

THE VOICE GIFTS

When Paul defined the nine supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit (1Cor 12)... he revealed that there were three separate gifts which related to the human voice... Tongues, interpretation of tongues and prophecy. The focus of this study is on the purpose and use of the voice gifts (chiefly prophecy) during the meeting time as defined in 1Corinthians 14. We might remind ourselves that we are all on a limited journey of life... God has a far greater destiny awaiting us than what we could ever imagine. By accepting the invitation to be born again through the anointing of the Spirit, we have many things to learn and many powers to master. These words of Paul should be helpful in developing wisdom and achieving our potential.

Paul's desire is that we would learn to master all gifts.

1COR 1: 7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Using the voice gifts is an act of faith... as is all the gifts.

ROM 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether **prophecy**, [let us prophesy] according to the proportion of faith; *We are all at different levels of development... use what you have as you step out in faith towards other blessings and skills.*

Using the voice gifts is an act of love

1COR 14: 1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual [gifts], but rather that ye may **prophesy**.

Speaking in tongues benefits the speaker but the rest of the church isn't edified. Prophecy achieves a greater degree of blessing for all the church members. It edifies (building up), it exhorts (encourages), it comforts (stimulates and calms). The words that come through prophecy are designed to be of manifold benefit to everyone. God's love is a serving love... this means blessing for all.

1COR 13: 2 And though I have [the gift of] **prophecy**, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not **charity** (*serving God out of true love*), I am nothing. *The correct attitude must be considered. This gift is not to be used just for the sake of it. It has to be considered in the light of serving (loving) the church and must not just be used, to get an emotional "high". It is an act of love towards God for what he has done for us... we then do for others.*

Using the voice gifts is an act of edification.

1COR 14:3 But he that **prophesieth** speaketh unto men [to] edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

4 He that speaketh in an [unknown] tongue edifieth himself; but he that **prophesieth** edifieth the church. *Our hearts goal should be to edify... this opens our hearts and lives to the increase that God has for us.*

1COR 14:5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye **prophesied**: for greater [is] he that **prophesieth** than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

&12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual [gifts], seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. *God is very keen to give people knowledge and wisdom... with this comes the other benefits.*

The correct way to use the voice gifts.

1COR 14:29 Let the **prophets** speak two or three, and let the other judge (*discern from the contents*).

30 If [any thing] be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. *Sometimes because of the acoustic qualities of the room, the distance between people, deafness, etc, two people may speak out at once. To avoid confusion you must cease your gift if your hear another start up. This does not give you the right to override anyone else who may have beaten you to the gift.*

31 For ye may all **prophesy** one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

32 And the spirits of the **prophets** are subject to the prophets. *The spirit never acts against our will.*

33 For God is not [the author] of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

The content of prophecy.

1COR 13: 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

Prophecy is a combination of the Lord's leading and the individuals knowledge and experience in the Lord. It must be an act of faith, not an act of supremacy or correction by yourself over others.

Encouragement to prophesy.

1COR 14: 39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to **prophesy**, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Prophecy also acts as a gauge (low on fuel or topped up)... does it uplift you, inform you, confirm to you, inspire you, or does it distress you, condemn you, bore you or do you not even listen?

Respect that God is speaking through you and don't use slang. Umms and Ahhs and 'thus sayeth the lord' can with confidence be replaced with a pause. If you aren't fluent, use the housemeeting to develop your skills. Your destiny on earth is much greater than you imagine. Learn to use the powers of God and the other blessings will assuredly follow.