

Cornerstone Faith of West Liberty
 Corinthians 14:1-5—Introduction to tongues and prophecy
 11-10-24

I. Pursue Love

- In the preceding chapters Paul had taught the following:
 1. That all the extraordinary gifts of the Spirit were proper objects of desire.
 2. That they were of different relative importance.
 3. That love was of greater value than any gift. Hodge - A Commentary on the First Epistle to the Corinthians.
- Pursue (as in love) is 2nd person plural—not 1st person singular—2PPI meaning it is to be done by a group of people, a congregation

Pursue:

διώκω [See Stg: [<G1377>](#)] *diókō*: to pursue, prosecute, persecute, but also to pursue in a good sense. To prosecute, persecute, pursue with repeated acts of enmity. The Complete Word Study Dictionary – New Testament.

- whether used positively to chase or negatively to persecute this word indicates intentionality and effort to obtain the prize—in this case love.
- In other words, God's love is not something that just happens to us—it is something we intentionally put effort into to in order to attain
- Other things we are to pursue:
 - Pursue hospitality (Rom. 12:13)
 - Pursue the prize of the upward call of God (Phil. 3:14)
 - Pursue what is good (1 Thess. 5:15)
 - Pursue righteousness (2 Tim. 2:22)
 - Pursue peace (Heb. 12:14)

II. Desire spiritual especially to prophesy

Desire:

to burn with zeal; filled with zeal whether good or bad

- Desire also is 2nd Person Plural meaning it is to be done by a group of people like a congregation—it includes the individual but goes beyond the individual
 - Desire the best gifts (1 Cor. 12:31)
 - Paul earnestly desired to present Corinthian church as a chaste virgin bride to Christ (2 Cor. 11:2)
 - Wrong desires God is not obligated to fulfill (Jas. 4:2)

Prophecy:

προφητεύω [See Stg: [<G4395>](#)] *prophēteúō*. To prophesy. (I) To foretell things to come; to declare truths through the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit whether by prediction or otherwise. (II) To tell forth God's message. Complete Word Study Dict. – NT

III. Tongues versus Prophecy

Tongues	Prophecy
Speaks to God not man as no one understands but in the spirit speaks mysteries (2)	Speaks edification, exhortation, and comfort to the people (3)
Tongues edify the speaker (4)	Prophecy edifies the church (4)
Wish all spoke in tongues (means it is a desire of Paul though not all do so not necessary for baptism of Spirit) (5)	Priority given to prophecy as it is known to the congregation spoken to (5)
Needs interpretation to be relevant to the congregation (5)	

- NOTE: in a tongue—singular—not tongues. This would mean the tongue does not shift between languages but remains in one language
- To me the question is not so much is it ecstatic or known language but does it violate the standard of the written Word of God when understood!
- Note that Paul ranks the gifts placing prophecy at the top of the list and tongues at the bottom

IV. Challenge Question?

- How are we actively pursuing love as a congregation?
 - o What would Jesus say about Cornerstone Faith—are we pursuing love or have we sold out to the culture of the world around us?
- How are we pursuing hospitality as a congregation?
- How are we pursuing the prize of the upward call—to seek first the Kingdom of God as a congregation?
- How are we pursuing what is good and right as a congregation?
- How are we pursuing righteousness as a congregation?
- How are we pursuing peace in our midst, community and nation as a congregation?
- How are we desiring the best gifts (or maybe any gifts) as a congregation?
- How are we moving toward being part of the chaste virgin bride of Christ?
- What wrong desires do we have that God is not obligated to fulfill?