

## LOVE WORX THRU THE GIFTS

February 28, 2016 1 Corinthians 14:1-25 by Bob Branch  
Tooling Up To Change The World, Part 6

**MAIN IDEA:** As weird as they may be, the gifts of tongues and prophecy can have a positive impact on our growth in Jesus, both as individuals *and* the gathered community—if we will let the Holy Spirit work through us.

### CLARIFIERS:

- 1) When church meets together (11:18, 20, 33; 14:19, 23, 26).
- 2) Naturally supernatural: extraordinary but normal; volitional.
- 3) Not dissing tongues.
- 4) Cannot answer all questions... it is for today!
- 5) Prophecy: Not foretelling; *saying what God is saying*.
- 6) 3 dimensions of tongue speaking in NT:  
Unknown to speaker, known to hearers (Acts 2)  
Unknown to speaker & hearers, needs interpreting  
Unknown to speaker, private usage; "*Prayer language*."

### 1 Corinthians 14:1-5

#### 1. Ask God and come prepared to be used by the Spirit to build up the church!

- Aimed at **strengthening** people
- Aimed at **encouraging** and **exhorting** people
- Aimed at **comforting** people

### 1 Corinthians 14:6-12

#### 2. Intelligibility is what helps people get the message and builds them up!

The public use of the private gift of tongues (without interpretation) disconnects people from Body-ness.

### 1 Corinthians 14:13-19

Praying with my mind... **cognitive aspect**

**Praying in the Spirit** (tongues)... **my-spirit-and-the-Holy-Spirit connection**. A **language of prayer-praise-and-thanks**. Therefore, it is **God-directed**.

### 1 Corinthians 14:20-25

- He says, **Adults are conscious** of others around them. So,...
- All tongues? To unbelievers is a **sign to them that you're all mad**; won't obey God for there's no clear revelation of him!
- Prophecy? To unbelievers is an **intelligible revelation of God?** Conviction, laid bare, fall down, worship and get saved!
- 3. **Uninterpreted Tongues in a gathering isn't helpful for either believers or unbelievers!** Prophecy is!

### CONCLUSIONS:

- Tongues are *directed upwards to God* and are thus, *prayers, praise and thanks*. (2, 14-15)
- Tongues are unknown to the speaker yet "*of the Spirit*." (2)
- Tongues are a *private, devotional, spirit-to-Spirit connection* that can express new intimacy with God. (2, 10, 16)
- Tongues are beneficial for *building yourself up* that the speaker can normally *use at will*. (4)
- Would *like all of them to speak/sing/praise in tongues*, but advocates it for private use unless interpreted. (5, 14-17)
- Tongues not helpful *in church* unless they are interpreted. (5)
- You can ask God, may give you the tongue interpretation. (13)
- Paul uses tongues a lot (pray, sing) but when in church, wants everyone built up, so curtail it unless it can be interpreted. (18)

### PROPHECY: saying what God is saying in the moment

- Is spoken *to people*... potential to *benefit most* of gathering.
- Expect building up of *encouragement, exhortation & comfort*.
- *Needs to be intelligible* to have the building up benefit.
- Potential way of "*God really being among us!*" (He speaks!)
- Potential to be used to *bring an unbeliever to salvation*.