

## 1 Corinthians 12:1 – 14:40 **Spiritual Gifts**

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Paul was asked about Spiritual Gifts – Revelation of a mystery – Source of discernment

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

<sup>2</sup> You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

### Diversities of Gifts

<sup>4</sup> There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. <sup>7</sup> But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: <sup>8</sup> for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

### Illustration in the body

<sup>12</sup> For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For in fact the body is not one member but many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? <sup>18</sup> But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

### Unity in the body

<sup>19</sup> And if they were all one member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. <sup>23</sup> And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, <sup>24</sup> but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, <sup>25</sup> that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

### Diversities of ministries and functions

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.  
NKJV

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 **Love must be the motive in exercise of Spiritual Gifts**

#### Without Love, Spiritual gifts are useless

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

#### Love defined

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

#### When that which is Perfect has come – Spiritual Gifts will end

8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

#### Illustration of growth to maturity

11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

#### Enduring qualities

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

### 1 Corinthians 14:1-40 **Prophecy and Tongues – Order in the Church**

#### Pursue Love – Desire Spiritual Gifts

1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

#### Tongues / Prophecy Prophecy

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

3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

6 But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching?

7 Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? 8 For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare himself for battle?

9 So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.

10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without significance.

11 Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks will be a foreigner to me.

12 Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel. 13 Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

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

15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? 17 For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified.

18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; 19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature. 21 In the law it is written:

"With men of other tongues and other lips  
I will speak to this people;  
And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me," says the Lord.

22 Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.

23 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. 25 And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. 28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. 30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

34 Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. 35 And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church. 36 Or did the word of God come originally from you? Or was it you only that it reached?

37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

38 But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.

39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

- ✚ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: [\[1 Corinthians 12:1\]](#)
- ✧ Many errors are associated with the subject of Spiritual Gifts by those who are ignorant of the truth and intended purpose associated with the giving of the gifts by the Holy Spirit.
- ✧ Ignorance toward Spiritual Gifts has caused divisions in the body of the Church and between individual members.
- ✧ These three chapters were written by Paul to bring the Gifts of the Holy Spirit into proper perspective and eliminate the divisiveness associated with their use in the Church.

**Revelation of a mystery – Source of discernment** [\[1 Corinthians 12:2-3\]](#)

- ✚ The Corinthian believers had come out of the paganism of Corinth which was a center for world trade and commerce.
- ✧ They first heard the Gospel message from Paul himself, but being influenced by their previous idolatry, Paul needed to give them a point of discernment for Truth.
- ✧ No one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed.
- ✧ No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

**Diversities of Gifts**

- ✚ There are **diversities of gifts**, but the same Spirit. [\[1 Corinthians 12:4\]](#)
- ✧ The same Holy Spirit who imparts one Spiritual Gift to one believer, also imparts another Spiritual gift to another believer according to His own will.

- ✧ The Holy Spirit has at His command, a wide variety of Spiritual Gifts to distribute among the believers as He chooses, for the purpose of edifying and building the whole Church.
- ✧ There are **differences of ministries**, but the same Lord. [1 Corinthians 12:5]
  - ✧ A wide variety of ministries are needed to be functioning together in order to build an effective Church that will properly grow to maturity, to the full stature of Christ. [Ephesians 4:11-13]
  - ✧ The Lord assigns people to various ministries in the Church so the Church as a body will be able to meet the various levels of need for proper growth and to enable it to be effective and alive.
- ✧ And there are **diversities of activities**, but it is the same God who works all in all. [1 Corinthians 12:6]
  - ✧ Many different activities will be useful to meet the various individual needs, and God works them all together through those He has gifted.
- ✧ The manifestation of the Spirit given to each person is for the benefit of all. [1 Corinthians 12:7-11]
  - ✧ The Holy Spirit imparts Spiritual Gifts individually as He wills:
    1. Word of **wisdom**
    2. Word of **Knowledge**
    3. **Faith**
    4. Gifts of **Healings**
    5. Working of **Miracles**
    6. **Prophecy**
    7. **Discerning of spirits**
    8. **Different kinds of Tongues**
    9. **Interpretation of Tongues**
  - ✧ The same Holy Spirit works all these things in the Church.

### Illustration in the physical body

- ✧ Paul then demonstrates his point by looking at the various members of the human body and their individual contribution to the whole, then comparing it to the Body of Christ (the Church). [1 Corinthians 12:12-27]
  - ✧ As the human body is made up of many different parts, they all work together in harmony.
  - ✧ The Body of Christ, the Church, is similar, in that being many members, they all together make up the whole.
  - ✧ We were all baptized into one body by the Holy Spirit.
  - ✧ We all drink into one Spirit.
  - ✧ Each individual member is important to the whole and has its own place and function in the Body (foot, hand, ear, eye, nose).
  - ✧ If they all attempted to be the same and accomplish the same function it would not work, and where would the body be?
  - ✧ God has set each member in the body as He pleased.
  - ✧ There should be no conflict or division in the Body.
  - ✧ If one member suffers, all members suffer with it.
  - ✧ If one member is honored, all members rejoice with it.
  - ✧ You are the body of Christ and each one is a member individually.

### Diversities of ministries and functions

- ✧ God has appointed various functions in the Church: [1 Corinthians 12:28-30]
  - ✧ Apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues, interpretations.

- ✧ Then Paul asked seven questions, does everyone have each of the gifts mentioned, the implied answer is of course no, as he established when he gave the list of manifestations of the Spirit, saying, "to one is given," "to another is given." [1 Corinthians 12:4-11]

**Conclusion** [1 Corinthians 12:31]

✧ Earnestly desire the best gifts.

✧ I will show you a more excellent way

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 **Love must be the motive in exercise of Spiritual Gifts**

**Without Love, Spiritual gifts are useless** [1 Corinthians 13:1-3]

✧ The more excellent way is love.

- ✧ The gift of **Tongues** may include languages of both men and angels, however if exercised without love it is simply noisy clamor in discord.
- ✧ The gift of **Prophecy** includes understanding and knowledge. Though it includes understanding of all mysteries and includes all knowledge, if exercised without love it is useless.
- ✧ The gift of **Faith** is powerful. Though you are able to remove mountains by your faith [Matthew 17:20, 21:21] if love is not the motivating factor, your faith is useless.
- ✧ The gift of **Helps** is valuable. However if you give all you possess to feed the poor to earn your way to salvation, and you are not motivated by love, it is useless.
- ✧ God calls us to great **Sacrifice** for His sake. [Luke 14:25-33] Though I give my body to be burned, if I do not have love, it profits me nothing.

**Love defined** [1 Corinthians 13:4-8]

✧ Love:

- ✧ Very patient and kind.
- ✧ Does not exalt self.
- ✧ Is not prideful.
- ✧ Is not rude.
- ✧ Is not self centered.
- ✧ Does not provoke others.
- ✧ Thinks no evil.
- ✧ Does not approve of sinful behavior.
- ✧ Rejoices in Truth.
- ✧ Bears all things.
- ✧ Believes all things revealed in the Word of God.
- ✧ Hopes all things revealed in the Word of God will come to pass.
- ✧ Endures all things.
- ✧ Love never fails.

**When that which is Perfect has come – Spiritual Gifts will end** [1 Corinthians 13:8-10]

✧ Gifts given for the edification of the Church will come to an end.

- ✧ Prophecy will cease.
- ✧ Tongues will cease.
- ✧ Earthly knowledge will vanish away.
- ✧ Because now we know in part and we prophesy in part.

✧ **When that which is perfect has come**, then that which is in part will be done away.

- ✧ The coming of that which is perfect is a reference to the coming of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His 1,000 year kingdom, when earthly limitations will be surrendered in

favor of the limitless abundance in all things including complete knowledge and understanding of all things.

- ✧ We now use a small fraction of our total mental capacity, but then our minds will be opened to full capacity.

#### Illustration of growth to maturity [1 Corinthians 13:11-12]

✚ Paul used the illustration of growing children who put away childish ways as they become adult and take on adult responsibilities.

- ✧ This illustration is to demonstrate the fact that at the Return of Christ Jesus and the establishment of His Kingdom will bring a great change in our own abilities.

✚ At the present time, our best enlightenment is compared to looking through a mirror dimly.

- ✧ In contrast, when Jesus has come and set up His Kingdom, we will see Him face to face.

- ✧ Now our knowledge is at best incomplete, but when Jesus has come and set up His Kingdom, our understanding and knowledge will be as complete in all things as God's knowledge of us. God knows us much better than we know ourselves. God sees the motives and intentions of the heart, He knows our thoughts, words, and actions even before we think them or act on our thoughts.

- ✧ That is the level of knowledge and understanding for us that will come with His Kingdom.

#### Enduring qualities

✚ And **now** abides faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. [1 Corinthians 13:13]

- ✧ **Faith** will be replaced by sight, as we will see Him in person as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, When the Lord comes in His Kingdom.

- ✧ **Hope** will be replaced by experience, as we see all that we hoped for has materialized and become the present reality in which we live throughout the Kingdom age and then on for eternity on the New Earth that God will bring for His Saints.

- ✧ **Love** never ends.

## 1 Corinthians 14:1-40 **Prophecy and Tongues – Order in the Church**

### Pursue Love – Desire Spiritual Gifts

✚ Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may **prophecy**. [1 Corinthians 14:1]

### Tongues / Prophecy Prophesy [1 Corinthians 14:2-40]

✚ He who **speaks in a tongue** does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. [1 Corinthians 14:2]

- ✧ Tongues, as Paul refers to it here, is a language that is not understood, except by God Who knows the heart and understands even when the speaker does not, as the spirit is speaking to God with groanings the speaker can not express. [Romans 8:26]

- ✧ The speaker edifies himself, but the Church is not edified because they do not understand the communication. [1 Corinthians 14:4]

✚ But he who **prophesies** speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. [1 Corinthians 14:3]

- ✧ He who prophesies edifies the Church because the Church understands the communication. [1 Corinthians 14:4]

✚ I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification. [1 Corinthians 14:5]

- ✧ Paul holds the gift of **prophecy** higher than the gift of **tongues** because of the impact on the Church as a whole, unless the tongues is interpreted and made understandable, and then they are of equal value because the Church is then edified.

- ✧ Paul has already establish the fact that everyone does not receive the same gifts and ministries as each other, when he introduced the diversity of gifts and ministries given by the Holy Spirit apportioned to each person as the Holy Spirit wills. [1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-30]
- ✧ Therefore, when Paul said, "I wish that you all spoke with tongues," he was not suggesting that all believers were expected to receive the gift of tongues.
  - ✧ This is no different than when he said to king Agrippa, "I would to God that not only you, but all that hear me this day might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains."
  - ✧ Agrippa had responded to Paul's testimony by saying, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."
  - ✧ This did not suggest that Paul expected all that heard that day would become Christians, but only that Paul certainly desired for them to do so.
  - ✧ It is the same in regard to speaking in Tongues. Paul did not say that they all must receive the ability to speak in tongues, but only that he wished they did.
  - ✧ There is no evidence here or in Acts that suggests that all believers spoke in tongues or were expected to do so.
- ✧ The focus is on the edification of the Church as a body through understanding, therefore, **Prophecy** is preferred over **tongues**.
- ✧ Paul further expanded on the concept by saying, "But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with **tongues**, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by **revelation**, by **knowledge**, by **prophesying**, or by **teaching**?" [1 Corinthians 14:6]
  - ✧ The focus is on understanding the message spoken for the benefit of all.
- ✧ Paul used the illustration of musical instruments making sounds, if there is no order to the sounds, no one knows what is being played, it is simply discord. [1 Corinthians 14:7]
- ✧ The same concept applies to the trumpet, if it is not played in a recognized alarm, no one will prepare for battle, it will simply be noise. [1 Corinthians 14:8]
- ✧ So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. [1 Corinthians 14:9]
  - ✧ **Tongues** if not understood is just noise in the air.
- ✧ All languages on the world have significance, but if the hearer does not understand the language, you appear to him as a foreigner. [1 Corinthians 14:10-11]
- ✧ Paul has noted that the Corinthians are zealous for Spiritual gifts. [1 Corinthians 1:1-7, 14:12]
  - ✧ The focus must be for the edification of the Church through understanding that you may excel in effectiveness. [1 Corinthians 14:12]
  - ✧ Therefore **let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret**. [1 Corinthians 14:13]
  - ✧ Tongues are useless, unless explained by interpretation.
  - ✧ Even the one speaking in tongues does not understand the words and it is unfruitful to him unless there is interpretation to allow the understanding. [1 Corinthians 14:14]
- ✧ With all this information, Paul's conclusion is: "I will pray with the spirit (tongues), and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit (tongues), and I will also sing with the understanding." [1 Corinthians 14:15]
  - ✧ Praying with the spirit is different than praying with understanding.
  - ✧ The one is in the spirit (tongues) to God alone.
  - ✧ The other is with understanding in the assembly of the Church for the benefit of all.



- ✚ Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified. [1 Corinthians 14:16-17]
  - ✧ Paul claimed to speak with Tongues "more than you all." [1 Corinthians 14:18]
  - ✧ However, in the Church assembly, Paul prefers to speak with his understanding for the purpose that he may teach others. [1 Corinthians 14:19]
    - ✧ 5 words with understanding are better than 10,000 words in a tongue.
  - ✧ Paul calls us to maturity in understanding, in contrast to immaturity of self exaltation demonstrated through flaunting spiritual gifts to receive recognition from men. [1 Corinthians 14:20-22]
    - ✧ In malice (intent to hurt) be babes, do not use your spiritual gift to put down others who do not have the same gift.
  - ✧ The use of Tongues as a sign to the people is mentioned in prophecy.
    - "With men of other tongues and other lips  
I will speak to this people;  
And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me," says the Lord. [Isaiah 28:11 & 12b, 30:15c]
  - ✧ **Tongues** is a **sign to unbelievers** when they see a believer speaking in their own language about Holy Things and they realize that the speaker does not know the language. [1 Corinthians 14:22, Acts 2:4-12]
  - ✧ **Prophecy** is for those who believe and can receive the instruction for their own spiritual growth leading toward maturity in Christ Jesus. [1 Corinthians 14:22, 14:5, 19]
  - ✧ **Tongues** is foolishness to the unbeliever, if everyone is speaking in tongues and he does not understand the words, he will think you are all out of your minds. [1 Corinthians 14:23]
  - ✧ **Prophecy** will convict the unbeliever of his sin, if he understands and recognizes that the message speaks to him and the secrets of his heart are revealed. He will fall down and worship God realizing that God is truly among you. [1 Corinthians 14:24-25]

#### Application [1 Corinthians 14:26-40]

- ✚ Proper use of Spiritual gifts, keeping order in the assembly of the Church:
  - ✧ Each person has his own gift and ministry provided by the Holy Spirit, whether it be a psalm, tongue, revelation, or interpretation.
  - ✧ Let each gift be used solely for edification.
  - ✧ **Tongues;** [1 Corinthians 14:27-28]
    - ✧ No more than two or three may speak and each in turn.
    - ✧ Let one interpret.
    - ✧ If there is no interpreter, let them keep silent in Church.
    - ✧ Let them speak to themselves and to God in private.
  - ✧ **Prophecy;**
    - ✧ No more than two or three may speak.
    - ✧ The rest judge the message to discern its source, as did the Bereans who received the message with all readiness and searched the Scriptures daily to determine if the message was truly from God. [Acts 17:10-11]
  - ✧ Messages come from three spiritual sources:
    - ✧ **The Holy Spirit** calling sinners to repent, and revealing things of Christ and the Father in keeping with what is recorded in the Holy Written Word of God, and opening the heart of the Word for understanding. [Jeremiah 23:21-22, John 16:13-15]
    - ✧ **Satan**, who deceivably twists the Word of God to cause people to believe an error, usually appealing to their self esteem, ego, and pride.

- ✧ **Spirit of man himself**, who desires recognition as someone above others to receive special honor and respect by appearing to be more spiritual.
- ✧ We need to be able to discern the spirit. [[1 Corinthians 2:14-15](#), [12:10](#), [Hebrews 4:12](#)]
- ✧ If anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent.
  - ✧ You may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and be encouraged.
  - ✧ The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophet, and God expects us to exercise self control and to keep order in the assembly.
- ✧ God is not the author of confusion but of peace.
  - ✧ This is true in all the Churches of the Saints.
- ✧ Paul advised women to not be disruptive in Church by asking their husbands to explain the message, but to wait until they are home to ask and discuss it. [[1 Corinthians 14:34-36](#)]
- ✧ To those who challenge his authority, Paul reminds them that the things he writes are the commandments of the Lord. [[1 Corinthians 14:37](#)]
- ✧ But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant. [[1 Corinthians 14:38](#)]
  - ✧ Paul does not desire to be drawn into a confrontation with those who are ignorantly arrogant, but like Jesus who said, "Let them alone, they are blind leaders of the blind, and if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch." [[Matthew 15:12-14](#)]
  - ✧ Similarly Jesus said, "He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." [[Revelation 22:11](#)]

### Conclusion

- ✧ Paul encourages us to earnestly desire the better gifts. [[1 Corinthians 12:31](#), [14:1](#), [39](#)]
  - ✧ **Prophecy** is preferred over tongues because it is understood.
  - ✧ However Paul commands us not to forbid to speak with **tongues**.
  - ✧ All things must be done decently and in order.