

1Corinthians 14:20-40

MONDAY: Read 1Corinthians 14

What concept strikes you most in this chapter? Can you rephrase it in your own words? *Pray that you (& we) learn to depend on the Spirit for understanding & application of God's truths in our lives.*

TUESDAY: Read 1Corinthians 14:20-40

What do you think is Paul's main point in this section of the chapter? How do verses 26, 33 & 40 summarize Paul's advice? Why do you think Paul limits his advice to only 2 spiritual gifts – what do they have in common? *Pray that you (we) learn to trust Spirit to use His gifts in & thru us in ministry.*

WEDNESDAY: Read 1Corinthians 14:20-22

Does God using tongues to speak to His people indicate that they were believers or unbelievers? Why? How can you support this claim in the Old Testament narrative about the remnant of Israel? *Ask the Spirit to give you wisdom and clarity to understand how the testaments tell one story fulfilled in Christ.*

THURSDAY: Read 1Corinthians 14:23-25

Why does Paul encourage the church to earnestly desire the spiritual gift of prophecy? How does prophecy help both believers and unbelievers? What is the result of "telling God's truth about His plan for sinners" (prophecy)? *What Spiritual gifts do you expect to exhibit in the ministries Jesus leads into?*

FRIDAY: Read 1Corinthians 14:26-31

How have worship services changed since the first century? When was the last time that you were in a worship service in which more than one believer "prophesied" (spoke God's truth)? Is a personal testimony a prophetic word? How would you respond if you heard a believer using a tongue followed by interpretation? *Pray that Father shows you the supernatural fruit He provides thru ministry.*

SATURDAY: Read 1Corinthians 14:32-40

Why did Paul forbid women to speak in church services (*hint: this was happening in pagan god worship*). Who does Paul instruct women with questions to ask? What practices do you appreciate from the first century, and which from this culture? *Ask Spirit to help you understand the cultural distinctions between first century worship and 21st century worship practices.*

1CORINTHIANS 14 (NLT)

1) Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy. **2)** For if you have the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking only to God, since people won't be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be mysterious. **3)** But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them. **4)** A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church. **5)** I wish you could all speak in tongues, but even more I wish you could all prophesy. For prophecy is greater than speaking in tongues, unless someone interprets what you are saying so that the whole church will be strengthened. **6)** Dear brothers and sisters, if I should come to you speaking in an unknown language, how would that help you? But if I bring you a revelation or some special knowledge or prophecy or teaching, that will be helpful. **7)** Even lifeless instruments like the flute or the harp must play the notes clearly, or no one will recognize the melody. **8)** And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear call, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? **9)** It's the same for you. If you speak to people in words they don't understand, how will they know what you are saying? You might as well be talking into empty space.

10) There are many different languages in the world, and every language has meaning. **11)** But if I don't understand a language, I will be a foreigner to someone who speaks it, and the one who speaks it will be a foreigner to me. **12)** And the same is true for you. Since you are so eager to have the special abilities the Spirit gives, seek those that will strengthen the whole church. **13)** So anyone who speaks in tongues should pray also for the ability to interpret what has been said. **14)** For if I pray in tongues, my spirit is praying, but I don't understand what I am saying. **15)** Well then, what shall I do? I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand. **16)** For if you praise God only in the spirit, how can those who don't understand you praise God along with you? How can they join you in giving thanks when they don't understand what you are saying? **17)** You will be giving thanks very well, but it won't strengthen the people who hear you. **18)** I thank God that I speak in tongues more than any of you. **19)** But in a church meeting I would rather speak five understandable words to help others than ten thousand words in an unknown language.

20) Dear brothers and sisters, don't be childish in your understanding of these things. Be innocent as babies when it comes to evil, but be mature in understanding matters of this kind. **21)** It is written in the Scriptures: "I will speak to my own people through strange languages and through the lips of foreigners. But even then, they will not listen to me," says the LORD. **22)** So you see that speaking in tongues is a sign, not for believers, but for unbelievers. Prophecy, however, is for the benefit of believers, not unbelievers. **23)** Even so, if unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your church meeting and hear everyone speaking in an unknown language, they will think you are crazy. **24)** But if all of you are prophesying, and unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your meeting, they will be convicted of sin and judged by what you say. **25)** As they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, "God is truly here among you."

26) Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you. **27)** No more than two or three should speak in tongues. They must speak one at a time, and someone must interpret what they say. **28)** But if no one is present who can interpret, they must be silent in your church meeting and speak in tongues to God privately. **29)** Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said. **30)** But if someone is prophesying and another person receives a revelation from the Lord, the one who is speaking must stop. **31)** In this way, all who prophesy will have a turn to speak, one after the other, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged. **32)** Remember that people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can take turns. **33)** For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the meetings of God's holy people. **34)** Women should be silent during the church meetings. It is not proper for them to speak. They should be submissive, just as the law says. **35)** If they have any questions, they should ask their husbands at home, for it is improper for women to speak in church meetings. **36)** Or do you think God's word originated with you Corinthians? Are you the only ones to whom it was given? **37)** If you claim to be a prophet or think you are spiritual, you should recognize that what I am saying is a command from the Lord himself. **38)** But if you do not recognize this, you yourself will not be recognized. **39)** So, my dear brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and don't forbid speaking in tongues. **40)** But be sure that everything is done properly and in order.