

Speaking in Tongues and Prophecy Pt. 3-4

September 21, 2014 AM & PM

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

- *Abuses of the gifts and the congregation occur when love is not pursued.*
- *We should seek to be participants, not spectators.*
- *Prophecy is different than teaching; it is a spontaneous, momentary burst of inspiration from God, nudging His people in a specific direction.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

- *Praying or speaking in tongues is participating in the eternal mysteries of God's sovereignty, plans and purposes far beyond human comprehension.*
- *Praying in tongues manifests in two roles, praise and petition.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:3 On the other hand, **the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.**

Abuses of Prophecy (examples)

- **personal prophecy** - *the gift of prophecy operates in the context of community*
- **personal guidance** - *directing or controlling someone's life*
- **rebuking or exposing of specific sin** - *sin is dealt with by Biblical teaching and church leadership*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:4 The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.

- build up (*oikodomeo*) *the act of building, spiritual advancement, edification, instruction, promoting growth and strength*
- *There is a supernatural transfer of divine life, energy, strength and power when we pray or speak in tongues; the same transfer occurs to the congregation through the gift of prophecy.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:5 Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. **The one who prophesies is GREATER THAN the one who speaks in tongues**, unless someone interprets, **so that the church may be built up.**

- *The spiritual benefit and advancement of the community are greater than that of the individual.*
- *Our goal and focus with spiritual gifts are what advances the community, not what advances self.*
- *Philippians 2:3 "Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. "*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:6 Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, **HOW WILL I BENEFIT YOU** unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

7 If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played?

8 And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle?

9 So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? **For you will be SPEAKING INTO THE AIR.**

- **1 Corinthians 13:1-2**
1 *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*
2 *And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, **I AM NOTHING.***
- *The gifts of God are **WORTHLESS** (and dangerous) if they are not used for the benefit of others instead of self-promotion.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:10 There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, 11 but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me.

12 **So with yourselves, since you are EAGER FOR MANIFESTATIONS of the Spirit, STRIVE TO EXCEL in BUILDING UP THE CHURCH.**

- *There is a putrid, festering, parasitic cancer when Christians come to church as spectators seeking only to take instead of give, but what miracles occur when they come to serve!*
- **"STRIVING TO EXCEL" requires:**
 - *prayer*
 - *the Word of God*
 - *learning to be led by the Spirit*
 - *practice*
 - *willingness to risk*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:13 Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue **should pray that he may interpret.**

- *The onus to interpret is on the one who feels compelled to speak in tongues, thereby minimizing any motive of selfish ambition or self-exaltation.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:14 For if I pray in a tongue, **my spirit prays** but **my mind is unfruitful.**

- *The mind is disengaged in both the articulation and comprehension.*
- *Speaking in a known language requires the brain to engage. The words come from the brain. When praying in tongues, the brain disengages and the words flow from the spirit, or heart, by the Holy Spirit.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:15 What am I to do? **I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.**

- *There is benefit to praying with the spirit that praying with the mind cannot provide.*
- *There is benefit to praying with the mind that praying with the spirit cannot provide.*
- *Pray with the mind for what you can perceive; pray with the spirit for what you can't.*
- *Your prayer life is incomplete and hindered if you're only praying one way, but not the other.*

Romans 8:26 “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For **we do not know what to pray for as we ought**, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. “

Ephesians 6:18 “**praying at all times in the Spirit**, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.”

1 CORINTHIANS 14:16 Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?

17 For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

18 **I thank God that I SPEAK IN TONGUES MORE THAN ALL OF YOU.**

19 Nevertheless, **IN CHURCH I would rather** speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

- *Once again Paul sets the priority in church: the corporate benefit always comes first.*
- *The inference from Paul's wording is that he speaks (or prays) in tongues in church and out of church (privately).*
- *Paul's enthusiasm and example should motivate us to speak and pray in tongues more.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:20 Brothers, **do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.**

- *Children are selfish and self-centered.*
- *It is evil to use God's gifts for self-promotion or selfish advantage.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:21 In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.”

22 **Thus TONGUES are a sign not for believers but for UNBELIEVERS, while PROPHECY is a sign not for unbelievers but for BELIEVERS.**

- *If an **UNBELIEVER** or outsider comes to a church service, someone speaking in tongues will most probably be what stands out to them the most. For the unbeliever, that will be the most remarkable and most memorable, therefore that will be the “sign” to them of God's presence and Spirit, when the tongues are interpreted.*
- *For the **BELIEVER** who is accustomed to speaking in tongues, what will stand out to them the most will probably be a prophetic utterance which speaks directly and accurately to their heart condition or the current circumstances in their life. That will be the believer's “sign” that God is present.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:23 If, therefore, the whole church comes together and **all speak in tongues**, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, **WILL THEY NOT SAY that you are OUT OF YOUR MINDS?**

- *Paul is using the example of ALL, or everyone in the church, speaking in tongues with no interpretation(s).*
- *Exercising spiritual gifts is not to be done in a way that brings confusion or needless derision and criticism on the church. Church is not to be a circus sideshow.*
- 1 Corinthians 14:40 “But all things should be done decently and in order.”
- Acts 2:12-13
12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

13 *But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all,

25 **the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that GOD IS REALLY AMONG YOU.**

- *Church should and must go far beyond uplifting music and meaningful sermons. We are to seek God's manifest presence and power. **WHOM DID PEOPLE LEAVE IMPRESSED WITH?***
- 1 Corinthians 2:4-5
4 *and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in **DEMONSTRATION** of the **SPIRIT** and of **POWER**,*
5 *that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:26 What then, brothers? **When you come together, EACH ONE has a HYMN, a LESSON, a REVELATION, a TONGUE, or an INTERPRETATION. Let all things be done for building up.**

- *Members of the community are commanded to come ready to give as well as receive.*
- *Time is to be given for different members to minister to the community.*
- Ephesians 5:18-20
18 *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but **BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT**,*
19 *addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,*
20 *giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:27 If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret.

28 **But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them KEEP SILENT IN CHURCH and SPEAK TO HIMSELF and TO GOD.**

- *If there is no one to interpret, or you are unsure if there is someone to interpret, don't speak out to the congregation in tongues, but you can pray in tongues quietly, to yourself and to God.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:29 Let **TWO OR THREE** prophets speak, and **LET THE OTHERS WEIGH WHAT IS SAID.**

30 **If a revelation is made to another sitting there, LET THE FIRST BE SILENT.**

31 **For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged,**

32 **and THE SPIRITS OF PROPHETS ARE SUBJECT TO PROPHETS.**

- *There is a limit on individual sharing to give priority to the worship of God and Biblical teaching.*
- *Prophecy and revelations are shared publicly in the community for accountability, not privately in a back room.*
- *The Holy Spirit moves in humility and maturity, preferring and honoring others first.*
- *There is no prompting or leading of the Holy Spirit which is irresistible nor uncontrollable.*