

It is understandable why Paul taught on love first and then spoke to the Corinthians about Prophecy and Tongues. They were taking great pride in these two spiritual gifts. They were not using them as God had intended. What did we see the purpose was for spiritual gifts in 1 Cor. 12:7?

Read this chapter through completely once.

1. Now go back and reread it as you highlight the word “prophecy” or any of the various forms of the word.

2. Now go back one more time and with a different color highlight the word tongue or tongues.

3. By looking at the scripture you have marked, what is the focus of this chapter?

4. Define prophecy:

Define tongues:

6. Why would these two seemingly good gifts be a problem that Paul felt the need to address?

7. Go down through the chapter and write out everything you learn concerning tongues.

Make a list like this,

- **Vs. 2 Those who speak in a tongue do not speak to men but to God. No one else understands him.**
- **Vs.4 Those who speak in a tongue edify (builds up) themselves.**

8. Now go back and do the same thing only this time with prophecy.

- **Vs.1 Desire the gift of prophecy**
- **Vs.3 anyone who prophesies is speaking to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.**

9. Do you feel you have a greater understanding of the scriptures concerning prophecy and tongues after making this list?

10. Do you see why the gift of tongues could get out of control very quickly if the people did not carefully follow God's instruction?

11. In verse 1 Paul instructs them to _____ love and to earnestly desire spiritual gifts but he does not mean to yearn for them in order to be admired personally for the gift. He means desire them in the sense to use them collectively and faithfully in His service.

12. Remember when we started our study of this letter what did Paul call them? 1 Cor. 3:1

13. What were some of the problems that Paul was writing them concerning? 1 Cor. 1:10-11

14. How do you suppose they had been using their spiritual gifts?

All of the gifts of the Spirit are good, but must be used in an orderly and loving way; never for self-glorification.

15. We hear much controversy today about tongues. Some say it is a sign of spiritual maturity. Is that correct according to what we have studied?

Some say they are a thing of the past since we do not read about them in any other books in the New Testament, except Acts.

16. Paul makes several points about speaking in tongues look up these verses and jot down the point Paul made.

1. 14:2

2. 12:28-31

3. 14:4

Unfortunately, in the body of Christ we often take our focus off our real enemy. We begin to fight and fuss with each other. **17. Who is our enemy?**

- **1 Peter 5:8-9** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.
- **Satan sows discord, he accuses God to men, men to God, and men to men. He will do what he can to drag the Christian out of fellowship with Christ and out of Christian service. MacArthur Study Bible notes on 1 Peter 5:8-9**

18. If we are going to go excel at something what does vs. 12 say we should strive for?

19. According to verse 22 what are the two distinct purposes of tongues and prophecy?

20. Verses 26-33 make it very clear, what is the worship service to be like when believers are gathered together?

21. Are you contributing to the worship experience of your church?

22. What is your part?

23. If for some reason you are hindered from attending does that mean you cannot have a part? What valuable contribution could you make to the worship service?

Now let's look at verses 34-35. Keep in mind Paul's purpose for writing. The Corinthian believers were misusing and abusing their freedom in Christ. In that culture it was considered improper for a woman to question a man in public. They may have had legitimate questions but they were offending others by their boldness. When we take our questions to our own husbands or fathers this shows them respect. If they do not have the answer then as the spiritual head of the family they can search it out. This is still relevant today.

24. What might this do for our marriages if our attitude was to take our questions to our own husband? Of course today we have abundant access to the Word of

God and can search the scriptures for ourselves, be willing to invest time if it is something you really want to know. From time to time we may still have questions, again I say try asking your own husband. Do not respect other men more than your own husband. People tend to try to prove us right when we think highly of them.

I can just hear many of you now saying, “You don’t know my husband, he doesn’t know the Bible or he’s not even a believer” Then go to your heavenly Father who loves you and desires for you to know the truth.

Paul sums up his letter saying if there is anyone among you who knows truth when he hears it let him acknowledge what is being said as truth. Christ followers should do everything in a fitting and orderly way.

25. What will that look like for you today?

26. How will you use the spiritual gifts that God has given you to worship Him?