

# The Bible's Teaching on Prophecy and Tongues

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## I. Review

1. We are spirit and soul and body.
2. Spiritual gifts begin in the spirit and manifest through the soul and body.
3. No have not's.
4. The Holy Spirit determines what gifts when.
5. The central purpose of the gifts is love.

## II. Simple Definition of Terms

1. Prophecy: *Propheteia*: speaking forth the mind and counsels of God.

"That which God spontaneously brings to mind or 'reveals' to the speaker but which is spoken in merely human words" (Wayne Grudem).

2. Tongues: *Glossa*: a language other than that known to the speaker.

Human or angelic spirit languages not understood by the mind of the speaker, unless the gift of interpretation operates.

## III. Breakdown of 1 Corinthians 14

2-4: Prophecy is an utterance of the mind and edifies the group. Tongues is an utterance of the spirit and edifies only the individual – unless it is interpreted.

5-13: Understanding unto edification is paramount in a corporate gathering.

14-15: Believer can pray and sing with mind or spirit.

16-19: Maturity and love is being otherly with the gifts and not selfish. Personal edification does not outweigh corporate edification.

20-25: The full extent of Paul's plea for the diminishing of tongues in the larger corporate service and for the greater use of prophecy.

26-33: Church meeting with manifestation and order/peace.

## IV. Three Different Kinds of Tongues

1. Evangelistic Tongue (Acts 2:1-12)
2. Church Meeting Tongue with Interpretation (1 Cor. 14:13)
3. Personal Tongues for Personal Edification (1 Cor. 14:4, 28; Mk. 16:17)

## V. Three Different Kinds of Prophecy

1. All Sons and Daughters Prophecy (Acts 2:17-18)
2. Individual Grace Gift of Prophesying (Rom. 12:6)
3. The Office of Prophet Equipper (Eph. 4:11)

## VI. How Long Do We Need Prophecy and Tongues?

1 Cor. 13:8-13 answers: Until Jesus Returns! The Perfect! Face to face with Jesus!  
We still need knowledge, prophecy, and tongues, even though they are only “in part” in this age.

## VII. Can Mistakes Be Made?

1. Nathan the Prophet in 2 Samuel 7: God corrected his wrong words to David. Not stoned, corrected.
2. Paul first thought his generation was the generation to be raptured (1 Thess. 4:15). We see his change seventeen years later (2 Tim. 4:6).
3. The command: do not treat prophecies with contempt, but test everything, keeping the good (1 Thess. 5:19-21).

## VIII. Why Do We Need Prophecy and Tongues?

1. Because they are God's design in this age before the perfect comes.
2. Because we need corporate edification (prophecy) and personal edification (tongues).
3. Because the Church preaches the *Logos* word of God (Jesus and His Gospel) and also needs to manifest the *Rhema* word of God (the current and contemporary now word of revelation that convicts the lost and builds up the faith of the Church).
4. Because the New Covenant reality is different than the Old Covenant reality. Instead of a few priests and a few prophets, we are now – every believer – a community of priest and prophets, filling the earth with God's word and Spirit (Num. 11:29, Acts 2:17-18, 1 Cor. 14:31, Jn. 10:27).
5. Because of the first and last verses of 1 Corinthians 14: verse 1 and verses 39-40.