



A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

# ORDER IN WORSHIP: TONGUES

1 Corinthians 14:1-25

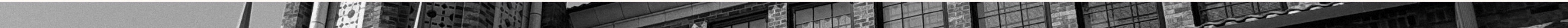
## 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 <sup>ESV</sup>

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. <sup>2</sup> For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. <sup>3</sup> On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. <sup>4</sup> The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. <sup>5</sup> Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.



## 1 Corinthians 14:6-12 <sup>ESV</sup>

Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? <sup>7</sup> If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? <sup>8</sup> And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? <sup>9</sup> So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. <sup>10</sup> There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, <sup>11</sup> but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. <sup>12</sup> So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.



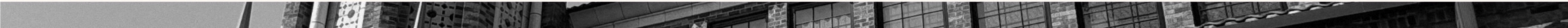
## 1 Corinthians 14:13-19 <sup>ESV</sup>


Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. <sup>14</sup> For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup> What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. <sup>16</sup> Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? <sup>17</sup> For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. <sup>18</sup> I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.



## 1 Corinthians 14:20-25 <sup>ESV</sup>

Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. <sup>21</sup> In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.” <sup>22</sup> Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. <sup>23</sup> If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? <sup>24</sup> But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, <sup>25</sup> the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.





# RESPONSES

“Oh boy!” • “Oh me!” • “What was this all about?”

## Chapters 11-14 • “Gathering for Good”

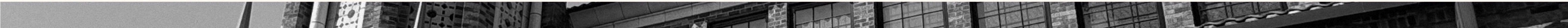
↳ Chapters 12-14 • “Concerning Spiritual Gifts”

↳ Chapter 14:1-40 • “Decently and in Order”

↳ Chapter 14:1-25 • “Build up the Church”

## 1 Corinthians 11:17 <sup>ESV</sup>

But in the following instructions I do not commend you, **because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse.**



Chapters 11-14 • “Gathering for Good”

↳ Chapters 12-14 • “Concerning Spiritual Gifts”

↳ Chapter 14:1-40 • “Decently and in Order”

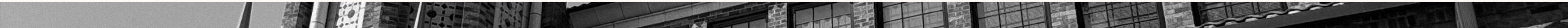
↳ Chapter 14:1-25 • “Build up the Church”

**1 Corinthians 12:1** <sup>ESV</sup>

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

**1 Corinthians 14:1** <sup>ESV</sup>

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts....





## Chapters 11-14 • “Gathering for Good”

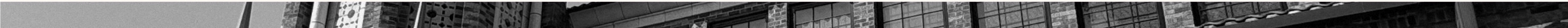
↳ Chapters 12-14 • “Concerning Spiritual Gifts”

↳ **Chapter 14:1-40 • “Decently and in Order”**

↳ Chapter 14:1-25 • “Build up the Church”

## **1 Corinthians 14:40** <sup>ESV</sup>

But all things should be done **decently and in order.**



## Chapters 11-14 • “Gathering for Good”

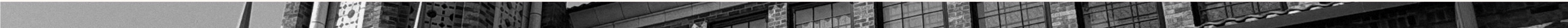
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↳ **Chapter 14:1-25 • “Build up the Church”**

## **1 Corinthians 14:12** <sup>ESV</sup>

...strive to excel in **building up the church.**



# GIFT OF TONGUES

“A Spirit-given ability to speak in a language that the speaker hasn’t learned.”



# LOVE BUILDS UP

“The passionate pursuit of love makes edifying others the motivation and measure of the use of spiritual gifts.”



# TONGUES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

## Acts 2:1-6 <sup>ESV</sup>

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.** Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, **because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.**



# TONGUES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

## Acts 10:44-46 <sup>ESV</sup>

While Peter was still saying these things, **the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.** <sup>45</sup> And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. <sup>46</sup> **For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.**



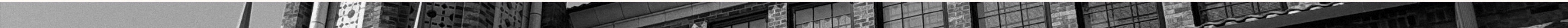
# TONGUES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

**Acts 19:6** <sup>ESV</sup>

And when Paul had laid his hands on them, **the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.**

09

ORDER IN WORSHIP:  
TONGUES



# GIFT OF PROPHECY

“A Spirit-given ability to receive and deliver a specific insight or message from God to a specific audience.”





## “THE ONE WHO SPEAKS IN A TONGUE”

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- No one understands
- Is speaking mysteries
- Only God knows what he is saying
- Builds himself up spiritually

## “THE ONE WHO PROPHESES”

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- Speaks to people
- Builds up, encourages & comforts
- Strengthens the church spiritually






In the gathering,  
building others up is  
**better** than building  
myself up.

### 1 Corinthians 14:4-5 <sup>ESV</sup>

The one who speaks in a tongue **builds up himself**, but the one who prophesies **builds up the church**. <sup>5</sup> Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. **The one who prophesies is greater** than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, **so that the church may be built up.**





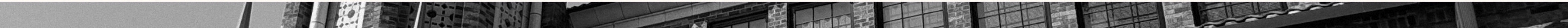
Spiritual gifts are  
**not** a way to measure  
spiritual maturity.

**1 Corinthians 14:20** <sup>ESV</sup>

Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil,  
but in your thinking be mature.



Spiritual gifts **operating in love** lead to  
building up of the church & the glorifying of God.



## 1 Corinthians 14:22-25 <sup>ESV</sup>

Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. <sup>23</sup> If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? <sup>24</sup> But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, **he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all,** <sup>25</sup> **the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.**

