

Exposition on Tongues

1 Corinthians 14:1-25

1. One who speaks in tongues...

- a. Speaks to God and not _____ (v. 2)
- b. Utters mysteries in the Spirit but can't be _____ (2)
- c. Edifies (builds up) _____ (v. 4)
- d. Without interpretation has a _____ gift than prophecy (5)
- e. Gives little _____ alone (v. 6)
- f. Can be comparable to _____ notes (v. 7-8)
- g. When unintelligible, is like speaking to _____ (v. 9)
- h. Without understanding is a _____ to hearers (10-11)
- i. Should pray for the power to _____ (v. 13)
- j. While praying may have an _____ mind (v. 14)
- k. Would better pray & praise with spirit & mind
- l. Cannot attain an "_____" from others (v. 16)
- m. With 10,000 words is lesser than _____ words of instruction
- n. Is a sign Isaiah says is for _____ (v. 21)
- o. Will spur outsiders to say you are _____ (v. 23)

2. Prophecy is better...

- a. It speaks for edification, _____ & consolation (3)
- b. It _____ up the church (v. 4)
- c. It is greater than tongues alone (v. 5)
- d. Church told to _____ in gifts that edify (v. 12)
- e. It is a sign for _____ (v. 22)
- f. It can _____ unbelievers, call them to account and spur them to _____ (v. 24-25)

3. Conclusions on "tongues"

- a. Tongues in NT are _____ languages
- b. Tongues are _____ without interpretation
- c. Tongues are not a "_____" or more impressive gift
- d. Tongues do not benefit the church _____

For by a people of strange lips and with a foreign tongue the LORD will speak to this people, to whom he has said, "This is rest; give rest to the weary; and this is repose;" yet they would not hear.

(Isaiah 28:11-12)

Follow-Up Notes and Questions

What is the repeated theme in Paul's discussion of 1 Corinthians 14 and tongues in regard to the practice of this gift in the church?

- Most important is how it would _____ the church!

Do these extraordinary gifts (tongues, prophecy, healing) still exist today? From the conclusion of the New Testament until the 1700s there is little or no historic evidence of claims to see these gifts in practice in the church. In fact, James, Jude, Peter, and John (in his letters and Revelation) do not mention the gift of tongues and there is no evidence of these extraordinary gifts appearing after the events of the book of Acts (and the letters of Paul written prior to Acts' conclusion).

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-10. What exactly is Paul prophesying will cease? Did that prophecy come true?
2. Did Paul commend such spiritual gifts when they were still in use by the Spirit? (Read 1 Corinthians 14:1.) What is the context for their use?
3. Some claims to the gift of tongues express this gift as a verification of faith or as a confirmation of the status of an individual. However, if such a gift is truly of the Spirit, what would be the emphasis of such a gift? (Read John 15:26-27 – Who is the focus of the Holy Spirit?)

If these gifts have ceased in the church, what practical implication does this section of 1 Corinthians have on the church today?

1. Read Ephesians 4:11-16. Gifts and offices are given to the church for what purpose?
2. Re-read 1 Corinthians 14:24-25. Is this not how the Spirit uses Scripture?