

DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

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INTRODUCTION

- A. Subject begun in Chapter 12:1.
 - B. List of 9 Spiritual gifts given.
 - C. THE PROBLEM:
 - 1. Which was more important?
 - 2. Some being used for personal glory, and gratification.
 - 3. Confused the unbelievers.
 - 4. As they were used they did not edify the church.
 - D. Chapter 14 completes this picture of misconduct and completes the remedy.
 - E. At end we will sum chapter 12, 13 and 14.
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SPEAKING IN TONGUES

- A. WHAT WAS “TONGUE SPEAKING?”
 - 1. Speaking a language other than that native to him, or learned in the usual manner.
 - 2. Without an interpreter, did not edify the church at all; *and was to be avoided.* (14:18).
 - 3. Speaker understood because he “edifeth himself” (14:4).
 - 4. Speaks to himself, and to God. (14:27,28).
 - B. COULD BE INTERPRETED, *in fact* **MUST BE** or be silent.
 - 1. Illustrations:
 - a. Harp or pipe (vs. 7-9).
 - 1). What was their value if could not be understood?
 - 2). Similarly, when words are uttered, unless understood are futile.
 - b. TRUMPET:...Army.
 - 1). If trumpet give an uncertain voice..who shall prepare himself war?
 - 2). Do we: Charge; or Retreat: or Fight; or...Confusion.....
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PURPOSE OF TONGUES

- A. SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION.
 - 1. “By men of strange tongues, and by lips of strangers will I speak to this people;” (They could understand because “strangers” spoke their language
 - 2. This hastened the spread of salvation.
 - B. CONVINCED THE UNBELIEVER.
 - 1. Tongues are sign to the unbeliever (v. 22)
 - 2. God miraculously crossed language barriers with the Gospel.
 - C. Until that which was to come. With N.T. in written form this need ended.
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Why Need An Interpreter?

A. AT LEAST TWO REASONS:

1. If he interpreted for himself - then tongue wasn't necessary and was just for show.
2. As an additional safeguard - Interpreters did so by a gift from God...Insuring the validity of the message.

B. Otherwise a false prophet - teacher could speak in a "tongue" then give the meaning and no one could prove otherwise.

Not A God Of Confusion!

A. The Confusion of The Situation Paul Described.

1. Several people talking at once.
 - a. No one could understand.
 - b. No one edified.
2. One or more speaking in unknown language.
 - a. Just to impress the hearer.
 - b. No one understood or was edified.

B. REGARDLESS OF THE GIFT — Tongue; Prophecy; Healing; etc.....

If used in wrong way, the benefit was lost.

1. They lost sight of the purpose of the gift.
2. Used with boastful purpose; self glory.

C. WHAT THE UNBELIEVER THOUGHT!

1. He had been invited, and has come...
2. All he sees or hears is chaos or confusion. ‘
3. His impression of Christianity leaves much to be desired.
4. He returns to his idol.

D. A LESSON FOR THE WORLD TODAY! (And for the church)

1. A pagan, invited to come and hear Christianity today.
 2. Hears a hundred different things, and a very uncertain sound.
 3. More often than not...turns from the confusion and goes back to his religious world.
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CONCLUSION

A. THE LESSONS TAUGHT IN CHAPTERS 12 & 13.

1. The Lordship of Christ. (12:1).
2. The Danger of being lead astray (12:2,3).
3. The Unity of the Body (12:12ff).
4. The Maturity of Love (chapter 13)

B. THE APPLICATION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

1. Christ is the Lord and is to be so honored.
 2. Do not be led astray - here is truth concerning Spiritual Gifts.
 3. Their purpose is for the spread of gospel and edification of the Body.
 4. Maturity in Love, Honors & Respect the Gift,. And the Giver.
 5. Recipient recognizes his role, Church in love appreciates what he does.
 6. ALL TO BE DONE DECENTLY AND IN ORDER. vs. 40.
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