

Spirit wants to use should operate in the gifts of the Spirit as the Holy Spirit wills.

There is an order of service that has been established in all Christian Churches, but the Holy Spirit should be allowed to move as He wills at any given time. The leaders should always allow the Holy Spirit to take charge of the service at any time He pleases. This is when the gifts of the Spirit and signs and wonders begin to operate and many are blessed. Otherwise, the Holy Spirit is grieved and there is no moving of God's Spirit. At this point, only the flesh is in operation, and many miss what God wanted to do for them. A sadness blankets the atmosphere of the congregation.

There are 20 New Testament activities mentioned in the New Testament Scriptures.

20 New Testament Church Activities:

- 1 Singing of Psalms (Eph. 5; Col. 3)
- 2 Teaching Doctrines (2 Tim. 4:2-4; Acts 2:42)
- 3 Tongues and Interpretations (I Cor. 14:27)
- 4 Prophecies (I Cor. 14:3, 24-25, 29-30)
- 5 Exhortations by laymen (Heb. 10:25)
- 6 The Lord's Supper and a love feast (I Cor. 10:16-17; 11:17-34; Jude 12)
- 7 Scripture reading (Lk. 4:16; Col. 4:16; 1 Thess. 5:27; 1 Tim. 4:13)
- 8 Prayers (Acts 2:42; 4:24-31 etc.)
- 9 Exercise of other gifts - healing, faith and miracles (Acts 3:6; 5:12-16; 8:5-8; 15:12; 19:11)

FOURTEENTH STUDY

DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

RATHER THAT YE MIGHT PROPHECY (I Corinthians 14:1)

1. As we operate in the Gifts of the Spirit and ministry gifts, how should we pursue (follow after) them? (I Corinthians 14:1) _____

We are told to . . . *Follow after charity* (or love; I Corinthians 14:1): love that sets itself in motion.

To desire prophecy above all spiritual gifts does not mean we are not to desire the other gifts of the Spirit. No, I Corinthians 14:1 says,

. . . and desire spiritual gifts.

The Greek word for *prophecy*, means to foretell events; divine; speak under inspiration; exercise the prophetic office.

Prophecy: A supernatural speaking forth in an established language. The prophetic speaking forth means to speak for God.

The reason prophesying is more important than tongues, is because with tongues, there has to be an interpretation of tongues; whereas with prophecy all can understand without the interpretation.

CONTRASTED BENEFITS OF PROPHECY AND TONGUES (I Corinthians 14:2-4)

When a believer receives the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, he receives a prayer language in tongues. As he grows in the Spirit and asks God for

the Gifts of the Spirit to operate in his life, he may give a message before the Church in tongues. Someone in the congregation will then give the interpretation. The two experiences are both tongues, but the prayer language edifies the person himself while in his personal time with the Lord (I Corinthians 14:4), while the whole Church is edified during the message in tongues and the following interpretation.

1. To whom is the believer speaking when he speaks in an unknown tongue? (I Corinthians 14:2) _____
2. (a) When a believer is speaking to God in an unknown tongue who is directing his speaking? (I Corinthians 14:2) _____
 (b) According to that same verse, What is the believer speaking? _____
3. (a) When a believer prophesies, to whom is he speaking? (I Corinthians 14:3) _____
 (b) What is he speaking to men? (I Corinthians 14:3) _____
4. Who receives edification when a believer speaks in an unknown tongue in his prayer time ? (I Corinthians 14:4) _____
5. (a) When are tongues equal to prophecy? (I Corinthians 14:5) _____
 (b) When are tongues useless in public meetings? (I Corinthians 14:6-11) _____

6. In I Corinthians 14:15a, How do you know Paul is talking about praying in tongues? _____

7. When Paul says in I Corinthians 14:15b, . . . *I will sing with the Spirit*, what does he mean? _____

8. In I Corinthians 14:18, For what is Paul thanking God? _____

Gifts are not play things. They are for the mature (I Corinthians 14:20).

TONGUES A SIGN OF PROPHECY FULFILLED (Isaiah 28:9-11; I Corinthians 14:21-22)

Tongues are a sign to them that do not believe.

Prophesying is not for a sign for the unbelievers (I Corinthians 14:22).

1. Who, then, does prophesying serve? (I Corinthians 14:22) _____

DECENCY AND ORDER (I Corinthians 14:23-40)

All things done in worship services should have order, even the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Being an unruly body of believers, the Corinthian Church, was constantly being corrected by Paul. This time, by explaining to them, it was and is important for each individual to receive ministry as needed; but it is also important that the believers understand that only those of whom the Holy