

**[1 Corinthians]
Lesson 12**

Prophecy Vs. Tongues

(1 Corinthians 14)

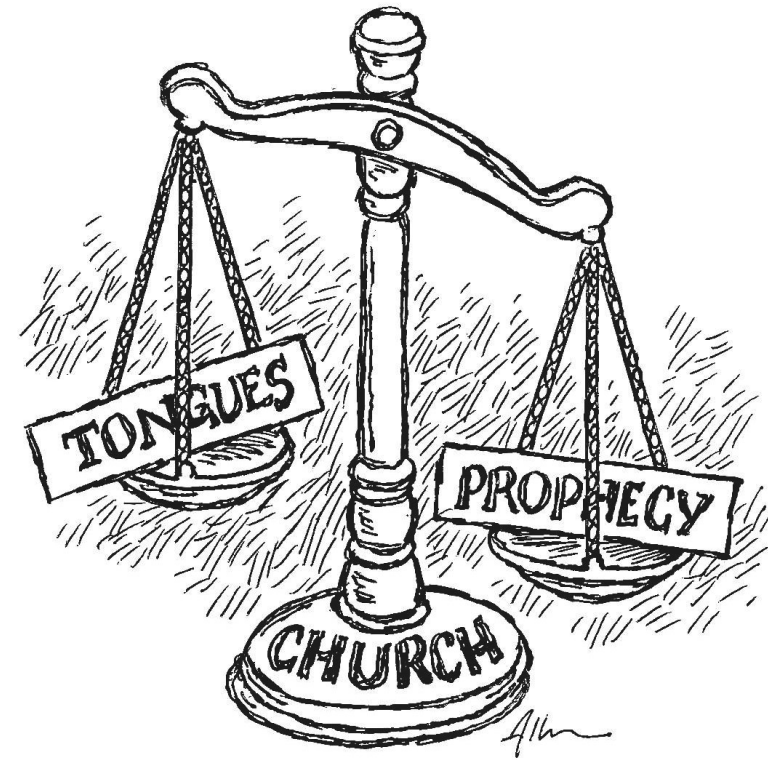


1. Love Is Most Important

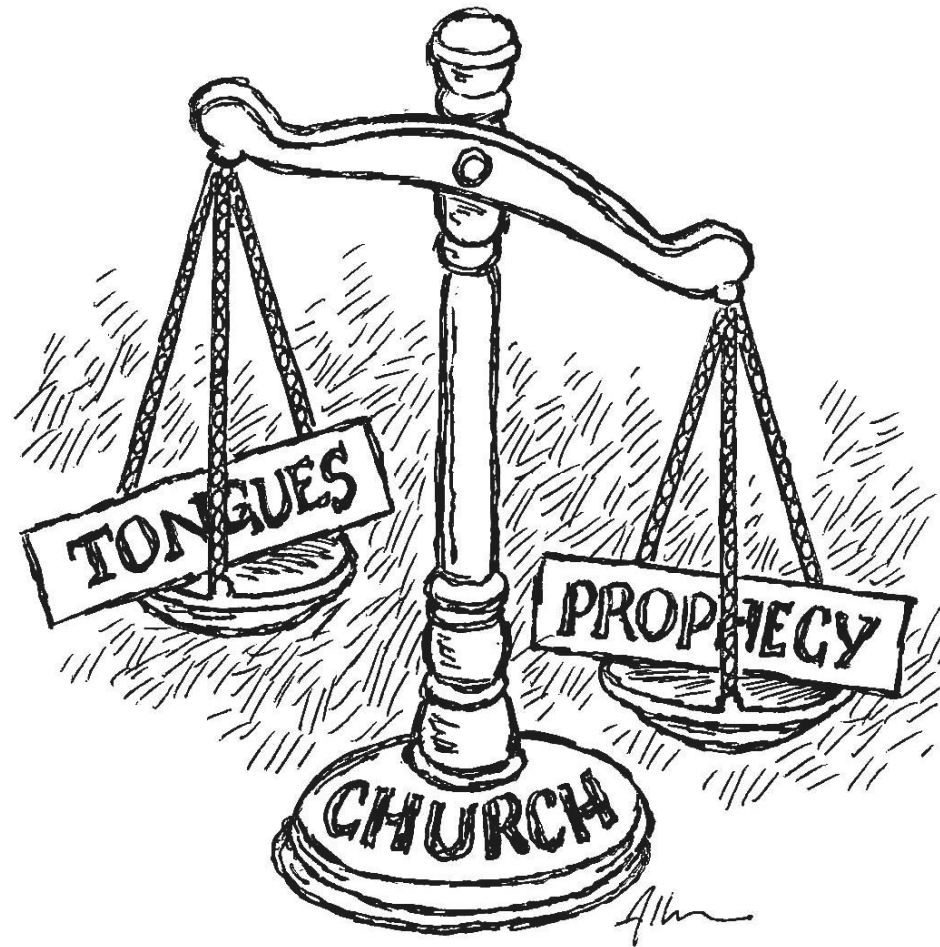
LOVE GOD ↑
← LOVE OTHERS →

(1 Cor 14:1) Follow ^[1st] after **charity**, and desire (want) **spiritual gifts**, but rather (more) that ye may **prophecy**.

1. Love = Most important
2. Spiritual gifts = important
3. Prophecy = More important



2. Prophecy Is More Important Than Tongues



(1 Cor 14:1-2) *Follow after charity, and desire (want) spiritual gifts, but rather (more) that ye may prophesy.*

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

“unknown tongue” = foreign language (God understands, but no one else can understand and learn God’s Word)

(1 Cor 14:3) *But he that **prophesieth** speaketh unto men to edification (make strong), and exhortation (encourage), and comfort.*

*“**Prophesieth**”* = speaking God’s Words in an understandable language.

Now prophecy is finished; we use the Bible.

(1 Cor 14:4) *He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth (encourages) himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.*

“himself” = one person learns God’s Word

“church” = many people learn God’s Word

(1 Cor 14:5) *I would (want) that ye all spake with tongues, but rather (more) that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.*

*Prophecy is more important than tongues because many people (church) learn God's Word.

*Tongues is only important if also there is an interpreter to make the church understand God's Word taught in a foreign language.

3. Tongues Were a Sign for Unbelieving Israel

<p><u>JERUSALEM</u> <u>ACTS 2</u></p> <p>TONGUES JEWS</p> <p>3000 devout unbelieving Jews at Jerusalem needing to hear tongues as a sign of judgment.</p>	<p><u>SAMARIA</u> <u>ACTS 8</u></p> <p>NO TONGUES NO JEWS</p> <p>No Jews would live at Samaria due to racial hatred.</p>	<p><u>CAESAREA</u> <u>ACTS 10</u></p> <p>TONGUES JEWS</p> <p>Peter and six Jewish Christians not believing that Gentiles could be saved.</p>	<p><u>CORINTH</u> <u>ACTS 18</u></p> <p>TONGUES JEWS</p> <p>Many unbelieving Jews living at Corinth needing to hear tongues as a sign of judgment.</p>	<p><u>EPHESUS</u> <u>ACTS 19</u></p> <p>TONGUES JEWS</p> <p>Many unbelieving Jews living at Ephesus needing to hear tongues as a sign of judgment.</p>
<p>1. Apostles spoke in tongues. 2. 3000 people saved. 3. 3000 people baptised. NOTE: 3000 people did <u>not</u> speak in tongues.</p>	<p>1. Samaritans believed. 2. They were baptised. 3. Peter and John laid hands on them. 4. They received the the Holy Spirit. NOTE: Samaritans did <u>not</u> speak in tongues. NOTE: Phillip did <u>not</u> lay hands on Samaritans, because only an Apostle could impart the Holy Spirit by laying of hands.</p>	<p>1. Cornelius believed. 2. Holy Spirit fell on him 3. He <u>spoke in tongues</u>. 4. He was <u>baptised</u>. NOTE: They spoke in tongues to convince the Jewish Christians that Gentiles could be saved, and that God was no longer working only through the Jews.</p>		<p>1. John's disciples believed. 2. They were baptised 3. Paul laid hands on them. 4. The Holy Spirit came on them. 5. They <u>spoke in tongues</u>. NOTE: Tongues warned the Jewish Community at Ephesus of coming judgment. It also identified John's disciples with the Apostles and Pentecost.</p>

(1 Cor 14:20) *Brethren, be not **children** (know little) in understanding: howbeit (but) in malice (evil) be ye children, but in understanding be **men** (know much).*

The Corinthian church should have understood the correct use and purpose for tongues, but they did not. Instead, they in an evil way used tongues to pridefully (evil) show themselves to be very spiritual.

[1 Cor. 3:1-2] God wants the church to grow—not continue as babies. [Also see Eph. 4:11-16].

(1 Cor 14:21-22) *In the law (O.T.) it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips (languages) will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. (22) Wherefore (so) tongues are for a sign (proof), not to them that believe [the church], but to them that believe not [unbelieving Israel]: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.*

Tongues = teach unbelieving Israel [see Acts 2:4-6, 22-24]

Prophesying = teach the church (believers)

4. Edify the Church



Let all things be
done for building up.
I Corinthians 14:26

(1 Cor 14:26) **How is it then, brethren?** when ye come together [church], every one of you [members] hath a psalm (song), hath a doctrine (teaching), hath a tongue (different language), hath a revelation (prophecy), hath an interpretation (tell meaning of different language). **Let all things be done unto edifying** (make strong-grow).

What to do in church?

Make the church strong by using your spiritual gifts to help one another grow.

5. The Church Must Have Good Order

(1 Cor 14:40) *Let all things be done decently (right) and in order (rules).*

