

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 40

Chapter 14: Verse-By-Verse

9 March 2018

- 1-2** “**In the spirit he speaketh mysteries.**” This is not the Holy Spirit. When someone speaks under the control of the Holy Spirit, everybody profits (1 Cor. 12:4-7). Mystery: this is something that is unknown until it is revealed (by an interpreter who knows what was said). If it cannot be interpreted, it is not a language, and therefore, it is not from the Holy Spirit. If God wants to say something to you, He’s going to make sure you understand it. That’s the biblical pattern from Genesis to Revelation.
- 3** Prophecy is better because it will help you.
- 4** The person speaking in tongues is edified because he knows what he’s saying, but if he doesn’t pass that information on to others so they can also be edified, he’s being selfish. Paul wants them to stop being selfish. The person who prophesies edifies the church; helps others.
- 5** Paul doesn’t forbid tongues (vs 39) but says it’s better to prophesy because prophecy helps others in the church; tongues doesn’t.
- 6** Tongues doesn’t profit the hearer. Revelation, knowledge, prophecy, and doctrine are all profitable. They are available in the scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16).
- 7-8** Paul compares tongues to indiscriminate noise. It only causes confusion and turns the focus away from the praise of God and turns it toward the person making a scene and drawing attention to himself.
- 9** Speaking a language that nobody understands is a waste of time. You might as well “**speak into the air.**”
- 10** Tongues—are “**voices in the world**” which have “**signification**” (meaning, sense). Somebody understands it. If not, it didn’t come from God.
- 11** **Barbarian**: a foreigner; a person of a different culture. When you hear somebody speak another language, it is clear to you that they’re from someplace different from you.
- 12** It’s good to be zealous of spiritual gifts. It’s better to be zealous of the gifts that will help people in the church.
- 13** If you speak a foreign tongue, pray that God will enable you to interpret so others can understand.
- 14** When you pray in tongues, it is your own spirit that prays, not the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26). You understand what you’re saying, but what you understand doesn’t provide any fruit for anyone else.
- 15** Whenever you open your mouth in the congregation (whether praying or singing), make sure you can be understood by others.
- 16** If nobody understands what you say, they can’t rightly say, “Amen.” “Amen” means, “so be it,” “I agree,” “that’s right.” So, speak up! Speak clearly! Sing out!
- 17-19** Five understandable words are better than ten thousand words nobody understands.

- 20** Grow up in your understanding or you'll be easily deceived (Eph. 4:14-15). Humble yourselves like children when it comes to malice (hatred, wickedness, meanness). Be simple concerning evil (Rom. 16:19, Matt. 18:3).
- 21-22** Tongues are a sign to the Jews ("**this people**," 1 Cor. 1:22) and for unbelievers. Prophecy is for believers.
- 23** If someone comes in the church who doesn't understand the language, or if an unbeliever hears people speaking in tongues when he walks in, he'll think you lost your mind.
- 24-25** When an unbeliever comes to the church and hears prophecy, it will have an effect on him that will begin to turn him toward God.
- 26** Everything done in the church assembly should be "**done unto edifying**." If it doesn't edify others, don't do it.
- 27-28** Tongues wasn't forbidden, but it had to be done in an orderly manner. No more than 2 or 3, one at a time, and there must be an interpreter. If you can't meet those requirements, keep silence in the church. Note that he's not promoting tongues, but he's not forbidding it, in case (at that time) someone walked in the church who didn't understand the common language. But he clearly pointed out that speaking in tongues does not benefit believers.
- 29-32** The Holy Spirit will not cause a person to lose control. If you say you couldn't help yourself, it wasn't the Holy Spirit controlling you. "**The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets!**"
- 33** If people are getting confused by what you're saying, it is not of God. God is the author of peace in the churches. Charismatics will accuse you of being hateful when you stick to the Bible. The truth doesn't break down the peace between people; those who oppose the truth break the peace.
- 34-35** Paul spoke both, of tongues, and of prophecy in this chapter; the command for women to keep silence applies to both. The Charismatic churches are full of women preachers because they find it easy to disregard what the Bible says.
- 36** The word of God did not come out FROM the Gentiles at Corinth; it came UNTO them from the Jews. God isn't speaking in the ear of the tongues-speaking Charismatic. He has said everything He's going to say, and He put it in the Bible.
- 37** If you don't believe and obey what Paul wrote in this chapter of the Bible, you are not spiritual. The Charismatic boasts of being spiritual, but they certainly do not acknowledge Paul's commandments here.
- 38** God won't stop you from being ignorant of His commands if that's what you want to be.
- 39-40** Everything done in the church must "**be done decently and in order**." When somebody gets out of line, they must be corrected so that things can go back to being decent and orderly.