

The Gift of Tongues and Praying in Tongues

1 Corinthians 14

- A. Many differentiate between the spiritual gift of tongues and praying in tongues.
1. Some propose that everyone can p_____ in tongues but not everyone is given the spiritual g_____ of tongues.
 2. Some propose that praying in tongues should be a spiritual d_____.
 3. 1 Cor 11 has much to say about this. Will you accept what God says about this?
- B. A verse-by-verse understanding
1. Paul begins the chapter with a command (v. 1):
 - a. P_____ (run after) agape love (the motivation we are to have behind all that we do)
 - b. But earnestly d_____ spiritual gifts is better translated be zealous of spiritual gifts (i.e. the abilities designed by God to build up the church body)
 - c. Especially (KJV – rather) that you p_____
 - 1) The Greek word translated as *especially* or *rather* is a word of c_____ (some, more, most)
 - 2) But how can a person be zealous to prophesy if no prophecy is an act of human w_____ (2 Pet 1:21)?
 2. Paul continues with an e_____ of what he means by prophesying as is indicated by the word, “For”
 - a. A person who speaks in a t_____ (as the Corinthians practiced it) were not speaking to people but to God since no one could understand what was being said (v. 2)
 - 1) This cannot be talking about the spiritual gift of tongues since the spiritual gift of tongues was spoken to m_____ and not to God and could be understood by the unbeliever (see Acts 2:8)
 - 2) This must be talking about the emotional babbling that was being practiced in the Corinthian church which did not edify anyone except o_____.
 - b. A person who prophesies speaks to people and edifies (or builds up) the c_____ (vv. 3,4)
 3. Paul wants the Corinthians to speak in tongues not in the nonsense of babbling but in the sense of p_____ (v. 5).
 - a. Tongues is only beneficial if it is a word of r_____, knowledge, prophecy, or teaching (v. 6).

- b. Paul is equating true tongues with prophecy (which edifies the church)
4. Paul gives an illustration (vv. 7,8)
- With playing m_____ (v. 7) – a melody for others to hear as opposed to producing indistinct tones.
 - With a call to b_____ (v. 8) – an army needs to hear the notes.
5. Paul applies the illustration (vv. 9-12)
- Speech has to be c_____ so that people can know what is being said (v. 9)
 - Every language in the world has m_____, but only to the one who knows it. (v. 10)
 - Imagine two people who do not know one another's language trying to speak to one another. What would they sound like to one another? (v. 11) _____
 - Therefore, be zealous for the spiritual gifts that b_____ the people of the church.
6. Paul deals with praying in tongues (vv. 13-19)
- He shows that it is better to pray with u_____ than to pray in tongues without understanding (vv. 13-15)
 - He emphasizes that praying in tongues in earshot of others does not e_____ anyone but oneself (vv. 16,17)
 - He shows that it is better to speak f_____ words that people can understand instead of 1,000 words that they cannot understand (vv. 18,19)
7. Paul gives scriptural understanding about the gift of tongues and of prophecy (vv. 20-33)
- The spiritual gift of tongues are a s_____ to unbelievers.
 - If the whole church assembles and everyone speaks in nonsensical tongues when unbelievers are visiting, they will say that you are c_____.(v. 23)
 - If the whole church assembles and everyone prophesies to a visiting unbeliever (i.e. speaks in the unbeliever's language which they have never learned), he will be convicted and declare that God is surely a_____ you.
 - All things must be done for the purpose of edification, which means b_____ up the people of the church.
 - If the spiritual gift of tongues is truly given, then not all will be speaking at once, but each person will speak in t_____ (v. 27)

- 2) If the spiritual gift of tongues is truly given, then there will be an i_____ so that all will be built up (v. 27)
 - 3) If a person prays in a tongue (babbles), then he must keep s_____ as he prays to God. (v. 28) – notice that Paul does not condemn such praying.
- c. True prophecy will be done in an orderly fashion because God is not a God of c_____ but of peace (vv 29-33).

C. Conclusion:

1. Praying in tongues is not the s_____ as the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues.
2. There is nothing wrong with being emotional to the point of just babbling to God as long as it is done s_____ within one's spirit.
3. It is much more spiritual to pray with u_____ than to pray in tongues.
4. No one should forbid the exercise of the spiritual gift of tongues (v. 39)