



Speaking Up

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-9

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

- ▶ ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of *all*: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

1 Corinthians 14:1-4

- ▶ Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy. 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.

1 Corinthians 14:22-33

- ▶ 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.

1 Corinthians 14:22-33

- ▶ 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.*

1 Corinthians 14:22-33

- ▶ 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.

1 Corinthians 14:22-33

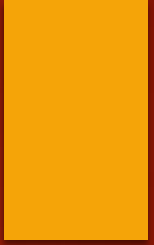
- ▶ ³¹ For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. ³² And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. ³³ For God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Prophecy – Propheteuo – To foretell events; Speak under inspiration

- ▶ Seeing had two purposes:
- ▶ 1. It looked into a persons or nations heart and read the needs or sin in light of God's Word and then addressed God's Word to that particular need. (Forth-telling)
- ▶ 2. Indicated event to come. (Foretelling)
- ▶ Prophecy always arises out of a true seeing of current conditions.
- ▶ It encourages, consoles and builds up a believer, it convicts a non-believer.

Tongues – It is not personal tongues (Prayer Language)

- ▶ Tongues given in a corporate or public setting
- ▶ Interpretation is a must



Interpretation of Tongues – It is required to be given when a message in tongues is given.

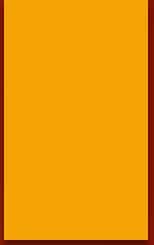
- ▶ It is interpretation not translation. It may be shorter or long than the message given in tongues.

Discerning of Spirits – Allows people to distinguish whether or not a person brings a spiritual message from God.

- ▶ It also distinguishes between outward appearances and inward realities.

Acts 20:28-31

- ▶ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears

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- ▶ 1 John 4:1- Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
 - ▶ It can determine whether it is the Spirit of God, spirit of man or an evil spirit.

Understanding why vocal gifts are given

- ▶ 1. Edification is the foundation for determining the propriety of the gifts
- ▶ 2. Tongues are a sign to the unbeliever, but must be interpreted.
- ▶ 3. They are to edify, build up and strengthen
- ▶ 4. They are to convict, reveal, correct
- ▶ 5. They are always to point to and glorify Christ

Problems in the church

- ▶ 1. Misuse leads to disuse
- ▶ 2. We have a culture that has largely shifted from participation to observation. – George Wood
- ▶ 3. I had to give it, the Holy Spirit made me (verse 32)
- ▶ 4. Personalities and desire can be infused or take the gift over completely

Guidelines for using the vocal gifts (What can I ask myself before I give a word)

- ▶ 1. Does it glorify Christ?
- ▶ 2. Does it edify the saints?
- ▶ 3. Will what I say encourage others to listen more closely to the Holy Spirit?
- ▶ 4. Is it a good witness to unbelievers?
- ▶ 5. Does it keep with the flow of what the Spirit is doing in the service?
- ▶ 6. Ask is the word I have for the church or just me?

Guidelines for using the vocal gifts (What can I ask myself before I give a word)

- ▶ If it is disruptive, compromises a spiritual life and growth, blocks someone in need of salvation – It is out of order.
- ▶ It can never be about us, we cannot prove our spirituality. Being used in the gifts does not all of a sudden make us more holy.
- ▶ The gifts are not meant to upstage the pastor, nor does it replace the preaching of God's Word, they complement them.
- ▶ The gifts should be interwoven into everything taking place in the church. It should be seamless.

Guidelines for using the vocal gifts (What can I ask myself before I give a word)

- ▶ 7. You will be nervous. Your heart will be pounding and you will be debating within yourself in the beginning
- ▶ 8. You may get the whole message or just the beginning
- ▶ 9. Pride will ruin the gift and you

Guidelines for how it should be given

- ▶ 1. It does not have to be in King James English (Shakespearean)
- ▶ 2. You do not need to shout
- ▶ 3. There should be at most 3 messages in tongues, they must be interpreted.
- ▶ 4. If there is no one to interpret, then the message should not be given.
- ▶ 5. If God uses you to give a message in tongues, pray that He will also give you the interpretation. It isn't showing off if you do both.

Guidelines for judging

- ▶ 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 (NLT)
- ▶ 19 Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. 20 Do not scoff at prophecies, 21 but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. 22 Stay away from every kind of evil

Guidelines for judging

- ▶ Being a responsible leader is not “quenching the Spirit” nor is it out of line to judge what is said.
- ▶ Verse 29 – “let the others judge” uses the same verb in the Greek as in the expression, “discerning of spirits”

Guidelines for judging

- ▶ 1. Does the content of the message align itself with the Word of God? The infallible Bible is our standard of truth.
- ▶ 2. Does the message produce fruit? Does it strengthen, encourage, comfort and edify?

Guidelines for judging

- ▶ Prophecy can correct, but it always does with love, mercy and restoration at its heart.
- ▶ Revelation 19:10 – Prophecy always has Jesus at its heart and center.

Guidelines for judging

- ▶ 3. Does the content bear witness with our spirit?
- ▶ Some prophecies do not contradict the Bible, nor do they drag us into darkness, but they do not lift our hearts toward God. They may be a hodgepodge of religious phrases thrown together or some repetitive exhortations. No fresh insight, no illuminating encouragement. No ring of true authority. – Warren Bullock

Guidelines for judging

- ▶ 4. Is the vocal gift in keeping with the general tenor of the service?

Guidelines for personal prophecy:

- ▶ 1. It cannot go against God's Word
- ▶ 2. Let it bear witness. Does it confirm what God has been speaking to you
- ▶ 3. Pray about it. Talk to a mature saint
- ▶ 4. Don't build your life around it

Final Notes:

- ▶ Seek the Lord; be prepared beforehand for God to use you. God can give you a message before you arrive, just because it is not spontaneous does not mean it is not from God.
- ▶ Ask the pastor if you are unsure. The pastor is there not to control the gifts but to give direction.
- ▶ Do not despise correction