1Thess #136

God is not the author of confusion.

I want to keep Kenneth in prayer today. He is the brother-in-law of Rob who helped with my book editing. Kenneth was admitted to the hospital and appears it may be a stroke from a blood clot.

Thank you for your prayers for my oldest step daughter – she had a healthy baby girl yesterday!

We will open today in 1Corinthians chapter 14.

Now keeping in mind chapters 12, 13 and into 14 need to be accepted as a lecture and a warning about the fact that many spiritual gifts were temporary for the early formation of the church.

The Bels at Corinth had turned spiritual gifts into an emotional rollercoaster and a form of competition. The Apostle Paul started off chapter 12 warning about false idols in relation to displaying spiritual gifts.

In other words, he was reminding them when they were Unbels who worshipped false gods, they were involved in emotional worship and pseudo forms of spiritual gifts.

Now chapter 14 is a long chapter so we may bounce down a few verses along the way - so stay alert as we dive into this chapter.

1Cor 14:1 Pursue love, yet earnestly desire spiritual *gifts,* but especially that you may prophesy.

The Apostle Paul is saying stay in the New Nature (Pursue Love).

Remember this was written around 55 AD, which means the completed canon of scripture is still 40 years away.

As I mentioned last lesson, historical context is very important.

The Apostle Paul is taking this time to teach the Bels at Corinth that temporary spiritual gifts have a place in the early church, yet he is warning against the emotional aspect of these gifts.

[1Co 14:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/2/s_1076002) For the one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people, but to God; for no one understands, but in *his* spirit he speaks mysteries.

As you read this chapter you will get a strong sense – Paul is telling these Bels that tongues, is the least of all of the spiritual gifts.

/1Cor 14:3 But the **one who prophesies speaks** to people *for* **edification, exhortation, and consolation**.

Those with a true gift of prophecy were valuable because they edified and lifted up the early church, concerning the coming Rapture and 2nd advent of Christ. Speaking prophesies was teaching doctrines related to end times.\

[1Co 14:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/4/s_1076004) The one who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but the one who prophesies edifies the church.

1Co 14:5 Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but rather that you would prophesy; and greater is the one who prophesies than the one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edification.

/[1Co 14:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/6/s_1076006) But now, brothers *and sisters,* **if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I speak to you either by way of revelation, or of knowledge, or of prophecy, or of teaching?**

Revelation, knowledge and prophecy were all needed over the course of the early church to assemble and complete the NT.\

The Apostle Paul goes on to compare the gift of tongues as a musical instrument, meaning it is useless without the right sounds coming out of it.

It is also a useless instrument and no one can really understand it or has a need for it, if it is not handled the right way.

/1Cor 14:9 So you too, **unless you produce intelligible speech by the tongue**, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will *just* be talking to the air.

Even during its limited use, tongues was always understandable in a real language. It was used for a group or single individual who could understand the words.\

The Apostle Paul tells them that he speaks tongues more so than all of them but it is not a gift to compete and compare.

By the way the last few years of Paul’s ministry he was no longer healing or speaking in tongues.

/The Apostle Paul from chapter 13 into 14 is emphasizing the issue of building up the church by being in the New Nature and applying God’s word. He clearly has stated that eventually certain spiritual gifts (tongues, healing and prophecy) will be done away with. Several times within this teaching he insists that they grow up, which means they begin to focus on the plan and word of GOD through the filling of the HS.\

Much of this historically was written as a reprimand and warning, because they had gotten emotional with spiritual gifts.

These types of spiritual gifts such as miracles, prophecy, healing and tongues brings attention to the person not attention to Christ.

When they were initially used to build a foundation of the church they had a specific goal and specific period of time that it would apply.

REPEAT

/1Cor 14:20 Brothers *and sisters,* **do not be children in your thinking;** yet in evil be infants, but **in your thinking be mature.**

Mature thinking comes from deeper intimacy with the mind of Christ (BD). Most people are emotionally drawn to spectacles such as tongues, miracles and prophecy.\

This is something that was problematic back then in the early church and it carries on today.

Now the Apostle Paul clarifies the real prophecy behind tongues as Isaiah pointed out in Isa chapter 28.

1Cor 14:21 In the Law it is written: “BY MEN OF STRANGE TONGUES AND BY THE LIPS OF STRANGERS I WILL SPEAK TO THIS PEOPLE, AND EVEN SO THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME,” says the Lord.

[/1Co 14:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/22/s_1076022) So then, tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; **but prophecy (*prophēteia)* is not for unbelievers**, but for those who believe.

Tongues was a sign or symbol for the Jews first. Secondary, even within evangelism it was designed to call Unbels to Christ.\

Tongues was never given to distract the teaching of God’s word in the assembly. Nor was it a gift that left everyone wondering what all the babbling was about.

PROPH-ET-EYE-AH, speaks to divine inspiration coupled with deep doctrinal knowledge.

/*prophēteia –* speaks to the temporary gift of understanding what the OT prophets were pointing ahead too. As well as how the prophecy unveiled in mystery doctrine now completes the NT canon. It was a visual gift to fully understand the doctrines of Eschatology. Which is not for an Unbeliever. The Unbel needs the gospel and core doctrines first! \

Prophecy is not fortune-telling and future visons about all things – it is deeper insight into the mind of Christ.

It has to be tethered to scripture.

[1Co 14:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/23/s_1076023) Therefore if the whole church gathers together and all *the people* speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are insane?

Notice the sarcasm the Apostle Paul has laced within some of these scriptures. He did this because he knew temporary gifts such as tongues would be removed in the future.

Yet the Corinthians were pinning their spiritual growth to temporary spiritual gifts.

[1Co 14:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/24/s_1076024) But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all;

The truth of what BD holds is so strong that it may bring even a stubborn Unbel to a place of awakening.

[1Co 14:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/25/s_1076025) the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.

This would hopefully put them in a place to hear the Gospel of Christ.

That is what Paul is stating – truth is powerful enough to bring even an Unbel to a place of vulnerability.

[1Co 14:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/26/s_1076026) What is *the outcome* then, brothers *and sisters?* When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. All things are to be done for edification.

Every gift - temporary or not, is never to interfere with the accuracy of the word and the goal of edification.

1Co 14:27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, *it must be* by two or at the most three, and *each one* in turn, and one is to interpret;

[1Co 14:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/28/s_1076028) but if there is no interpreter, he is to keep silent in church; and have him speak to himself and to God.

The Apostle Paul is telling them – while this set of temporary spiritual gifts is active, there must be order – the right thing done in the right way.

/1Co 14: 29 Have **two or three prophets speak,** and have the others **pass judgment** (*diakrinō*).

The church was meeting at several different houses and sometimes more than once a day. Paul was emphasizing to make sure the right person with a gift spoke of Eschatology. \

DEE-AH-CRINO, points to discernment, making a strong effort to evaluate anyone who teaching and preaching about the end times.

[1Co 14:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/30/s_1076030) But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, then the first one is to keep silent.

/[1Co 14:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/31/s_1076031) For **you can all prophesy** one by one, so that **all may learn** and all may be exhorted;

The way Paul used the term prophecy was more about mature Bels speaking the truth of the end times. That which they had learned and what was being documented for the completed canon of scripture.\

This was being highlighted because the Bels at Corinth were teaching amongst themselves.

The Apostle Paul was making sure the right thing in the right way, was being done!

Unfortunately, some denominations have taken this as everyone in the church can speak out a prophecy on something or someone.

/Prophecy, as it was being used here was very specific to the accurate teaching of eschatology. The two ways the Apostles looked at prophecy was teaching of the end times in proper context and those who may have a gift to assist with the NT scriptures (title – prophet). Every prophet and prophecy during the early church was very streamlined toward the end times and firmly cemented to scriptures of the OT and the authority of the Apostles.\

The word prophecies - plural, was really the teaching about the Rapture, the 7 years of Tribulation and the 2nd Advent.

It was never designed to go outside that boundary of eschatology.

/[1Co 14:32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/32/s_1076032) and **the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets**;

The authority of prophecy given in the OT was the guiding force behind all prophets during the early CA dispensation. \

No one with the title of prophet was an emotional trainwreck, they were very mature Bels under the strict authority of the WORD and the Apostles.

/[1Co 14:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/33/s_1076033) for **God is not *a God* of confusion,** but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,

If everyone was a prophet and everyone was speaking in tongues and performing miracles habitually, it would turn into a circus of confusion.\

This was all written for our benefit so we can learn and study every aspect.

The historical aspect of this is very clear it was a lesson and warning on temporary gifts.

[1Co 14:34](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/34/s_1076034) the women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.

Some of the ladies at Corinth were seeking leadership roles through spiritual gifts. Paul had to remind everyone of God’s order of church authority.

1Cor 14:35 If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.

/[1Co 14:36](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/36/s_1076036) Or was it from you that the word of God *first* went out? **Or has it come to you only?**

Many aspects of chapter 13 & 14, was the Apostle Paul, firmly shaking them off of the emotional rollercoaster. \

[1Co 14:37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/37/s_1076037) If anyone thinks that he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord’s commandment.

I am an Apostle under the authority of the LORD. Paul is making sure this is a loud and clear message within these chapters.

[1Co 14:38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/38/s_1076038) But if anyone does not recognize *this,* he is not recognized.

If any Bel is acting out of line with spiritual gifts after this teaching, do not recognize them in any realm of leadership.

[1Co 14:39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/39/s_1076039) Therefore, my brothers *and sisters,* earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.

[1Co 14:40](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/14/40/s_1076040) But all things must be done properly and in an orderly way.

/The title prophet is no longer available after the completed canon of scripture. Teaching and speaking about prophecies are simply, accurately handling the chain of events in eschatology. ALL prophecy is encompassed within the Bible, therefore there is no need for future prophecies. What will be fulfilled and what has already been fulfilled is all written down in the completed canon of scripture.\

/Anyone claiming modern day prophecies that do not align with scripture is nothing more than a satanic distraction. Verbal and mental gymnastics in relation to prophecy do not full under the umbrella of accurate teaching, they are emotional nonsense or demonic attacks. God is not the author of confusion – prophets were chosen by HIM and therefore were extremely precise and called to document all prophecies in the scriptures. \