



A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

# ORDER IN WORSHIP: TONGUES

1 Corinthians 14:1-25



# 1 CORINTHIANS

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- 12 • Purpose of Spiritual Gifts
- 13 • Centrality of Love



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- 12 • Purpose of Spiritual Gifts
- 13 • Centrality of Love
- 14 • Guidelines for Worship



# 1 CORINTHIANS

## 14 • Guidelines for Worship

14:1-25 — Intelligible

14:26-40 – Orderly



## 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 **prophecy**. The one who **prophesies** is greater than the one who **speaks in tongues**, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.





**PROPHECY:**

**Is not predicting the future.  
Is not equal to God's words in authority.  
Is not teaching.**

Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology



**PROPHECY:**

Telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind.

Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology



**SPEAKING IN TONGUES:**

**Prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker**

Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology



## 1 Corinthians 14:2 <sup>NIV</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.



## TONGUES

Speaks to God

No one understands

Speaks mysteries

Edifies the speaker

## PROPHECY

Speaks to people

Understood by listeners

Speaks strength, encouragement, comfort

Edifies the church

Spiritual speaking gifts should  
be used to build up the church.



## 1 Corinthians 14:6-8 <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?



## 1 Corinthians 14:9-12 <sup>NIV</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. <sup>10</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.**



## 1 Corinthians 14:13-15 <sup>NIV</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. <sup>15</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.



## 1 Corinthians 14:16-19 <sup>NIV</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 14:23-25 <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!”







Spiritual speaking gifts should lead people to worship God.