

## Tongues:

The proper use and  
the misuse of this Gift.

We are here to discuss and to study what the Word of the LORD has to say concerning Tongues, this Gift of the Holy Spirit. I have decided not to use any outside commentaries on this subject, but rather to trust the words of Jesus when He said that the Spirit of Truth, whom He will send back from the Father, He, will lead and guide us into all Truth! I believe the words of our LORD!

It is vitally important, I believe for a Church body or an individual to walk in the truth, in understanding and in order to what God says pertaining to clearly addressed subjects. And because many have chosen to continue in tradition and what has been passed down from one generation to the next, we are being destroyed (spiritually) for lack of knowledge and in some cases a willingness not to learn and come to the knowledge of the Truth!

We begin in 1Corinthians 12<sup>th</sup> chapter verses 1-7:

*1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you **ignorant**.*

*2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, **even as ye were led**.*

*3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.*

*4 Now there are **diversities** of gifts, but the **same Spirit**.*

*5 And there are **differences of administrations**, but the **same Lord**.*

*6 And there are **diversities of operations**, but it is the **same God** which worketh all in all.*

*7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to **profit withal**.*

Now, let's break these verses down so that we can gain understanding. Paul starts off by saying, that we should not be ignorant when it comes to spiritual gifts. What does the word ignorant mean? Simply this: "one who has no understanding or lack of knowledge related to a particular subject or thing". To be called ignorant, is not always meant to be taken in a derogatory or demeaning way.

Then Paul says in verse two about being carried away in the worshiping of idols...he uses the phrase: "**even as ye were led**". Which simply means being taught something at an early age, or having that custom passed down to you, and you never questioned it, or checked it out to see if it indeed was right. You just went along with it, hook, line and sinker.

In verses 4-6 we hear Paul speaking about the diversities of gifts, differences of administrations and the diversities of operations. Diversities means different. We see in these verses the Father, Son and Holy Spirit working together to bring about the same common purpose.

Verse 7 makes a very important statement: “*But the **manifestation** of the Spirit is given to every man to **profit withal**”*. The manifestation of the Spirit...Manifestation means: “the coming forth or the demonstration of something, the open display of the power”. So when the Holy Spirit comes upon an individual, it becomes evident. Many times we read in the book of Acts, how that when the Holy Spirit filled many that believed in the Name of Jesus, that there was a visible manifestation in the form of speaking in tongues, praising and glorifying God (Acts 2:3-4/11 Acts 10:46/ Acts 19:6)! Even Jesus made mention of this divine phenomenon that would come upon believers after His departure; (Mark 16:17).

Then he says “to profit withal”. This simply means that the Holy Spirit is not coming upon you, nor entrusting you with a gift so that you can run your own show, or so that you can write books or start seminars on how to heal, prophecy, work miracles or to speak with/in tongues. No His gifts are not given for personal benefits...but rather for the benefit of all that are recipients of it.

Verses 8-10 8 *For to one is given by the Spirit the **word of wisdom**; to another the **word of knowledge** by the same Spirit;*

9 *To another **faith** by the same Spirit; to another the **gifts of healing** by the same Spirit;*

10 *To another the **working of miracles**; to another **prophecy**; to another **discerning of spirits**; to another **divers kinds of tongues**; to another the **interpretation of tongues**:*

**Word of Wisdom:** Solomon asked for wisdom to know how to lead and guide the people of God, and to know how to make the right decision in any given circumstance, and the LORD granted his request. A word of wisdom may also be given to speak at a very sensitive or very crucial time in our ministering to individuals or even in dealing in everyday life.....life is filled with unexpected events! However a word of wisdom is also given to illuminate our understanding of the LORD's word (i.e. James 1:5).

**Word of Knowledge:** I don't know about you, but there have been times when I have set out to do a task and I just didn't know how to do it! I would stop and ask the LORD to help me to do this, to figure it out, and before you know it, the understanding would come and I would be done with that job or task in no time. But a word of knowledge goes far beyond fixing things around the house, there may be someone that the LORD puts in your path and would say to you..go and tell them such and such. But be very sure that it is the leading of the Spirit of God, and not you own fleshly agenda...peoples lives are at stake!

One example of the gift of a word of knowledge is found in Acts 9:23. This is an incident where the Jews after Saul's conversion had decided to kill him, so they watched the city gates day and night to catch him as he departed the city, but the scripture says, that, this was made known to Saul or Paul, how was it made known? By the Holy Spirit of God. Another incident of a word of knowledge is found in Acts 21:10-11 where the Prophet Agabus took Paul's girdle and bound his hands and feet and said: "Thus saith the Holy Ghost".... I believe that a word of knowledge and prophecy or closely related. See, the LORD wants to speak with us through His Spirit, to warn us of pending dangers, traps or plots that some folks may try and set against us, but many of us are just too busy to hear what the Spirit is saying. Also bare in mind, just as wisdom is used in helping to understand the word of the LORD, so is wisdom given to help rightly divide His word.

***Faith:*** I believe that this gift of faith refers to the ability to believe God strongly, in impossible situations. I believe that we all have some level of faith or belief, but there are some who's faith goes far beyond the norm. For instance, the man that brought his demon possessed son to the disciples of Jesus to be healed, made this statement to Jesus; "Lord, I believe, but help my unbelief" Mark 9:24. He had some faith, but he was not strong in faith. Then there are those in the book of Hebrews that are known as the Hero's of faith or better, the "Great cloud of witness". Who believed God even to the point of death, Hebrews 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter. And the striking thing about this is that, before the chapter ends, it says that they all died, having **not received** the promises. Can you still believe God, even if He doesn't fulfill the promises to you!

Of course Jesus Christ is the promise spoken of to them and to us. We have the manifestation of Him, they did not!

Romans 12:3 *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

### ***Gifts of healing:***

Notice, the verse says "gifts" in the plural. There are several avenues I believe that the Spirit of God will use to manifest this gift. Music is used as one avenue, 1 Samuel 16:23 we see David playing for Saul to relieve him of an evil spirit. The shadow of Peter was another avenue that the Holy Spirit used, Acts 5:15. A simple handkerchief or aprons was another avenue used, Acts 19:12. These were special miracles that the LORD used to further the gospel.

### ***Working of miracles:***

What is a miracle? A miracle according to the dictionary among other meanings, is: "To wonder at". I like that, because Jesus said; "*And these signs shall follow them that believe;*" Mark 16:16. Also in the book of Acts Chapter 5:12 and 14:3 we see that signs and wonders were done by the Apostles through the Holy Spirit of God, and

they were done at the preaching of Jesus Christ! Maybe one of the reasons we are not seeing these miracles that make you wonder, is because we are preaching everything but Jesus Christ!

***Prophecy;***

This is not what many relate prophecy to today, because most so called Prophets today are nothing more than modern day fortune tellers. Although the LORD can, and will use His servants to speak to you about things concerning you, but this gift of prophecy is the speaking of words directly from God. Words of warning, rebuke, exhortation and so on. But today all we here are prophecies of money, cars, fame and material things, when men or still living in, and practicing sin in there lives.

***Discerning of spirits;***

Discerning of spirits, Oh' how so desperately do we need this gift operating in our lives and in our Churches. Because, today many have fallen to sleep at the wheel and have allowed any and everything to creep into the house of God, and in sound doctrine, and to pollute the minds of the weak by perverting the Gospel of Jesus Christ, mixing things that are holy with things that are corrupt. Even in our personal lives, we have compromised, and have allowed our flesh to maintain headship over us, instead of the Holy Spirit of God.

***Divers kinds of tongues;***

Divers kinds of tongues; different types of languages. Some maybe known, some maybe unknown. We will touch more on this later.

***Interpretation of tongues:***

The interpretation of tongues; the understanding of what has been spoken. This to will be discussed more, since tongues is our primary study here.

Now as we have listed these gifts, we notice that they are arranged in groups that tie one to the other, and remember, these gifts are not giving for personal exploits, but to edify the body of Christ! Verses 4,5 and 6 tells us that the gifts are given by the **Holy Spirit**, the administering (management) is done by the **LORD Jesus Christ** and the orders of operation (planning and execution)is done by the **Father**. And these three agree as One! There is no schism (separation/disharmony) among them, and neither should there be among His body; 1John 5:7/1Corithian 12:25.

**Wisdom** and **Knowledge** work together because, I may have wisdom, but if I don't posses the knowledge as to how to administer wisdom, then I am lacking. And by the same token, if I have abundant knowledge but do not posses the wisdom to know that knowledge can cause me to be puffed up...I again am unprofitable.

Example; Paul testified that there was given unto him a thorn in his flesh, a messenger of satan to buffet him, lest he should be exalted above measure through

the abundance of revelations that he received; 2 Corinthians 12:7.

We need wisdom to know how to rightly divide the word of truth! Yes...it may say one thing (Luke 4), but how is it to be applied, in light of the finished work of Christ?

**Faith, Healing, Working of Miracles and Prophecy** are all connected, for they are the manifestation of the power of Almighty God!

Paul said to the saints at Corinth in 1Corinthians 2:4-5; *And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:*

*5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*

When Jesus sent out his disciples to the cities of Jerusalem, he gave them power. And they came back to Him rejoicing in the things that they experienced. What did they experience? Many were healed, demon possessed were delivered.

In Luke 10:17-19 we read; *17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.*

*18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*

*19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

Again, in Mark the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter verse 20; *And they went forth, and preached every where, **the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.***  
*Amen.*

Also in the book of Acts we see the same demonstration of the power of God, working and confirming the words of the Apostles; They were operating in the power and the authority of God through the Name of Jesus Christ!

Acts 4:30 *By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.*

Acts 5:12 *And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.*

Acts 14:3 *Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.*

*\*Signs and Wonders= Healings and Miracles\**

**Discerning of Spirits, Different kinds of Tongues** and the **Interpretation of Tongues** are gifts that go beyond the ordinary vision and understanding of man, and are very important in evangelistic ministry and spiritual warfare.

For example, in Acts 16<sup>th</sup> chapter we see where Paul and Silas were being followed by a young maid who had a spirit of **divination**. And as she followed them, she began to irritate the Apostle by proclaiming them to be mighty men of God and that the people should hear them. Well, what's wrong with that you may ask? For one, she did this not just for one day, but continuously for many days. Number two, she was loud and distracting the people, and most of all, she brought the attention of the people on to Paul and Silas and not to Jesus Christ! So Paul discerned and understood what was going on and called that spirit out of her. See, we are not to be ignorant of the devices of Satan. Some things can appear completely harmless and "christian", but underneath, it is the working of the devil. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:5; "For we preach not ourselves, but Jesus Christ the LORD;". So you see, when we are consistently hailed as "Great Men of God", we can be tempted to steal some glory for ourselves.

Also think about this, these last three are not visible gifts that can be handled or proved if you will. They are subject to abuse and fraud and some are able to fake these gifts. Unlike faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, words of wisdom and knowledge which are confirmed by those that are ministered to through them.

So if you are going to discern and call an evil spirit out of someone, you had better be sure that you are led by the Spirit of God. If you are going to speak in an unknown tongue openly, be prepared to interpret, or pray that there is someone there who God has given the interpretation to.

Discernment in ministry and in our personal life is very important, because there are many things that seem harmless within themselves but they are and can become very destructive. We must be very vigilant about what we allow to enter into our eye and ear gates, and some of these things are seemingly christian in appearance. Remember that word tells us in 1 John 4:1 *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

If God's word says this, then it must be happening. Not only back in the Apostles time, but even more in our time! 1 Timothy 4:1; *Now the Spirit **speaketh expressly**, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

There is much more that can be said and proven to prove this point, but let's move on to the subject of tongues.

\*\*\*\*\* Tongues \*\*\*\*\*

1Corinthians 12: 28-30:

*28 And God hath set **some** in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*

*29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?*

*30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?*

In these verses, Paul is summarizing the order of God as it relates to His Church. He is also stating that, every gift and office is not present in any one particular church or assembly, but that in every church, there should be the operation of some of the gifts and offices.

In asking that rhetorical question, in verses 29 and 30, the obvious answer is No! Paul's point is that God has an order, and His order is for the benefit of the body, and for the purposes of completing His will.

In the scriptures we find two types of tongues mentioned; 1) **known tongues**, 2) **unknown tongues**. On the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the 120 that were gathered together in the upper room. They begin to speak with tongues, these tongues were known tongues Acts 2:3-4; *3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*  
*4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with **other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

The **other tongues** mentioned here are known languages. How do we know that?, well the following verses gives us the answer. Verses 6 and 8; *Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in **his own language**.*

Verse 8; *And how hear we every man in **our own tongue**, wherein we were born?*

Now this in itself is a remarkable miracle, just think about it! You have never learned to speak Russian, Chinese, Italian, Ukrainian so forth and so on..but all of a sudden by the power of the Holy Ghost, you are able to speak these languages, glorifying and giving praises to the LORD Almighty! That indeed, is a miracle!

Jesus spoke of this in Mark 16:17; *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with **new tongues**;*

Now, let's go a little deeper;

1Corinthians 13:1;

*1 Though I speak with the **tongues of men and of angels**, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*

Notice, he says, **tongues of men**, and **tongues of angels**. We have talked about the tongues of men aspect, but what about the tongues of angels? Some have said that the angel here refers to human man, as in leaders or those that are heads of congregations. But I do not agree with that, I mean why would Paul repeat the same thing in a single verse? It would read like this: "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of men...". That would not make sense.

So what are the tongues of Angels? Has anyone ever heard an Angel speak? What language do they speak? Well one thing for sure, they can speak any language that they wanted to, because they were sent in Old and New Testament times to give messages to God's people, but what language would they ordinarily speak in the presence of the LORD! We don't know, it is a mystery! This moves us to our next step in this study.

1Corinthians 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter/Various verses:

Verse one states; *Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.*

We are instructed to follow after love, and to desire spiritual gifts, but then he expresses or highlights one of the gifts; "prophecy"! Why do we suppose that Paul said to choose prophecy? It is not complicated, he gives the answer in verse 3. Paul says that prophecy edifies the church. Prophecy speaks plainly to men, it edifies, (builds up, enlightens, establishes) , it exhorts (gives warning or advice), it brings comfort (consoles, bring cheer, to lessen the pain of an horrible experience).

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

When a man or a woman speaks in an unknown tongue, he is speaking directly to God, he speaks mysteries. No one understands what is being said. Now there are a lot of people that go around speaking gibberish, speaking out of there own flesh, speaking just to be seen of men. There is no spiritual benefit at all. Remember, we have said that an unknown tongue is very different from a known tongue.

Verse 4, the first half: *He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself;*

\*One that speaks in an unknown tongue, without interpretation, he enlightens or builds up himself. It is only for him and not for the church. Keep this point in mind, we will be addressing it later.

Verse 5: *I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, **except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.***

Paul thought that it was a good thing that everyone of God's children spake with tongues, why? Because remember, tongues edifies, or builds up the one that is speaking. Now when he says that greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, he is not speaking in terms of status, but in terms of usefulness as it pertains to the building up of the Church. Because he states in the latter part of verse 5; “except he interpret”. Interpretation is vitally important, if you are speaking out loud among the church.

Verses 6–9; *6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you **speaking with tongues**, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?*

*7 And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?*

*8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?*

*9 So likewise ye, **except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood**, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.*

In these verses, Paul begins to deal with “Order” and decency, and just plain common sense. In verse 6 he says, “if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you...except”. Whether this is an unknown tongue or a known language, Paul's point is still clear, interpretation and edification is still the main issue. Example; We all speak English here, well, what if someone got up and begin to speak German, would any of us understand, having not studied German?

What is being said, may be to the Praise of the LORD, but, if the hearers are not understanding, what does it profit? He went on to say that even things that have no life in themselves, gives a sound. But if the sound is not understood, how can we be prepared for the battle. So he concluded in verse 9, by saying, that except we speak words, easy to be understood, when addressing others, we are just speaking into the air...we speak in vain.

Verses 10–12: *10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.*

*11 Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.*

*12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.*

Everything in nature and even man made things gives a sound or has a voice. In nature there are voices, (i.e.. the chirping of birds, the cry of squirrels, the falling or breaking of a tree branch, the barking of a dog), even in man made things there is significance...the spinning of a skill saw, the hiss of air leaving a tire, the sound of a keyboard being typed on, the sound of a refrigerator compressor turning on. And some of these sounds we have trained our ears to understand and to know what they mean. If the sound is normal, all is well, but if the sounds seems different than normal...then we tend to, or we should become alert. So just as these voices need to be understood, Paul admonishes that in our pursuit (zealousness) of spiritual gifts, let's seek to edify the church.

Verses 13-19:

*13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.*

*14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.*

*15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.*

*16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?*

*17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.*

*18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:*

*19 **Yet in the church** I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an **unknown tongue**.*

Paul begins to summarize by saying that we who speak in an unknown tongue, should pray that we may interpret, or understand what we are saying. Speaking in tongues is a wonderful thing, but it can be a hindrance to others if there is no interpretation. Even in praying or singing in an unknown tongue, if done in the presence of others it is not orderly...although your spirit is being edified, others are not profiting from what is being said. Paul consistently says that there must be interpretation! Also noticed that Paul says in the church he would rather speak few words, and the hearers receive understanding, than preach a sermon in an unknown tongue, and there is no understanding given to the hearers. See Paul is not just talking about getting up and speaking in Spanish or Japanese, because some will argue that that is what he is saying. No, because he said in an unknown tongue. See there are some that love to take over church services by standing or laying down, supposedly under the anointing of the Holy Spirit and will just begin speaking out loud in tongues...and most times they are the ones with the interpretation, which is ok, if indeed it is from God. But sadly most times it is not, it is only a demonstration of the flesh, because let's face it, there are many that love the attention, that love to be the center of attraction. Let's pray that that will be exposed.

Verses 20–25:

*20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.*

*21 In the law it is written, With men of **other tongues** and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.*

*22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.*

*23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?*

*24 But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is **judged** of all:*

*25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.*

Understanding the scriptures is the most important thing. I would even say that understanding is more important than knowing the scriptures. I mean, we can quote scripture left and right, but do we have a healthy understanding of what the the scripture is revealing? So Paul tells us not to be children when it comes to understanding.

Now verses 21 and 22 or prophetic verses, and at the time that they were written, the LORD was speaking to Israel about the Gentiles. It also speaks of the captivity of Israel by the Assyrians, and I also believe that it speaks of the coming of the Messiah when He was presented to Israel whom they rejected; (Isa. 28:11–12/Isa. 30:15/Matt. 23:37).

Verses 23–25; If the whole church is in an uproar speaking with tongues, and a sinner comes in..he would no doubt say that these people are demon possessed, which is what some religious teachers teach, that tongues is of the devil. So this sinner would leave and tell others; “stay away from that church, those people are crazy”! But now, if the church was engaged in prophesying, (and that is to be done in course, one after the other), and a sinner comes in and someone begins to speak about or rather to judge things in his or her life, that person would become amazed and repentant and leave out and say that “God is truly with those people, because they revealed things to me that only I knew”.

Verse 26:

*26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.*

So we see that once again, edification is key to spiritual growth, emotional highs are destructive. Let all things be done for the purpose of edifying, for the purpose of spiritual growth, for the purpose of understanding. We must break old habits and traditions of men so that we can go higher and deeper in the Spirit,

Verses 27–28;

*27 If any man speak in an **unknown tongue**, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.*

*28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.*

Now we get more into the order or correctness of speaking in an **unknown** tongue. Paul say's that it should be done by two or at the most by three, when it is a word from the LORD! In your own prayer time and meditation, this does not apply, because it is just you and God. But nevertheless, pray also for interpretation.

And he said that it should be done by course, in other words, one speaks, he finishes, then another will begin. And when he is done, then the third speaks...if there are three. There should never be a simultaneous speaking in unknown tongues in the church; compare this with verse 23. Why did Paul prescribe two or three? Simple, the scripture say's that out of the mouth of two or three witnesses, let every word be established Matt. 18:16/ 2 Cor.13:1/ 1Tim.5:19/Heb 10:28.

And Paul say's let one interpret. So there has to be one in the group that will speak what the LORD has said for that body of believers. And hopefully this group is not apart of a click in the church, or that this is not a prearranged event.

Let one interpret, there should be only one person that gives the message. Earlier I said that the interpretation should come from a neutral party, and as I read this, I tend to believe that that is what Paul is saying here also. If one of the three can not give the understanding, and if there is no one present that can give it...Paul say's let him keep silence in the church. Let him go to a place apart from everyone else and speak to himself and to God.

Verse 33:

*33 For God is not the author of **confusion**, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*

God does not orchestrates confusion among His people. The only mention of God bringing confusion is when He is fighting for His people against their enemies, and He confuses the enemy. But in the temple, there should be no confusion. The word of the LORD say's in James 3:16; *For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.* And believe me, some people will try an imitate a gift just to get noticed only because they are envious someone else who has an anointing.

Verses 37-40

*37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the **commandments** of the Lord.*

*38 But if any man be **ignorant**, let him be **ignorant**.*

*39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.*

*40 Let all things be done decently and in order.*

Paul challenges anyone among the congregation in Corinth to disprove or disagree with what he has wrote to them. Paul say's that these are commandments from the LORD! This is not something that he has cleverly put together, or, this is not an attempt by him to usurp authority over them. He say's that his desire is that they be not ignorant when they come together for worship. But as history would have it, there are those that will still continue on in tradition and practices of the past, refusing to break old habits and to become subject to the Holy Spirit of God.

Paul goes on to say in verses 39 and 40; to covet prophesy. Why? Because it serves to edify the church. It brings clarity, it builds, it encourages and comforts. He continued; and forbid not to speak with tongues. Paul encourages the speaking of tongues, albeit, it is not the tongues that are the problem, it is speaking without interpretation and all at once is where we run into trouble. Some may say, well I have been speaking in tongues openly for years and I have seen God move mightily! That may be true, you see, the LORD will not refuse to move, heal or save someone because of our ignorance. He will do what pleases Him regardless. The LORD is merciful unto us. Paul said it like this in Philippians 1:15-18; *15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: 16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:*

*17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.*

*18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.*

But the question is, when you come to the knowledge of the truth about something, what do you do? Will you ignore the truth and continue on doing things your way, doing what is comfortable to you? Doing what is right in your own eyes? Or will you look unto the LORD and say, Father I think you for this truth that my ears have heard, and I ask you in the name of your Holy Son Jesus to help me apply what I have heard.

Paul concluded by stating; Let all things be done decently and in order. That is what the LORD is calling His body to...ORDER! The Order of the Holy Spirit! And once will come under His leading, then, I believe we will begin to see more of His working among us. I believe that we will see people becoming set free from bondage's and sin. When the scriptures speaks of crucifying our flesh, it not only means from sexual sins, but also of old practices and customs, doing things that we have seen go on in churches that we grew up in as children.

Remember what Paul said to the Corinthians in verse 2 of chapter 12? He said that they were carried away into practices that they were taught. He said; "even as ye were led". And there are many things that have become apart of Jesus' body, that have been taught by men as customs and traditions. It is time to break the traditions, even as Zacharias, who was told to who was told to give the name of John to John the Baptist, even though the people protested by saying that there was no one in his family line with that name, Zacharias obeyed the Holy Ghost.

If Jesus Christ is the head of the Church, His body; in which He is. And seeing that He has sent the Holy Spirit to teach us, and to lead and guide us into all truth, I think that it behooves us to allow Jesus to truly be the head, and to step back and ask the Holy Spirit to do what He was sent to do among us, and in the church.

*John 16:13; Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.*

*By;*

*Brother Michael Williams Sr.*