

## SURVEY OF 1st CORINTHIANS, CHAPTER 14

**We will begin with a six-point review important to understanding chapter 14.**

1. It is interesting that chapter 14 is the longest of the three chapters on Spiritual Gifts especially since Paul classified them as Temporary Gifts (1 Cor.13:8-10).
2. 1 Cor.14 highlights two Temporary Spiritual Gifts that were causing ministry problems in the assembly of the Corinthian Church during the early Church Age period: Tongues versus Prophecy.
  - (1 Cor.14:23-26, 33, 40) Problems with visitors (1 Cor.14:16-19).
3. These were part of the problems that he was addressing with the Spectacular Gifts taught about in (1 Cor.12:12-27).
4. The nine temporary spiritual gifts to be abolished, or would cease, are listed by Paul in (1 Cor.12:8-10). Also note that they are listed by sets.
5. The temporary spiritual gift of prophecy would **be abolished** with the coming of the **Perfect** during the Church Age (1 Cor.13:8-10) The **Perfect** was The Canonization of the Bible (James 1:25).
6. The temporary spiritual gift of tongues would cease when it accomplished its divine purpose as a sign to Israel during the Church Age (1 Cor.14:20-23).

**NOTE:** We will follow the Updated NASB division of (1 Cor.14:1-40) into seven sections for study: (1 Cor.14:1-5; 6-12; 13-19; 20-25; 26-33; 34-36; and 37-40).

<b>This lesson will Survey each of the seven sections of 1 Cor.14:1-40.</b>
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**1<sup>st</sup> section (14:1-5) - bridge idea from (1 Cor.13) “pursue (dioko/ p.a.impv.2pl) love (ten agape).”**

- The pre-eminence of prophecy over tongues in the assembly hour,
  - Preference of ‘speech to mind’ over ‘speech to spirit’
  - Speech to mind for edification, exhortation, and consolation of the church body.
- Why does Paul wish all spoke in tongues but didn’t (1 Cor.12:28)?
  - So that more Jews could get saved (Rom.9-11)?
  - The one speaking in Tongues must have a gifted interpreter while in assembly.

**2<sup>nd</sup> section (14:6-12) - What profit will the assembled profit from tongues unless by revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? (There wouldn’t be any!)**

**He gives a:**

- Musical instrument illustration of profit (wouldn’t)
- A bulge for warfare illustration of profit (wouldn’t)
- A language illustration (wouldn’t)
  - What is important in the assembly is edification of the body of Christ, the church.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> section (14:13-19) - Tongues must have an interpreter.**

- Prayer in tongues was unfruitful to mind; ungifted (you idiots) [unskilled in language spoken] (14:16) unskilled is not edified.
- Paul was skilled in languages; he desired to speak five words with his mind than 1000 words in a tongue (edification).

### **4<sup>th</sup> section (14:20-25) - Edification is for spiritual growth (child to adult).**

- (Isa.28:11) “Strange tongues” was speaking in different languages.
  - Speaking to Jews in Gentile languages was a sign to those Jews of the coming judgment upon them (The 5<sup>th</sup> cycle of Divine Discipline) (Lev.26 and Deut.28) (1 Cor.1:22).
  - Tongues was a sign to the unbeliever, not the believer, while Prophecy was to the believer and not to the unbeliever!
  - Jewish visitors would get the wrong impression; not so with prophecy, which affects the “secrets of the heart” for worship.

### **5<sup>th</sup> section (14:26-33) – The Assembly is for Psalms; teaching; revelation; tongues and interpretation; all things done for edification**

- Paul issues an order for tongues to be silent if interpretation is not present in assembly.
- Paul also instructed that prophecy and discerning spirits would be orderly, in order that learning and exhorting would take place.
  - God is not a God of confusion, but of order; this is true in all Churches.

### **6<sup>th</sup> section (14:34-36) - there were three areas of disorder in the Corinthian church:**

- **Tongues and Prophecy and Women**; most of the spiritual learning should take place in the HOME; its origin was the Garden of Eden.

### **7<sup>th</sup> section (14:37-40) - Paul is writing the Lord’s commandments on this subject for New Covenant believers.**

- Paul is claiming Apostolic privilege; saying, desire earnestly prophecy, but allow tongues when regulated; “Let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.”
- The entire subject of (1 Cor.14) occurs during early Christian history, between **30AD** (Pentecost), **70AD** (the fall of Israel to Rome, and **100AD** (The Canonization of the Bible).
- **30AD** was when all Spiritually Gifted ministries were given to the body of Christ, the Church.
- **70AD** was when Tongues and Interpretation CEASED.
- **100AD** was when the other gift (sets) listed in (1 Cor.12:8-10) were ABOLISHED