



A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

# ORDER IN WORSHIP: TONGUES

1 Corinthians 14:1-25



## 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 <sup>NIV</sup>

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. <sup>2</sup> For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. <sup>3</sup> But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. <sup>4</sup> Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. <sup>5</sup> I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.





# TONGUES DEFINED



The supernatural enablement to speak another human language

The expression of love and wonder in inarticulate sounds





### Acts 2:3-6 <sup>NIV</sup>

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.





## Romans 8:26-27 <sup>NIV</sup>

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.





# PROPHECY DEFINED



Spirit-inspired, authoritative words  
from God that are without error

Spirit-inspired, insightful  
words that may be in error



# GUARDRAILS FOR SPEECH:

## DITCH ONE

Denying the work  
of the Spirit in  
guiding us

## DITCH TWO

Treating our words  
as equal in authority  
with God's words

# GUARDRAILS FOR SPEECH:

## DITCH ONE

Denying the work  
of the Spirit in  
guiding us

*The Spirit leads and guides  
us to speak in conformity to  
Scripture, and our words are  
open to correction.*

## DITCH TWO

Treating our words  
as equal in authority  
with God's words



# GUARDRAILS FOR SPEECH:

The clear teaching  
of God's word





# GUARDRAILS FOR SPEECH:

The clear teaching  
of God's word



Our confidence  
increases as we are  
closer to the center





## 1 Corinthians 14:6-9 <sup>NIV</sup>

Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? <sup>7</sup> Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the pipe or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? <sup>8</sup> Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? <sup>9</sup> So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air.





## 1 Corinthians 14:10-14 <sup>NIV</sup>

Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. <sup>11</sup> If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and the speaker is a foreigner to me. <sup>12</sup> So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.

<sup>13</sup> For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say. <sup>14</sup> For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.





## 1 Corinthians 14:15-19 <sup>NIV</sup>

So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. <sup>16</sup> Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer, say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? <sup>17</sup> You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified.

<sup>18</sup> I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. <sup>19</sup> But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.





## 1 Corinthians 14:20-22 <sup>NIV</sup>

Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. <sup>21</sup> In the Law it is written:

“With other tongues  
and through the lips of foreigners  
I will speak to this people,  
but even then they will not listen to me,  
says the Lord.”

<sup>22</sup> Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is not for unbelievers but for believers.





## 1 Corinthians 14:23-25 <sup>NIV</sup>

So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? <sup>24</sup> But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, <sup>25</sup> as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”





All the words spoken in the gathering should be clear, biblical, and helpful for spiritual growth.

