

The Holy Spirit

Lesson 28 – The Holy Spirit & Tongues (Part 4- Have Miracles Ceased?) Final Lesson In This Series

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As we finish the study of 1 Corinthians 14 we need to remember that Paul has been discussing three main principles...

1. Edification (1 Corinthians 14:1-5,26b) – There is where Paul emphasizes prophecy over tongues. Tongues cannot edify like prophecy can. It is more important that the worship services were edifying than sharing a message that can't be understood.
2. Understanding (1 Corinthians 14:6-25) – Paul illustrates the need for understanding by using the illustrations of musical instruments, a bugle call, and conversations. If tongues cannot be interpreted and thereby understood they should not be shared.
3. Order (1 Corinthians 14:26-40)

The Corinthian church was having special problems with disorders in their public meetings (1 Cor. 11:17–23). The reason is not difficult to determine they were using their spiritual gifts to please themselves and not to help each other.

1 Corinthians 14:26 gives us a cameo picture of worship in the early church. Each member was invited to participate as the Lord directed. One would want to sing a psalm (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Another would be led to share a doctrine. Someone might have a revelation that would be given in a tongue and then interpreted. Apart from some kind of God-given order, there could never be edification.

Note that the tongues speakers were the ones causing the most trouble, so Paul addressed himself to them and gave several instructions for the church to obey in their public meetings (see 1 Corinthians 14:17-23 for the instructions).

- Everything to be done in an orderly manner
- Not more than 3 speakers (for tongues) at any one meeting
- Must be interpreted (no interpreter - no sharing)
- Evaluate the message (Was it from God?)
- Must exhibit self-control and without competition
- Women not permitted to speak in tongues
- Women were to ask questions via their husbands