

Scripture this week:

1 Corinthians 14:1-25

¹ Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. 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. ³ On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. ⁴ The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. 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. 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. 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. ¹³ Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret.

Scripture this week:

1 Corinthians 14:1-25 cont.

¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. 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. 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. ²⁰ Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. 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. 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? 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.

Dedicated to Pursuing and Sharing God's Truth

1 Corinthians 14:1-25

Keith Gove - November 28, 2021

Prophecy and tongues are both good gifts, but Paul is calling the Corinthians and us to desire more of God's clear truth for the Church and for those yet to believe.

- God's truth builds up the Church

- God's truth diminished is unhelpful for the Church

- God' truth diminished is potentially devastating for those yet to believe

- Desire more of God's clear truth

Life Group Discussion Questions

Based on 1 Corinthians 14:1-25

Reading the Text:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 and 14:1. Paul encourages the Corinthians to desire certain gifts/expressions. How are they/we to desire something that is a gift?
2. Describe the contrast Paul makes between tongues and prophecy in vv. 2 - 19. How is Paul using the word '*tongues*' here - for known human language or unknown spiritual language?
3. All the gifts are from God (12:4-6) given to build up the church (12:7), and all the gifts are indispensable (12:21-22). So, how does Paul define the '*higher*' gifts?
4. In vv. 22 - 25, Paul says speaking in unintelligible tongues is not the definitive sign of God's presence among believers. So, what is the sign of God's presence among His people? What does that sign have the power to do when non-believers show-up?

Knowing the Full Picture:

5. Compare Paul's description of tongues here in 1 Corinthians to the expression of '*tongues*' that occurred at Pentecost in Acts 2:1-8. Paul acknowledges both expressions in 1 Corinthians 13:1, but which expression has apparently gained prominence in Corinth?

Living It Out:

6. Have you ever seen the gift of tongues being utilized in a church service? Was it human languages or a spiritual language? Was it interpreted? How did you feel?
7. Given how God has gifted you, how easy is it for you to speak truth about God into a situation with family, friends, or co-workers?
8. How can our experience in Life Group help us grow in speaking more of God's truth in more situations?