



MESSAGE/SERIES:

RESTORATION SERIES 1 Corinthians 14:1-40
“A RELEVANT CHURCH?”

DATE: March 29, 2020

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

1 Corinthians 14:1-40, James 1:5-6, Matthew 7:22-23, Joel 2:28, Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:2, Colossians 3:14, 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21, Hebrews 10:25, 1 Corinthians 12:30, 2 Peter 2:1, 1 Corinthians 3:6, 10, Hebrews 1:1-4, 1 Peter 1:11 (to point to), 1 Corinthians 1:11 (give one to understand), Isaiah 28:11-12, John 16:8,

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-40]

14:1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

3 On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

4 The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.

5 Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

6 Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

[Examples]

7 *If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played?*

8 *And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle?*

9 *So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.*

10 *There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning,*

11 *but if I do not know the meaning of the language, **I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me.***

12 *So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, **strive to excel in building up the church.***

13 *Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret.*

14 *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.*

15 *What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.*

16 *Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?*

17 *For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.*

18 ***I thank God that I speak in tongues** more than all of you.*

19 *Nevertheless, in church **I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others**, than ten thousand words in a tongue.*

20 *Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.*

21 *In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.”*

22 *Thus tongues are a **sign not for believers but for unbelievers**, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.*

23 *If, therefore, **the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues**, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?*

24 *But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all,*

25 *the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, **falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.***

26 *What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. **Let all things be done for building up.***

27 *If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret.*

28 ***But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.***

29 *Let two or three prophets speak, and **let the others weigh what is said.***

30 *If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent.*

31 *For **you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged,***

32 ***and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets.***

33 *For **God is not a God of confusion but of peace.** As in all the churches of the saints,*

34 *the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, **but should be in submission,** as the Law also says.*

35 *If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.*

36 *Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached?*

37 *If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should **acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.***

38 ***If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.***

39 *So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and **do not forbid speaking in tongues.***

40 ***But all things should be done decently and in order.***

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Co 14:1–40.

BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

[GIFT OF TONGUES] “They will speak in new tongues (Mark 16:17); they spoke in **other languages** (Acts 2:4); they heard them speaking in tongues and exalting God (Acts 10:46); they spoke in tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:6); the gift of speaking in tongues (1 Cor. 12:10; 1 Cor. 12:28); five words with my mind rather than 10,000 words in a tongue (1 Cor. 14:19); the one who speaks in **a tongue speaks to God, not men** (1 Cor. 14:2); the one who speaks in a tongue edifies himself (1 Cor. 14:4); I wish you all spoke in tongues (1 Cor. 14:5); I speak in tongues more than you all (1 Cor. 14:18); if I come speaking in tongues, how do I benefit you? (1 Cor. 14:6); if all speak in tongues, will they not say you are mad? (1 Cor. 14:23); the one who prophesies is greater than he who speaks in tongues unless he interprets (1 Cor. 14:5); if I pray in a tongue my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful (1 Cor. 14:14); not all speak in tongues, do they? (1 Cor. 12:30); if I speak with the **tongues of men and angels** (1 Cor. 13:1); tongues, prophecy and knowledge will cease (1 Cor. 13:8); when you come together, each one has a tongue etc. (1 Cor. 14:26); do not forbid speaking in tongues (1 Cor. 14:39); let him who speaks in tongues pray for an interpretation (1 Cor. 14:13); two or three may speak in tongues if someone interprets (1 Cor. 14:27).”

A. Colin Day, *Collins Thesaurus of the Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2009).

“Although Paul is clearly not against speaking in tongues (14:5, 18), he emphasizes that the value of gifts must be judged by their utility in any given setting; intelligible speech profits others in public worship, whereas unintelligible speech, no matter how inspired, is profitable only privately or if interpreted. Neither somber Roman ritual nor ecstatic Greek celebration is the rule of spirituality; concern for others is (chap. 13). The term for “tongues” normally means simply “languages,” but it is clear here (14:2, 14) that the person inspired to pray in these other languages does not know the languages; as in Acts, this gift presupposes a supernatural enabling.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 1 Co 14:1–20.

[CHARISMATIC VIEW OF TONGUES] Those who have been baptized in the Holy ghost have the ability to speak in Tongues. The problem with this belief is 1 Corinthians 12:30 and 1 Corinthians 14 clearly teach that not every true believer has the gift of speaking in tongues therefore it cannot be evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

[CESSATIONIST] “Someone who thinks that certain miraculous spiritual gifts ceased when the apostles died and Scripture was complete. (17D.2; 52B)”

Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 1237.

[CONTINUATIONIST] "...believe that all the gifts of the Spirit listed in these chapters are meant to continue more or less, according to the sovereign Spirit's purposes, throughout the church age until Jesus returns. The disagreement exists, ironically, because cessationists and continuationists *agree* on the inspiration, authority, infallibility, and sufficiency of the Bible."

Piper, J. (2020, March 24). What Do Cessationists Believe About Prophecy? Retrieved March 24, 2020, from <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-do-cessationists-believe-about-prophecy>

[PROPHECY IN 1 COR 14:1] "Did Paul understand the new covenant spiritual gift of prophecy as Holy Spirit-inspired, authoritative, infallible, canon-equivalent revelation? Or did he understand it as Holy Spirit-prompted, subordinate revelation that could be partially or fallibly reported and therefore intended to be subject to God's chosen apostolic and prophetic authoritative teaching contained in the Spirit-determined canonical writings of Scripture? If by "prophecy," Paul meant the former, then to "earnestly desire" to prophesy is to earnestly desire to speak with scriptural authority — to challenge, in some sense, the sufficiency of Scripture. If he meant the latter, then to not "earnestly desire" to prophesy is to blatantly disobey a clear apostolic imperative — to challenge, in some way, the sufficiency of Scripture."

Piper, J. (2020, March 24). What Do Cessationists Believe About Prophecy? Retrieved March 24, 2020, from <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-do-cessationists-believe-about-prophecy>

[PROPHECY IN NT] "Though much of OT prophecy was purely predictive, see Micah 5:2, e.g., and cf. John 11:51, prophecy is not necessarily, nor even primarily, fore-telling. It is the declaration of **that which cannot be known by natural means**, Matt. 26:68, it is the forth-telling of the will of God, whether with reference to the past, the present, or the future, see Gen. 20:7; Deut. 18:18; Rev. 10:11; 11:3....

W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 492.

[THE TEST for NT Prophecy]

Does it claim any new revelations?

- *There are no new revelations from God.*

Does it contradict God's revealed will in scripture?

- *Everything revealed must Align with scripture or else it is false.*
- *Things can be revealed that do not contradict scripture and that are effectively used to convict the heart and amplify the word of God.*

PROPHECY TODAY:

- **Connected to the understanding of God's will and purpose through Preaching and teaching of the word of God.**

- *Is the teaching or preaching Bibliocentric (Sola Scriptura)?*

[WOMEN MUST BE SILENT] “(14:34) women must be silent If this functions as a rule for all churches in Paul’s time (see note on v. 33), then Paul is forbidding women from speaking in church, especially **during worship**, and is likely doing so for reasons **specific to his first-century Graeco-Roman context**. However, *Paul may be addressing a particular problem among the Corinthian congregation* (or possibly all churches in the first century ad). In this case, Paul’s prohibition *may apply specifically to women who were speaking in tongues or uttering prophecies in an inappropriate manner*. Alternatively, **he may be addressing women who were disrupting worship services with questions and thereby challenging the authority of their husbands**. Ultimately, Paul’s goal in the passage is to reestablish order in worship, not to demean the honor of women or devalue their worship of God.”

John D. Barry et al., *Faithlife Study Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), 1 Co 14:34.

“Prophecy [today] amounts to healthy preaching, proclamation, or teaching which is pastorally applied for the appropriation of Gospel truth...”

A. Thiselton

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1 “Especially that you may prophecy (interpret the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching).”

AMPLIFIED VERSION

OUTLINE:

I. WHAT WE SAY MATTERS (v1-20)

- A. (v1) **“Pursue Love”**= Run after love
 - 1. *Carried theme from 1 Corinthians 13 in which we learned that without Love it all fails*
- B. (v1-2) **“Desire the Spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophecy”** “the one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God”
 - 1. *Desire to be used of God to speak from God to men as it most help the church to grow (God’s people)*

2. (See note on NT Prophecy for definition)

C. (v3-4) “the one who prophesies speaks to people **for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation**. The one who speaks in a tongue **builds up himself**, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.”

1. *The contrast continues as Paul states further the benefits of prophesy over speaking in tongues is that it brings these three benefits to the body:*

- a) **Upbuilding**= edification or building up of a spiritual building
- b) **Encouragement**= calling to one’s side
- c) **Consultation/Brings Comfort**= Speaking closely to anyone with a great degree of tenderness

D. (v5) “I want you **all to speak in tongues**, but even more to prophesy. The **one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues**, unless someone interprets, **so that the church may be built up.**”

1. *The greater gift is the one that speaks God’s truths to the people to grow the church (not our opinions or abilities or gifts on display)*
2. *The only way that tongues need to be spoken in the congregation is if there is interpretation*
3. *Tongues without interpretation tears down and causes anxiety confusion amongst the people*
4. *Let the reason we do things be to build up the church and that the words we speak are from God according to His word (Scripture)*

E. (v6) “...if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you **some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?**”

1. *Just to speak in tongues with no revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching is utterly useless to others*

F. (v7-9) Examples are given to illustrate Paul’s point of the before mentioned points...

G. (v10-11) If someone speaks in a legitimate foreign language but if there is no one to reveal what is said in a language I understand the speech and the speaker are foreign and unacceptable= What’s the purpose

H. (v12) “Since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, **strive to excel in building up the church**”

1. *Let your desires for gifts from the spirit be lead by a greater desire to build up the body of Christ*
 - a) Not selfish desire to have a showy gift
 - b) Desire a more functional gift

- c) Some of the gifts have diminished in frequency and function after the completed canon of scripture
 - (1) Prophecy
 - (2) Tongues
 - (3) Healing
 - (4) Interpretation
- I. (v13) If God has given the gift of tongues pray for an interpreter for the good of the body
 - 1. *God will supply interpretation if He desires for you to speak in tongues in the church (heavenly or earthly tongue)*
 - a) Tongues are not a necessity in the body of believers since the **sign gifts** were to establish authority for what was being said and give but now we have the authoritative word of God
- J. (v14-15) God calls us to worship corporately
 - 1. *With our whole being: spirit, mind, and body*
 - 2. *With the Spirit and with understanding as to what we are saying/affirming*
 - 3. *(A. Thiselton) to be Spiritual is when the **Holy Spirit controls both the spirit of man and the mind***
- K. (v16) “how can anyone in the position of **an outsider** say ‘amen’ to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying”
 - 1. *The gift of Tongue was often used as a way to thank the Lord and commune with Him*
 - 2. *How can those hearing agree with your statements of thankfulness if they do not understand- it is not productive for the body (Paul’s whole premise)*
- L. (v17) “You may be giving thanks well enough” “but the other person is not built up”
 - 1. *Indicating that if they are not being built up they are being negatively impacted by what they do not understand*
- M. (v18) Paul spoke in tongues often
 - 1. *Private prayer to God in tongues (totally acceptable and needs no interpreter)*
- N. (v19) “In church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue”
 - 1. *Paul quickly contrasts the good use of tongue in private prayer with the public use of tongue which **fails to instruct others***
- O. (v20) “do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but **in your thinking be mature**”

1. *This children could be read in translation as “do not be children born yesterday”-- A whole new level of immaturity*
 - a) *The Corinthians believed public speaking in tongues was “Spiritual” but says it's quite the opposite*
2. *Maturity in thought means we understand and have faith in what we say or affirm*

[Interactive Application]

1. What transitional terminology *or* thought does Paul use to introduce the content we call Chapter 14?

2. What are we to pursue and how does that look in your life?

3. (See notes) How would we define Prophecy in this New Testament (more general sense)? How would it be different from Old Testament Prophecy?

4. Why is Prophecy preferred and deemed more beneficial in corporate worship than the gift Tongues (heavenly tongue or earthly foreign tongues)?

II. THOSE WHO HEAR ARE AFFECTED (v21-25)

- A. (v21) “In the Law it is written, ‘By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then **they will not listen to me, says the Lord.**”
 1. *(Reference to Isaiah 28:11-12) where Isaiah was preaching to a group of religious people too drunk to comprehend because at the core they were too confused and self confident*
 2. *It didn't matter how they were spoken to because they were too confused already*
- B. (v22) “Thus **tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers**, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.”

1. **The Gift of Tongue** was a sign gift to give credence to the speaker (being a messenger from God) and the message they were giving...
 - a) basically a way for God to draw attention to His speaker and credibility to the praise or message being conveyed to God and about God
 2. **Prophecy** is first for the believers to build up, encouragement, and consultation of the body
- C. (v23) “If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will **they not say that you are out of your minds?**”
1. Unbelievers will think the people of Christ are crazy when tongues are spoken throughout
- D. *(v24-25) “But **if all prophesy**, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, **he is convicted by all**, he is **called to account by all**, **the secrets of his heart are disclosed**, and so, *falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among...*”
1. Prophecy has the opposite effect on unbelievers who come in the church (John 16:8)
 - a) Causes Conviction (Aware/Seeing his sin the way God does)
 - b) Causes God’s Judgement to be known (reveals need for repentance)
 - c) Uncovers the deep things about yourself that we have not known prior
 - We are lost (hopeless & helpless)
 - (1) We are judged apart from Jesus (bound for Hell)
 2. Prophetic speech (proclaiming What God has said through preaching, teaching, and counsel) reveals the vain glory of people and crushes their pride to surrender to Jesus
 - a) The Gift of Tongue draws attention to self in the corporate context (NT times)
 - b) Prophetic Speech causes us once we have acknowledged, believed on Jesus alone, and confess Him as Lord/ worship Him as almighty King
-

[Interactive Application]

1. How does Isaiah 28:11-12 parallel with 1 Corinthians 14?

2. What type of sign is a church filled with those who are speaking in uninterpreted tongues? (If you were an unbeliever how would it make you feel)

3. What profit does a church have where believers practice prophetic speech (saying what God has said in preaching, teaching, and counsel)?

4. Break down the components of John 16:8-11 and the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of men

- a. Sin- _____
- b. Righteous- _____
- c. Judgement- _____

III. WHAT THE CHURCH ACCOMPLISHES IS BEAUTIFUL (v26-33)

- A. (v26) "What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. **Let all things be done for building up.**"
 1. *The test of all things ultimately is does it build up the body of Christ/the church?*
- B. (v27) If someone does speak in tongues
 1. *Speaker must take turns*
 2. *There must be an interpreter*
- C. (v28) If there is no interpreter=
 1. *Keep Silent!*
 2. *Only speak in tongues in your heart*
- D. (v29-32) When people are speaking prophetically (prophetic speech= saying what God has said)
 1. *Speak one at a time*
 2. *Let everything said be tested by others prophetically speaking*

3. *When God lays further understanding and burden to speak on another the first speaker is to be quiet as God uses many as vessels/His mouth piece)*
 4. *The focus of all speakers must be to edify the church by pointing them to the Lord*
- E. (v33) **“For God is not a God of confusion but of peace...”**
1. *Order in our corporate worship is by God’s design and character*
 2. *The opposite is Satan is the author of confusion and he must be kept out of the church*

[Interactive Application]

1. Who is the Author of confusion?

2. What does it matter if we have order in our worship?

3. If God raises up someone to Speak in tongues, who will He also raise up?

4. What should happen if someone speaks in tongues and there is no interpreter?

IV. HOW IT IS SAID (v34-40)

- A. (V34) (see notes) **“Women should keep silent** in the churches...”
1. (v29-33) *Seem to be dealing with **Women & Prophetic speech** (preaching and teaching) in the corporate context/group gatherings*
 2. **Also the public judgement of the prophetic speech** (Women should not call out the preacher or teacher publically)
 - a) *Rather she can address with her husband and He can address with them (submission)*

3. *God is a God of **Order in the body** (Husbands manager of the home & men are to be the pastors/ undershepherds of the church)*
 - B. (v35) The woman's learning or questioning of teaching and preaching is an opportunity for the husband to disciple his wife...
 1. *God's design is for the home to be the foundation for the church leadership and growth*
 - C. (v36) Paul asserts His authority here to speak on these matters
 - D. (v37) If anyone believes God has called and equipped him to speak prophetically, they **must adhere to the commands and order that Paul sets forward for the Universal church** (all churches are subject to this teaching)
 - E. (v38) If Pastors and teachers do not adhere they should not be recognized as true Prophetic Speakers
 - F. (v39) Paul says do not forbid speaking in tongues/ forbid the disorderly use in corporate worship
 - G. (v40) the punchline is let all things be done **Decently and in Order**
 1. *God looks at each of us equally (as sinners saved by grace)*
 2. *God has appointed Spiritual gifts for the edification of His church (not confusion)*
 3. *God's order matches what He has done in the home and in the Trinity (God the Father Son & Spirit are all equal yet The Son and the Spirit willfully submit to the Father and the Spirit to the Son)*
 - a) *Its a view of love to the world and to His glory*
-

[Interactive Application]

1. Is Paul saying women should not ever talk in church? How does he intend that keeping silent apply to the context of this chapter?

2. Can a woman Prophetically speak and if so in what forum?

3. How have you seen a God's character in how God designed the church and instructed the church to worship?

-----Message from Pastor Michael-----

Church,

Here in this chapter Love for God and His people lay the foundation for our worship and our relevance in the world. God is a God of order. If the church is a place of confusion then the world will see we are just as crazy as they are without Him. God designed the church to worship and glorify Him and we must strive to proclaim what He has said, allowing the spirit to use us as the appropriate piece to the puzzle here at the church that meets in the Renfrew Community. Have we put too much emphasis on Spiritualizing things and not understanding what He has done and commands? Have we sought to Impact His body of believers with the word of God that convicts, judges, and causes us to worship? If we all faithfully share as Paul has challenged us to do will not God's Spirit do a reviving work? Wouldn't it be amazing to see praise come from ashes and healing come from our tears...

Love in Christ,
Pastor Michael

MY PERSONAL STUDY NOTES:
