

# LOVE IS

## 1 & 2 Corinthians

## Week 17: Tongues and Worship

John Chrysostom: "The Corinthians thought that speaking in tongues was a great gift because it was the one which the apostles received first, and with a great display (Acts 2). But this was no reason to think it was the greatest gift at all. The reason the apostles received it first was because it was a sign that they were to go everywhere, preaching the Gospel."

### 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 - Building Up

- Love is at the top of the list! Apart from love, spiritual gifts puff up the individual instead of building up the church.
- Prophecy builds up, encourages, and consoles the church. Because of its broad application, it is a greater gift. Prophecy is a timely word from God.
- Tongues builds up the one speaking, and with interpretation, builds up the church.
- Review from Acts 2, Acts 10, and Acts 19 - the gift of tongues is proclamation in an unlearned human language for the purpose of evangelism for the benefit of new people groups.

### 1 Corinthians 14:6-12 - An Example

- Tongues without interpretation is like an instrument playing indistinct or unfamiliar notes. If no one understands the bugle's melody, what good is it? If no one understands the tongue message, what good is it?
- Verse 12 - if you really want the Spirit to be alive and active in you...then simply do what is good for the building up of the church.

## **1 Corinthians 14:13-19 - Spirit and Mind Together**

- It would be a growth step for the tongue speaker to also interpret. Tongues and interpretation would be a powerful evangelistic gift.
- This would also be of personal benefit, allowing the tongue speaker to know in their mind what is being proclaimed through the spirit.
- Praise and prayer are actively mindful and spiritual, and so God will also provide mindful interpretation to spiritual tongue gifts.
- “the outsider” - solidifies the position that tongues are meant to bring people groups together
- Paul emphasizes again that an intelligible word of knowledge builds up the body more than tongues alone

## **1 Corinthians 14:20-25 - For Unbelievers**

- The quote from Isaiah - Jeremiah 40:2 and Daniel 4:1-3
- Tongues are a sign for unbelievers - it demonstrates that God is reaching them. Prophecy reaches believers. If all speak in tongues - it confuses unbelievers. If all prophecy, it encourages all. Numbers 11:29.

## **1 Corinthians 14:26-33 - Order In Worship**

- Remember: there was division in the church in Corinth. People were coming to church ready to promote their angle. Let's pare it down to that which is building up the church.
- Two or three messages in tongues, in order, with interpretation. The tongue speaker has awareness and control of self.
- Two or three prophetic messages, with time to weigh the message. God may give a clarifying or supportive revelation. Speak one by one.
  
- Next week - Women, Worship, and Gifts!