

# Just A Minute! *With Scripture*

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.

## I Corinthians 14: Doing All Things to Edify

The last chapter, *I Corinthians 13*, taught on love: *"And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."* (Verse 3) Chapter 14 continues the theme of serving in charity and not to exalt oneself: *"Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy."* (I Cor. 14:1) Why desire prophecy? Because it edifies and teaches others.

The saints at Corinth and believers today need reminders to correct ungodly thinking. Godly motives develop as we yield to renew our mind in sound doctrine, doing all things unto the Lord, not men. (Rom. 14:8) Service then, is not self-focused to feel good or to be seen of men. Rather, it's to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, in the same selfless love that led Him to the cross.

One aspect of ministry is to edify and encourage others to grow and walk by faith. I Corinthians 14 clarifies this other-directed, love focus when using spiritual gifts: *"He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church"* (I Cor. 14:4). Seek things that will benefit the saints, not one's self: *"Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church."* (I Cor. 14:12) Godly service will prefer others.

However, tongues were not being used in brotherly love (Rom. 12:10). Instead, Corinth saints were puffed up, seeking to exalt themselves, when using tongues, in a fair show of their flesh. Therefore, God had Paul use himself as an example to admonish them: *"I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue."* (Verses: 18-19)

Finally, saints were encouraged to grow up when using gifts and to be spiritual adults: *"Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men."* This refers us back, to "...put away childish things." (I Cor. 13:11) Tongues didn't edify the local assembly; so why were they doing them in the Church? Wisdom would have taught them to renew their mind in order to seek another's good, living unto God, rather than being self-centered

## One Thing I Corinthians 14 Can Teach



What does it mean to live unto yourself? It is a self-driven life, such as is seen in Corinth and living primarily focused on YOU and YOUR needs, in this earthly, physical realm, rather than God's. So, are you living unto God or your flesh? *"And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."* (II Cor. 5:15)

Being overly busied up with the cares of this world i.e. health, exercise, politics, or even Church activities, is NOT what God desires for you spiritually. He wants your mind to be renewed to serve Him. Meditate on these:

*Romans 12:2: "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the **renewing** of your mind, **that** ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

*II Corinthians 4:16: "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is **renewed** day by day."*

*Ephesians 4:23: "And be **renewed** in the spirit of your mind;"*

*Colossians 3:10: "And have put on the new man, which is **renewed** in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"*

**To Do:** God desires your thoughts and life centered to be on Him. Is it sin to just live as everyone else? (Rom. 6:1-2) Can you be in God's will if you give little regard to reading, growing, and serving? What would sound doctrine say?



Search it out!

Read &amp; Study to Live As Who You Are In Christ

## I Corinthians 14: Setting Order to Spiritual Gifts

Examine verses! 

When students realize that I Corinthians is an epistle written by the Apostle Paul and specifically 'to' the Body of Christ, they have learned some things about rightly dividing the Word (*II Tim. 2:15*). Now, examine topics below to understand further about spiritual gifts in I Corinthians 14:

**1. Note the Context:** Find verses in I Corinthians to verify saints at Corinth were caught up in carnality and exalting themselves over others in the Church.

**2. Define Terms:** Understand key terms in Chapter 14. Use a dictionary/concordance to further define them:

-Tongues: The power of speaking in unknown languages; a gift of the Holy Ghost.

-Prophecy: Speak/exhort; to proclaim the Word of God to edify; in the past it was used to warn of coming judgment and predict the future.

**3. Realize to whom is it speaking:** Notice that several groups of people are addressed in Verses 19-23:

-The Church (Vs. 19,23): This refers to the local assembly of believers, such as those at Corinth.

-Brethren (Vs.20): Those who trusted Christ, to whom this letter was written. Most were children, functioning as babes in understanding. Yet, God desires adult men, growing to spiritual maturity.

-This people (Vs. 21): Nation of Israel.

-Them that believe (Vs. 22): Saints who believe the Truth provided.

-Them that believe not (Vs. 22): Those saints who have rejected the Word of God.

-Unlearned (23): Those believers who have not been instructed in something.

-Unbelievers (23): Individuals who are not saved; they have not trusted the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ to be justified.

**4. Note the instructions given:** Paul provides definition to and instruction about tongues and prophecy. Skim Chapter 14 to find them and make a list: Things that describe and things that instruct in these two issues. Do this before you read the articles on page 3, to compare, contrast, and prove the articles.

**\*Newer students: Focus on 'reading' Scripture rather than on using many new study insights.**

### Why Use Old Testament Scripture In Verses 21-22?

As addressed in the last issue, the purpose of signs: **1.** Verification of Paul and His apostleship (I Cor. 12:12) **2.** Completion of the Word: A temporary manifestation of God's wisdom and power until, "...that which is perfect is come." (I Cor. 13:10, Col. 1:25) **3.** A rebuke and teaching to Israel who believed not: These were a sign for Israel who rebelled against God (Jesus was the Christ). It was never meant to be used in the local assembly 'for believers.' (Vs. 22) God used His mighty power, through tongues in the Gentiles, primarily as a sign to indicate His displeasure, provoking them to humble themselves. They were to become one of the Gentile nations, trusting God's message through the Apostle Paul to be saved from the wrath to come. (Read Rom. 9-11) *Romans 3:22: "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference."*

Three chapters, *I Corinthians 12, 13, & 14*, were devoted to spiritual gifts because of their great potential for misunderstanding within the Body of Christ, even as we see this confusion continuing today. *I Corinthians 14:21-22* refers the reader back to the Old Testament instructions about tongues: *"For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people...yet they would not hear." (Isaiah 28:11-12)*. Israel could have chosen to understand what the signs in the Gentiles meant, and be humbled to submit themselves under Paul's ministry. Yet, the majority did not!

Saints at Corinth were to grow up to realize what God was doing and put away their child-like ways, (Vs. 20). God used Paul to teach them in *Verse 22: "Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not..."* Thus, saints who didn't believe the Truth and were being admonished to become men in understanding; basically, to grow up spiritually.

**To Do:** Evaluate the purpose of signs and the specific instruction that sets order to their use.





## Clarity To Evaluate Tongues

**Description of tongues:** Skim through Chapter 14 to notice verses that give definition to tongues. For example:

*Verse 2: "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries."*

*Verse 4: "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself..."*

*Verse 6: "Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?"*

*Verse 11: "Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me."*

*Verse 14: "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful."*

*Verse 17: "For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified."*

*Verse 22: "Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not..."*

In summary, tongues speak mysteries unto God, edifies oneself, does not profit or edify the hearer, and is a sign to those that believe not (of Israel). **How to use tongues:** Scan through I Corinthians 14 once more to find verses that teach the 'how to' when someone used the gift of tongues:

*Verse 19: "Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue."*

*Verse 26: "How is it then, brethren? When ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying."*

*Verse 27: "If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret."*

*Verse 28: "But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God."*

*Verse 34: "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law."*

In review, saints were to seek to edify/teach the church, doing it as Paul instructs, by two or three, with an interpreter.

**How to use this information:** Observe how tongues are being used today. What is the purpose? Examine I Corinthians 12-14 and assess what is occurring. Also, evaluate whether tongues should be done in the local assembly. (Vs. 19)

## Prophecy Made Clear

**Prophecy description:** God clarified things to understand this gift:

*Verse 3: "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort."*

*Verse 4: "...but he that prophesieth edifieth the church."*

*Verse 22: "...but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe."*

*Verse 24: "But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all."*

**The 'how to' of prophecy:** Verses below give clarity on using the spiritual gift of prophecy:

*Verse 1: "Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy."*

*Verse 5: "I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues..."*

*Verse 19: "Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also..."*

*Verse 29-32: "Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets."*

*Verse 34: "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law."*

So, prophecy edified, exhorted, & comforted believers. When it occurred, saints were to follow after prophesying, as it benefited the Church. Paul instructed it to be done decently and in order. (Vs. 40)

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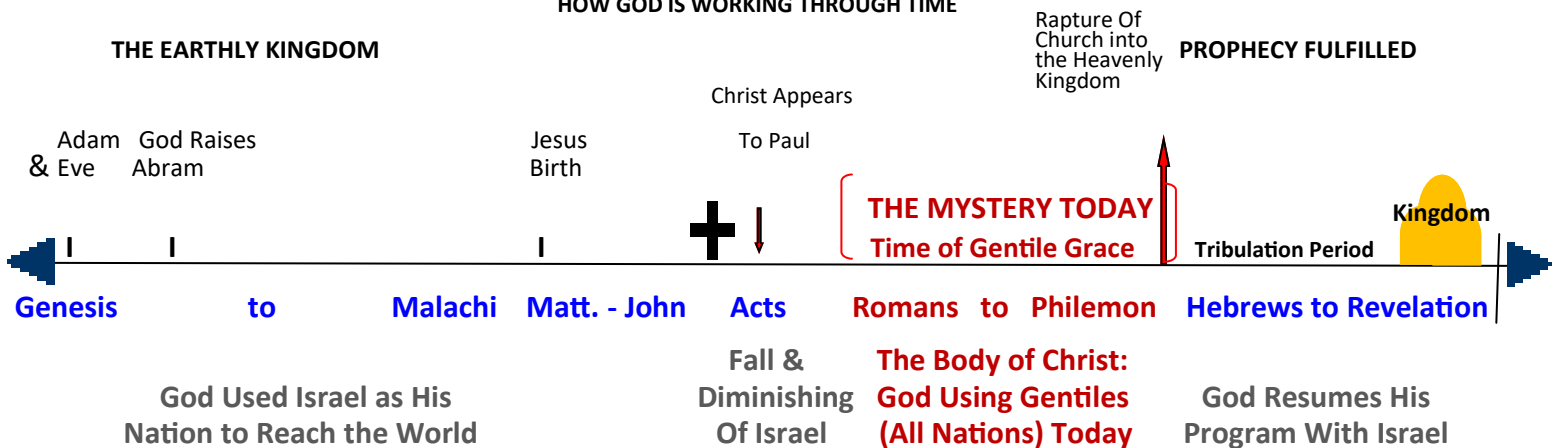
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To:

**“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)**

## The Simple Design of the Bible

HOW GOD IS WORKING THROUGH TIME



## Do You Neglect Part of the Bible?

Read all the Bible as it is for our learning. *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” (Romans 15:4)* Yet, why do some of us **only** read some of the Bible? At times, saints only study certain books, because they are used to them or view these books as special, like the Gospels. Of course, this may not be the most wise reason to stay in certain books. A question: Does God have a plan for us to be edified and grow? Of course, but what is it! We need to look for direction from the apostle God appointed ‘to us’ Gentiles, in the Body of Christ. *“Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.” (I Timothy 2:7)*

Students are to understand how to rightly divide the Word, that is, realize the context of a book or passage, *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.” (II Tim 2:15)* Some of the Bible is written ‘to us’ as members of the Body of Christ (Romans thru Philemon) and some ‘to’ Israel (Genesis thru Malachi, the Gospels and Hebrews to Revelation), as discussed last month. (Look at the context of each book to prove it and review the timeline above.) Most study time, especially until one is established in the faith, ought to be in the sound doctrine written to us. Read all the Bible, with special emphasis on Paul’s epistles.

### Read the Bible Through This Year!

Think about joining us in January, 2019 to read God’s Word, a little each day. Do it at your own pace, or we would be glad to furnish a daily reading schedule. Really think about this opportunity! Contact us if you have questions or would like help: (804) 519-1210

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