12 men and after he prayed for them they spoke in tongues and prophesied (Acts 19: 6)

- 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 ...He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself... (vs. 2, 4)
 - By this we understand that tongues can be an actual (as seen above in Acts 2) but is a God given language that no one understands.
 - It is a spiritual language that does not edify the church but edifies the speaker.
- God gives the gift of interpretation to some people so that if someone speaks in tongues in the church he/she can interpret what God wants to say to the church that the church may be edified/built up.
- What good is it to the church if I stand up and speak in tongues?
 - Even musical instruments need to play distinct notes to know what tune is being played (vs. 7 – 8)
 - No one will know what I am saying and I will just be speaking into the air (v.9)
- If I do not understand the meaning of what someone is saying I am a foreigner (Barbarian i.e. non-Greek) to him and he is a foreigner me. (v.11)
- Paul exhorts the Church to excel in the gifts that build up the church
 - **Do not lean towards being super spiritual but rather let your spirituality manifest in the up building of the church.**
 - Anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says (v.13)
- What about praying in tongues?
 - Paul does not condemn praying in tongues or does not say that it isn't from God. He merely states that it isn't beneficial to the church
 - When praying in tongues our minds are unfruitful as it is our spirit that prays. (v.14)
 - Romans 8: 26 "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."
 - However it is not true that to "pray in the spirit" is synonymous to praying in tongues. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit He can give us the words to pray.
 - Paul says that "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.
 - Thus it is possible to pray and to sing "in the spirit" in a tongue that we do not understand but it is better to pray and sing in a language that everyone understands otherwise we are giving thanks and praise to God but the others in the church aren't being edified. (v. 17)

- Paul spoke in tongues but he preferred not to in the church as he would rather speak 5 intelligible words to instruct others than 10 000 words in a tongue. (vs. 18 – 19)
 - He would like every one to speak in tongues, but he would rather have them prophesy (v.5)
- Tongues is a sign for unbelievers, not believers (v. 22)
 - At Pentecost many believed when the church spoke in tongues and they heard the gospel in their own languages.

2) The Gift of Prophecy

- Greek: *prof-ate-yoo'-o* – to speak under inspiration
- We are told to eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy (v.1)
- Everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort (v.3)
- He edifies the church and not merely himself (v.4)
- He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues unless the one who speaks in tongues also interprets what he is saying (v.5)
- Prophecy – a message given under inspiration of the Holy Spirit – brings conviction of sin and leads sinners to worship God. (vs. 24 – 25)

The building up or edification of the church is mentioned 8 times in this chapter. Thus this is Paul's emphasis. What we do in worship MUST build up, edify, strengthen, encourage, comfort the church. Christian worship is Not merely a personal issue but a corporate one.
IF THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN THEN DON'T DO IT!!!

3) God is not a God of disorder but of peace

- How does this affect our worship?
 - Doesn't the worship team lead the worship and then the Pastor give the message?
 - Where is the opportunity for speaking in tongues and prophesy?
- What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. (v.26)
- Everything should be done in an orderly way:
 - If anyone speaks in a tongue, two--or at the most three--should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God. (vs. 27 – 28)
 - Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. (vs. 29 – 30)
- The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. (vs.32 – 33)
 - We are in control of what we do. We cannot just jump up and start speaking saying that "God made me do it and I had no control over it."
 - If we have no control over what we do then it is not the Spirit of God but a demonic spirit.
- Women were inquiring about what was happening in the church. Paul exhorts them to ask their husbands at home rather than disrupt the church with their inquiries. (v. 33 – 35)
- We are exhorted to be eager to prophesy and not to forbid speaking in tongues as long as everything is done in a fitting and orderly way (vs. 39 – 40)