

SPIRITUAL GIFTS IV: Tongues & Prophecy

1 Corinthians 14

Ice Breaker: Have you ever learned a foreign language? Which one? If you could learn any language in the world, what would it be?

BACKGROUND: The Corinthians believers were so impressed by the glitz and wonder of spiritual gifts that they lost their perspective and forgot the purpose of these gifts.

THE BIG PICTURE: Spiritual gifts glorify God and build up the body of Christ. Gifts should never be misused, envied or cause division.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Introduction: Contrasts tongues & prophecy 14:1

- Verse one tells us to “pursue love and desire spiritual gifts.” What is the difference between pursue and desire? How do you intentionally pursue love? In what specific ways do we desire spiritual gifts?
- Paul tells the Corinthians that they should desire spiritual gifts, but especially the gift of prophecy. What is prophecy? How is the gift of prophecy used?
- Why does Paul exhort the Corinthians to desire prophecy more so than tongues?

Tongues and prophecy contrast in whom they speak to and build up 14:2-5

- What is the definition of the gift of tongues? How is this gift used?
- Who is someone speaking to when he speaks in a tongue? prophecies?
- What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?
- Who is built up when the gifts of tongues is used? prophecy?
- What is required to make the gift of tongues edifying to the church (v5)?
- How does Paul distinguish between the public and private use of gifts?
- Why does Paul caution the use of tongues in public worship?
- How should all gifts be used?

Examples demonstrating the importance of speaking so all can profit 14:6-15

- Paul uses the metaphor of musical instruments. What point does he make (v7-9)?
- Why should our communication be intelligible (v10-12)? What should we strive for?

The purpose of gifts revisited 14:16-25

- How does Paul emphasize the importance of using our spiritual gifts properly?
- In verse 21, Paul quotes the prophet Isaiah. What does Isaiah 28:9-13 say about being mature in understanding?
- What other difference between tongues and prophesying is found (v22)?
- What is the relationship between the way we worship and the purpose of worship?

CONCLUSION:

- What has been your experience with the gifts of tongues and prophecy? How have these scriptures helped you understand these gifts better?
- How are you building up the body of Christ with your gifts?
- What is one way you will “pursue love” this week?