

The Analytical Method of Bible Study

1 Corinthians 12-14

CONTEXT

Who: The apostle Paul is writing to believers in Corinth

What: Book is written concerning problems the church in Corinth is facing. They were divided on a number of different issues. Chapter 12-14 deals with what it truly means to be spiritual including the working of spiritual gifts. Chapter 12 is an introduction, description of Spiritual gifts, how they are given and how they are to work within the body.

When: Paul is writing probably about 55 A.D. during his later stay at Ephesus during his second missionary journey. He had already written Galatians & Thessalonians, he would write Romans a year or so later.

Why: Paul was concerned about the divisions and other problems he heard about. He is correcting them.

Verse

Observations

Who, what, when, where, why, how

Verbs (indicative, subjunctive, imperative, participle, infinitive) nouns, transitions, linking words, syntactical, commands, cross references, commands, other

1 Corinthians 13 ¹ *If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*

² *If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.*

³ *And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.*

⁴ *Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,*

⁵ *does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,*

⁶ *does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;*

⁷ *bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

⁸ *Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.*

⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part;

¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

¹¹ When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

¹³ But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 14 ¹ Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

² For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries.

³ But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.

⁴ One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.

⁵ Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

⁶ But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what will I profit you unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching?

⁷ Yet even lifeless things, either flute or harp, in producing a sound, if they do not produce a distinction in the tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp?

⁸ For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle?

⁹ So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is

spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.

¹⁰ There are, perhaps, a great many kinds of languages in the world, and no kind is without meaning.

¹¹ If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me.

¹² So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.

¹³ Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.

¹⁵ What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.

¹⁶ Otherwise if you bless in the spirit only, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying?

¹⁷ For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified.

¹⁸ I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all;

¹⁹ however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.

²⁰ Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.

²¹ In the Law it is written, "BY MEN OF STRANGE TONGUES AND BY THE LIPS OF STRANGERS I WILL SPEAK TO THIS PEOPLE, AND EVEN SO THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME," says the Lord.

²² So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe.

²³ Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?

²⁴ But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all;

²⁵ the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.

²⁶ What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret;

²⁸ but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God.

²⁹ Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment.

³⁰ But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, the first one must keep silent.

³¹ For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted;

³² and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets;

³³ for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

³⁴ The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.

³⁵ If they desire to learn anything, let them ask

their own husbands at home; for **it is** improper for a woman **to speak in church**.

³⁶ Was it from you that the word of God first **went forth**? Or **has it come to you only**?

³⁷ If anyone **thinks he is a prophet or spiritual**, **let him recognize** that the things which **I write to you are** the Lord's commandment.

³⁸ But if anyone **does not recognize this**, **he is not recognized**.

³⁹ Therefore, my brethren, **desire earnestly to prophesy**, and **do not forbid to speak in tongues**.

⁴⁰ But all things **must be done** properly and in an orderly manner.

Key Thoughts & Summaries

Verse	Key Thoughts (Step 6)	Summary
13:1-3		
13:4-7		
13:8-13		
14:1-5		
14:6-12		
14:13-19		
14:20-25		
14:26-33		
14:34-36		
14:37-38		
14:39-40		

Applications

Advanced Analytical Study

1 Corinthians 13-14 - Pivotal Idea

Vs.

Verbs

Nouns

Step 6 - Key Thought

Step 7

Step 8

Outline of 1 Corinthians 13 & 14

D. Counsel on Spirituality (Chapters 12-14)

1. The Evidence of the Spirit's Leading (12:1-3)
2. The Origin, Purpose & Description of Spiritual Gifts (12:4-11)
3. The Unity & Diversity of the Body of Christ (12:12-31a)
 - a. Entrance into the Body (12-13)
 - b. The Unity of the Body (14-21)
 - c. The Importance of Each Part of the Body (22-27)
 - d. The Gifts in the Body (28-31:a)
4. The Priority of Love (12:31b-13:13)
 - a. The Failure of the Gifts Apart from Love (12:31b-3)
 - b. Love Defined (4-7)
 - c. Love's Endurance (8-13)
5. The Superiority of Prophecy
 - a. The Priority of Edifying the Church (1-4)
 - b. The Proper Use of Tongues (5-19)
 - c. The Purpose of Tongues & Prophecy (20-25)
 - d. The Purpose & Practice of Corporate Worship (23-25)
 - i. All Things Done for Edification (23)

- ii. The Orderly Practice of the Gifts (24-33)
- iii. Submission of the Women (34-36)
- iv. Following the Lord's Command (37-40)