

## Without Life Giving Sound

### 1 Corinthians 14:1 – 40



~ Spiritual gifts are given to all believers to maintain unity and wealth in a church through diversity. In this Biblical example, our Spiritual Safari is continuing to visit the church in Corinth. Paul is telling them that each person in Corinth had a separate spiritual gift, so they could function collectively as a body does with many members. Naturally, the eye can't do what the fingers do, and the ear can't do what the toenail does – whatever that is. What we do know definitely is that every body part functions in its own way for a particular purpose.

Every new believer is immediately placed into the body of Christ and given a spiritual gift to exercise the moment they trust Christ as their Savior. I think it would be very strange if a newly converted Christian didn't desire to have and know true spirituality; and true spirituality only comes from understanding the Word of God. That's why I am always suspicious of any Christian who does not absolutely love and desire the Word of God. We have already learned we are to ask for and covet the best spiritualities - but we are only to use those gifts in love for the welfare of our church. That is so, so, so important to see, friends....

***<sup>1</sup> Follow after love, and desire spiritualities, but it is best that ye may prophesy.***

~ See, it is best to speak the Word of God coherently in the native language you were taught; and to speak it intelligently and with authority! Our modern-day tongues movement is pure fanaticism; it is wholly an emotional binge, and it has nothing to do with Christ. Paul is telling these Corinthians to stop this childishness; or, at least, hold it in correct proportion because tongues are going to cease – and I believe they have ceased today. In fact, tongues ceased *FIRST* from all the gifts. Those who

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pretend to be speaking in tongues today are in a dead religion, you may be sure. Those tongue-tied people always seem to brush this section of the Bible off as some obscure passage – although Paul’s message concerning tongues is succinct and clear to any sincere student of Scripture. They simply don’t like what Paul is telling the Corinthians.

Jesus never spoke in tongues. You may want to write that down. After the Day of Pentecost, there is no record of any apostle speaking in tongues. There is, actually, no historical record of Paul *EVER* speaking in tongues; although he does acknowledge that he did speak in tongues – but *NOT* an unknown tongue! The people Paul was speaking in tongues to knew *EXACTLY* what he was saying. Most people simply have no idea the importance of this issue; they always wonder why I take such a hardline and seemingly unlovely stance against tongues. On the Day of Pentecost, every man “*heard them speaking in his own tongue!*” If you really want tongues, get out on a mission field and start speaking the Gospel to your people in their native tongue – and see what happens.

When Paul was called up to the third Heaven after being stoned and left for dead at Lystra, he says he “... *heard unspeakable words.*” That does not mean “*unknown*” words but, rather, words he was not permitted by the Spirit of God to repeat. Tongues are not some rap-type-hipping mixed-up melody rhapsody with interjected hob-bobbing from mystery languages. No, tongues are a foreign language; just as it was on the Day of Pentecost. That’s the guideline our safari uses. If you speak in gibberish that no one understands except for you – read very carefully: it is Satanic witchcraft – and, as your Bible teacher, I am obliged to let you know.

All of this encompasses understanding the difference between the *spiritual gifts* of the Holy Spirit and the *fruit* of the Holy Spirit. I think the fruit in our lives is more important than gifts, by the way; and only the Holy Spirit can produce either one. Frankly, it would be nice to see more fruit – love, joy, peace, faithfulness, lovingkindness, gentleness, meekness, longsuffering, temperance — in the lives of believers — and less gifted people; especially the tongue-tied crowd. Giving to support your local Bible teacher is a gift

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we don't see much of these days, either. Love is another gift that is practically non-existent. I might be a little more flexible on the spiritual gifts issue if not everyone wanted to be a tongue and talk so much; particularly since most Christians have severe spiritual halitosis, but I digress....

***<sup>2</sup> For he that speaketh in a tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.***

***<sup>3</sup> But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.***

***<sup>4</sup> He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.***

***<sup>5</sup> I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.***

~ This chapter has three gifts singled out: tongues, prophecy and the interpretation of tongues. Outside of these previous three chapters of first Corinthians, you'll find very little reference to speaking in tongues in the Bible. Cornelius was speaking in tongues in his home; The Ephesians were speaking in tongues as Luke writes in Acts nineteen. Tongues began the dispensation of grace at Pentecost — and tongues are always used in that connection in the Word of God. Friends, you simply must get this right in your thinking to have right-thinking.

See, when we speak and exhort one another in the Word of God, we provide comfort and edification to others. Whereas, those who speak in tongues only edify themselves. The man who prophesies edifies the church. The man speaking in tongues always wants to build up "self!" The doctrine of tongues is, by far, a carnal and selfish theology. That's another way we know tongues are not for today. Instead of a tongues meeting, try a Bible study; instead of sitting on the Bible or waving it around like a good-luck

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charm — try actually applying God’s laws and precepts to your life in love as you are dealing with others in the day-to-day routine....

***6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?***

***7 And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?***

~ Most of you know I am a musician — and I love sound. When I bang away on the drums, it has more meaning than speaking in tongues does; because that lifeless drum has meaning in this world — one way or another — good or bad. Tongues don’t. I have seen the acts from the so called “*indwelted and enlightened*” crowd — and the routines are shameful and full of pride — nothing else. Those displays of religious zealotry have no spiritual value for the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ whatsoever. I get the same pride sitting behind the drum set. It’s selfish, my beloved; proud and boastful — and nothing else.

What we need today is a clear-cut presentation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Anything that doesn’t make sense doesn’t make sense! Speaking like a barbarian is never helpful if you are a missionary. The number one question to ask ourselves when evaluating our conduct is: does this edify the wealth and the well-being of the church? Does this build up believers? If you are speaking in tongues, but you don’t have an interpreter or three, you just cannot understand what you are doing or saying. God could not have been any clearer about this matter of tongues; He wants you get control of your mouth today.

Most people do not receive the fullness of spiritual revelation God wants to give them down here. Instead, they merely experience a prompt of said calling, but it quickly turns into a psychological evaluation of certain sections of Scriptural truth. That devolves into erroneous application. That

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ends with a departure from the Word of God as their premise. They refuse to accept the Word of God in its entirety. As a missionary, Paul likely spoke in over a dozen different tongues and dialects. That number could probably be multiplied by five or seven. Remember, this Corinthian church was a shameful carnal congregation. They were utter babies in Christ. Not only were they ignorant of the Bible – they didn't even *HAVE* a Bible....

***<sup>8</sup> For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?***

***<sup>9</sup> So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.***

***<sup>10</sup> There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.***

***<sup>11</sup> Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.***

***<sup>12</sup> Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.***

***<sup>13</sup> Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.***

***<sup>14</sup> For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.***

***<sup>15</sup> What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.***

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***16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?***

***17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.***

***18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:***

***19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.***

***20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.***

***21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.***

***22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.***

***23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?***

***24 But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:***

***25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.***

***26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.***

***27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.***

***28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.***

***29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.***

***30 If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.***

***31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.***

***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 churches of the saints.***

***34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.***

***35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.***

***36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?***

***37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.***

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***38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.***

***39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.***

***40 Let all things be done decently and in order.***

~ We close this chapter continuing to teach and learn the Word of God properly, correctly and completely in our Spiritual Safari, friends. That's what we all desperately need to do. I have been in a church where the entire congregation spoke in tongues at once – on demand – and, let me tell you: to say they were a little crazy is a gross understatement. No, they were a whole lot crazy! If you speak in tongues, the outside world will think you are plum loco, padres. That can never glorify Christ. Make a note. If you don't like the truth – too bad.

If there is one thing we need so desperately in our modern, sophisticated, high-tech, scientific world we live in, is a sincere and tangible Godly intelligence in His service. Christians need to be trained properly to present a logical, meaningful message of the Lord Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world that is succinct, poignant and personal. See, if we were to present Him properly and correctly to the world, then the world would accept Him completely. So, we can only blame ourselves for our utter failure regarding those people in our lives who are not accepting Jesus. That's something to turn over in our minds a few times.

See, if we preach a proper Gospel, and a man comes under conviction as a result, that man will be converted by the Holy Spirit. The caveat is: it has to make sense. Praying in tongues is chaos; and tongues were what Jesus had in mind when He said, *"go into your closet to pray."* If you want to pray privately in tongues in your closet — that's acceptable. Otherwise, if you don't have two or three interpreters, you aren't doing it Biblically.

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I have found that almost everyone has *something* to say regarding the Word of God; and everyone has *something* to say about tongues. Well, the subject of chapter fourteen is tongues and verse thirty-four means women particularly are not to speak in tongues in a church. And if you took the women out of the tongues movement, you would never hear about it again, my friends – you may want to write that down, too.

Our Spiritual Safari ends this report by not being very nice. However, everything said in this report is true according to the Holy Spirit; and said in love. I don't write these reports for my health, friends. I definitely do not write them for wealth. No one is forbidding tongues, but it must be done according to what Paul says as he writes to the Corinthians. I won't compromise with that. I thank God teaching His Word is one of His best gifts. I like to do it as decently and as orderly as I can. So, we're going to move forward in our next report to the highest spiritual gift we will ever receive: the bodily resurrection. Until then, search this passage after asking the Holy Spirit in prayer to bring you wisdom, judgment and discernment – I dare you ~

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