

GBC. JH  
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**The Purpose of Spiritual “Sign” Gifts:  
The Edification of the Church**  
GIFTS ARE FOR THE SAINTS NOT THE SELF  
**I Cor 14:1-33**

- I. The Edification of the Body Through Prophecy Unconditional 14:1-5
  - A. Synopsis of the Command: The Principle :1  
Hinge of LOVE Ch 13 and Prophecy and Tongues Ch 14  
“ Pursue” Love  
“ Earnestly Desire Spirituals”  
“Especially Prophecy”
  - B. Specific Counsel: The Prescription :2-4  
NB order- Negative: Tongues – Positive: Prophecy  
Two Options  
\*Paul is speaking Positively about private prayer language between the Christian and God.  
\*Paul is speaking Negatively or sarcastically about the Corinthian practice.
    1. Problem with Tongues  
Tongues was a known language. Act 2, 10, 19
      - a. Speak to God since no one knows what he is saying- not even the person  
This is not prayer language for personal use
      - b. In “his” spirit- No “his” HS ??
      - c. “Speak Mysteries”  
In Paul’s other letters: Revelation from God about the Church Eph 3:4, Rom 11:25, 16:25 Col 1:26  
In Corinth- mysteries from Pagan Worship. (See Ch 8, 10 Demons)
    2. Priority of Prophecy  
:3 Speaks to men for edification exhortation and consolation  
:4 edifies Church  
  
Tongues edifies self? That is not the goal or purpose of Spiritual gifts
      1. Love does not seek it own 13:5
      2. Even good things can be used selfishly I Cor 8:1
      3. Gifts are to help others- common good I Cor 12:7, 14:12- 10:23-24
  - C. Summary Concept :5
    - 1 Hyperbolic lang- (13:1) All speak in tongues.... But not all do- 12:28-31
    2. Goal is for the church to be edified! :5 -see 14:12

## II. The Edification of the Body Through Tongues Conditional 14:6-19

### A. Absence of Profitability -No Interpretation :6-12

### B. Abundance of Profitability- Interpretation :13-19

### C. Acceptable Place for Sign Gifts :20-25

\* A sign to the unbelieving Jewish nation

1. Statement of the sign, 1 Cor. 14:20-22
2. Context of the sign, Is. 28:11-12 (Jer. 5:15, Deut. 28:49)
3. Purpose of the sign
  - A) In OT, sign of judgment on Israel (Assyria invasion)
  - B) In NT, sign of judgment against Israel (Gospel to gentiles)
    - 1) The Statement – Lk. 13:35: “Behold your house is left to you desolate.”
    - 2) The History – Acts 2, 8,10, 19
    - 3) The Theology – Rom. 9-11 (Israel broken off-Gentiles grafted in)

**Summary:** Tongues was a sign of judgment against the nation of Israel, revealing in the NT that God was no longer limiting Himself to working through the nation of Israel as His only chosen people. Hence, tongues is a sign of cursing against Israel and blessing to Gentiles.

#### 4. The history of the sign of the tongues

The Day of Pentecost was Feast of Weeks and birth of the church.  
The phenomena of tongues was a reverse of the Tower of Babel: God’s judgment.

##### A) Acts 2 (At Jerusalem, Acts 1:8)

The miraculous use of Tongues gets Jews attention: (reminds them of Isaiah 28). The preaching of Peter convicts of their judgment, 2:36). Therefore, the Lord is no longer limiting His work through the Jewish nation, but now through His Church which has just been born and His apostles.

B) Acts 8:4-8, 14 (Samaria, Acts 1:8)

- 1) The Gospel goes out to Samaria through preaching of Stephen.
- 2) No tongues mentioned but miracle v. 6 (perhaps there were tongues)
- 3) The Apostles came later to confirm that Samaria received the gift of the Holy Spirit (vs. 14-15)
- 4) This event confirms the judgment against Israel as a nation in that God is now reaching even to Samaritans. (Even though no Jews present still a sign against Israel since Israel must have heard and now reads about it, i.e., the resurrection.)

C) Acts 10 (Gentiles, Acts 1:8)

- 1) Peter vision of sheet and animals 10:11-12
- 2) Peter understands, God shows no partiality 10:34
- 3) Gospel goes out to Gentiles (Cornelius) and to all nations 10:35-36
- 4) The Gentiles speak in tongues vs. 45-46
- 5) They received same gift as in Acts 2 (10:47)
- 6) Luke uses tongues in Acts 10 to remind us of Acts 2, and to show the result of the Gospel going out even to the uttermost part of the earth: Gentiles (Acts 1:8)
- 7) Therefore, tongues remind us of the judgment against the Jewish nation in that God is now going out to all nations: i.e., Gentiles.

D) Acts 19:1-3 (Ephesus)

- 1) These 12 men are last tie to the last Jewish prophet; John the Baptist.
- 2) They get re-baptized into Jesus. This is deplorable to the Jewish nation.
- 3) Tongues follows as a reminder that the judgment fell on the Jewish nation and God is now blessing others – no longer through Judaism (even these Jews spoke in tongues).
- 4) Tongues reminds us of Pentecost event.
- 5) This showed that God is able to spread Gospel not only to Jerusalem, Judea-Samaria, Gentiles, but also Jews in the land of the Gentiles.
- 6) Luke is showing Ephesus as a microcosm of the church.

Early Church		Ephesian Church
John Baptist – no miracles	↔	Apollos – no miracles
Jesus Christ – many miracles	↔	Paul – many miracles
Baptizes 120 men	↔	12 men
World evangelism	↔	Ministry in Eph. to all Asia 19:8-10

- 7) The Book of Ephesians centers on the ministry of Jew and Gentile being one in Christ and the oneness of the Church (“The mystery” Eph. 3:4, 9; 6:19; Col. 1:26; Rom. 16:25).
- 8) Luke also gives us the situation of Paul as the instrument of God which includes tongues. All other tongues have occurred with Peter (2, 8?, 10). This validates Paul’s ministry which is the main focus of this section of Acts (16:9-19:20).

#### D. Acceptable Procedure for Sing Gifts :26-33

##### 1. Method Order

##### Control

There is to be no place for chaos or confusion in the church

##### 2. Motivation Edification of the Church