

STUDYING THE BOOK OF 1 CORINTHIANS ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

Lesson 22 - Gifts of Prophecy and Tongues - [1 Corinthians 14:1-25](#)

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

1CO 14:1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. [2] For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. [3] But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. [4] He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. [5] I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.

1CO 14:6 Now, brothers, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? [7] Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the flute or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? [8] Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? [9] So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. [10] Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. [11] If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and he is a foreigner to me. [12] So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

1CO 14:13 For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says. [14] For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. [15] So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. [16] If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? [17] You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified.

1CO 14:18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. [19] But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.

1CO 14:20 Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. [21] In the Law it is written:

"Through men of strange tongues
and through the lips of foreigners

I will speak to this people,
but even then they will not listen to me,"
says the Lord.

1CO 14:22 Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is for believers, not for unbelievers. [23] So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? [24] But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, [25] and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 22 - Gifts of Prophecy and Tongues - [1 Corinthians 14:1-25](#)

263. What did God want the Corinthians to follow? ([14:1](#))
264. What did God want the Corinthians to desire? ([14:1](#))
265. Why were the Corinthians to desire the gift of prophecy more than the gift of tongues? ([14:1-5](#))
266. In what circumstance is speaking in tongues as good as prophesying? ([14:5](#))
267. What must be combined with the gift of tongues to make it useful to others? ([14:6](#))
268. Why did Paul use the example of musical instruments in talking about prophecy? ([14:7-8](#))
269. In which gifts did Paul encourage the Corinthians to excel? ([14:12](#))
270. How should speaking in tongues be like praying and singing? ([14:14-16](#))
271. Why is it crucial that a message in tongues be interpreted? ([14:16-17](#))
272. How does the quotation from [Isaiah 28:11-12](#) clarify the purpose of the spiritual gift of tongues? ([14:21-22](#))
273. Why is it beneficial for unbelievers to hear prophesying in the church? ([14:24-25](#))
274. For what reasons should we desire spiritual gifts?

Lesson 23 - Orderly Worship - [1 Corinthians 14:26-40](#)

1CO 14:26 What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. [27] If anyone speaks in a tongue, two--or at the most three--should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. [28] If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.

1CO 14:29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. [30] And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. [31] For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. [32] The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. [33] For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

As in all the congregations of the saints, [34] women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. [35] If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.

1CO 14:36 Did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? [37] If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command. [38] If he ignores this, he himself will be ignored.

1CO 14:39 Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. [40] But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 23 - Orderly Worship - [1 Corinthians 14:26-40](#)

275. What contributions were the Corinthians to make when coming together? ([14:26](#))
276. What kind of order were the Corinthians to observe when speaking in tongues? ([14:27-28](#))
277. How did Paul advise the Corinthians regarding prophesying in church? ([14:29-32](#))
278. How is the gift of prophecy beneficial to the church? ([14:31](#))
279. What makes order essential to worship? ([14:33](#))
280. Why were women not allowed to speak in the Corinthian church? ([14:34](#))
281. How were women to act during worship in the Corinthian church? ([14:34-35](#))

282. What were Corinthian women to do if they wanted to ask something in church? ([14:35](#))

283. What gave Paul the authority to teach the Corinthians? ([14:37](#))

284. What was Paul's conclusion regarding corporate worship? ([14:40](#))