



# “THE GIFTS”

Text Corinthians 14:20-25

Chapter 12,13,14 is the largest section on Spiritual gifts.

Chapter 12 Paul addresses the division and disunity in the church because of their misuse of the spiritual gifts.

Chapter 13 Paul reveals to these charismatic christians that the problem of their disunity and division was their lack of love. They valued and placed excessive emphasis on certain gifts above the others. The spiritual gifts were not being used in love.

The theme of chapter 14 is edification. Are the gifts edifying the church? Paul helps these believers understand how the two prized gifts (tongues and prophecy) are to be used. Two principles that Paul has given us already:

1. Prophecy was better than tongues.
2. Tongues are only to be used in the church publicly with an interpreter.

Take away for today: \_\_\_\_\_

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**#1 1. Those who pride themselves in speaking in tongues are spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in why God uses tongues.**

The Corinthians have been told repeatedly that they were carnal, not mature, foolish, not wise. Their thinking on the gift of tongues typified their immaturity. Paul does tell them you SHOULD be like an infant concerning evil, they SHOULD NOT be that way regarding the purpose of tongues (vs 20)

Take specific note of vs 21 this is important in having a biblical understanding of tongues. When studying the Bible a good way to grasping the meaning of the text is anytime you see where a NT write quotes the OT, take note of that and look up the verse and the surrounding context, this helps unlock the meaning of the text, this is good Bible study. Paul is quoting from:

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So why did Isaiah say this about "strange tongues" and why is Paul using it here?

### **Crash Course in Israels Disobedience**

Deuteronomy 28:47-50. God warns His people. Did they obey? How long did this go on for? \_\_\_\_\_

What does God do? He sends prophet after prophet warning His people to \_\_\_\_\_.

Isaiah shows up on the scene some \_\_\_\_\_ years after Moses's writings. Still God's people are disobedient to His Word. Isaiah serves as a prophet for \_\_\_\_\_ years warning God's people, but still they will not listen.

Take note of how Isaiah speaks to God's people. Isaiah 28:9-10 Notice how the people responded to the message in vs 12 The response of the nation was to \_\_\_\_\_ the messenger and the message.

Look at what Isaiah says to their rejection in Isaiah 28:12 Because of their persistent rebellion God now warned that He would speak to His people by another means, through " \_\_\_\_\_ " (28:11).

Do you see the connection here as how Paul was using it in I Corinthians 14?

**This now sets the context for why Paul said what he said concerning their spirituality and the use of tongues.**

- The sign of tongues was NOT one that would bring \_\_\_\_\_. In spite of this sign, Israel would not listen or repent to God. I Cor 14:21; Isaiah 28:12.
- Foreign tongues (known languages) serve as a sign to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ people. Prophecy is for \_\_\_\_\_.
- Signs normally do not \_\_\_\_\_ the lost. Matthew 12:38-40, Luke 16:31
  - The Corinthians thought that tongues were an effective \_\_\_\_\_. Paul corrects this thinking I Corinthians 14:23-25. Compare Vs 23 to Vs 24-25.
  - Tongues are a sign to \_\_\_\_\_, a sign of \_\_\_\_\_. Our Lord used parables to veil the truth from those who had repeatedly rejected the offer of salvation. Acts 2:14-36, Acts 28:23-28

**#2 Principles to remember about spiritual gifts. Vs 1-25**

- Our \_\_\_\_\_ play a significant role in edification. I Corinthians 14:14-15, 29-31, Romans 12:1-2.
- Spiritual gifts are to be measured and used by this standard " \_\_\_\_\_ " 12:7, 14:16-17, 29-31
- Tongues are not necessarily an evidence of \_\_\_\_\_. It may be an evidence of their \_\_\_\_\_. I Cor. 12:11, I Peter 4:10; Romans 12:6; Ephesians 4:7.

**Questions for further reflection**

What challenged your thinking or beliefs from today's teaching?

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Why do you think tongues are thought of to be the most significant spiritual gift? How would you talk to someone who tried to convince you that they were?

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Have you ever done something in the church meeting or to another believer that did not edify? What was the result? Have you seen someone else do something that did not edify the body? What was the result?

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