



**CHRIST
BIBLE CHURCH**

Glorifying God by bringing all of Christ into all of life.

URGENT

1st
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1 Corinthians



The Apostle Paul's Mission to the Corinthians



Christ Bible Church

Adult Bible Class Calendar Fall 2023



Date			Lesson Portion of 1 Corinthians
1	September	10	Review & Preview
2	September	17	1 Corinthians 11:2-16
3	September	24	1 Corinthians 11:17-34
4	October	1	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
5	October	8	1 Corinthians 12:12-20
6	October	15	1 Corinthians 12:21-31
7	October	22	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
8	October	29	1 Corinthians 14:1-12
9	November	5	1 Corinthians 14:13-25
10	November	12	1 Corinthians 14:26-40
11	November	19	1 Corinthians 16:1-11
12	November	26	1 Corinthians 16:12-24



Concerning Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12-14





Concerning Spiritual Gifts

Prophecy and Tongues

(14:1-40)



1 Corinthians 11-16

- I. Introduction (1:1-9).
- II. Response to Received Reliable Oral Reports from the Corinthians (1:10-6:20).
- III. Response to a Letter from the Corinthians (7:1-16:4)
 - A. Concerning Marriage and Related Questions (7:1-40).
 - B. Concerning Foods Sacrificed to Idols (8:1-11:1).
 - C. Concerning the Christian Assembly (11:2-34).
 - D. Concerning Spirituality & Spiritual Gifts (12:1-14:40).
 - 1. The Crucial Test: Jesus is Lord (12:1-3).
 - 2. The Diversity of Gifts within One Body (12:4-31a).
 - 3. The Crucial Accompaniment: Love (12:31b-13:13).
 - 4. Prophecy and Tongues are for Edification (14:1-40).
 - a. The Superiority of Prophecy over Tongues (14:1-25).
 - (1) Tongues & Prophecy Contrasted (14:1-5).
 - (2) The Necessity of Intelligibility (14:6-12)
 - (3) Stipulations for Tongue-Speakers (14:13-19).
 - (4) Tongues as a Sign from God (14:20-25).
 - E. Concerning the Resurrection of the Body (15:1-58).
 - F. Concerning the Collection (16:1-4).
- IV. Conclusion (16:5-24).





Concerning Spiritual Gifts

The Superiority of Prophecy over Tongues

(14:13-25)





Stipulations for Tongues-Speakers



1 Corinthians 14:13-19

- Following what Paul has written in 14:1-12, it is reasonable to expect that he would express some clear restrictions on those who speak in tongues.
- Paul nowhere denigrates speaking in tongues, which he regards as virtually praying to God. Yet, the apostle insists that wherever speaking in tongues takes place, interpretation must follow.



1 Corinthians 14:13-19

Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 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. 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? For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. Nevertheless, in church, I would rather speak five words with my mind to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.



Stipulations for Tongues-Speakers



1 Corinthians 14:13-15

- Why is speaking in tongues unintelligible? Such speech does not originate from a fruitful mind.
- Rather, speaking in tongues erupts from one's "spirit" by means of the Holy Spirit.
- Paul will make clear later that in contrast to speaking in tongues, "the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets" (14:32).
- Prophesying engages both "spirit" and "mind" resulting in intelligible speech.



Stipulations for Tongues-Speakers



1 Corinthians 14:16-17

- “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?”
- No dispute about the tongues-speaker’s authenticity. Yet, he presses the issue of praising God intelligibly.
- What about an “outsider” or an “inquirer”?
- How can someone say “Amen!” to one does not understand?



Stipulations for Tongues-Speakers



1 Corinthians 14:18-19

- Lest any conclude Paul dismisses the gift of tongues he offers a qualification.
- “I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.”
- This is not a boast but an assurance that he cherishes the gift.
- “Nevertheless, in church, I would rather speak five words with my mind to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.”
- Paul introduces his main point in this section.
- Christian assemblies must be gatherings where intelligible speech is practiced.
- God gave the gift of language and the gift of tongues to instruct not to flaunt one’s spiritual gift.



1 Corinthians 14:20-25

Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking, be mature. 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.” Thus, tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. 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? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, 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.



Tongues as a Sign of Judgment

1 Corinthians 14:20-25



- Here, Paul's concern is the relation of tongues and prophecies to “unbelievers” and “inquirers.”
- A softer rebuke: “Brothers, stop thinking like children” (14:20). Recall Paul's rebuke from 1 Cor. 3:2 about infantile behavior.
- The childish thinking about the gifts: Some exaggerated the purpose of the gifts as if they were marks of true spirituality.
- This fixation on glossolalia is a mark of astonishing immaturity. Hence, Paul's rebuke.
- “Be infants with reference to evil.” Be childlike in your freedom from guile. When “thinking is involved, be mature.”



Tongues as a Sign of Judgment



1 Corinthians 14:20-25

- Some badly mangled verses: “In the Law, it is written. . . .”
- By “the Law,” Paul does not mean the Mosaic Law but “Scripture,” what we call the Old Testament.
- Cites Isaiah 28:11-12. The strange tongues belong to the Assyrians, a language the Israelites do not understand.
- Though they don’t understand the words, the message is clear: judgment.
- Paul’s point: Spirit-given tongues are a sign of judgment to unbelievers.



Tongues as a Sign of Judgment



1 Corinthians 14:20-25

- Consider the Day of Pentecost.
 - Multiplicity of tongues in Jerusalem on Pentecost, a reversal of Babel.
 - Multiplicity of tongues in Jerusalem on Pentecost, a judgment against Israel.
- Tongues are a sign for unbelievers, but prophecy is a sign for believers.
- Verse 23: “If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are all *possessed*?”



Tongues as a Sign of Judgment



1 Corinthians 14:20-25

- “Prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.”
- How do verses 24-25 fit with this claim?
 - Prophecy edifies believers because it is intelligible speech. They understand what is spoken.
 - Prophecy fosters belief; it gives birth to believing.
- Through the intelligible speech of prophesying, unbelievers will be convicted, called to account, have secrets exposed, and will confess, “God is really among you.”

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