



Rice Memorial MBC

Pastor Jimmy L. Harper, Sr., President of State Convention  
Apostle Walter Camp, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Minister Danny Current, Dean of Christian Education  
Pastor Michael Hansberry, Southern District Moderator

### **Rice Memorial Missionary Baptist Church**

Apostle Walter F. Camp, Presiding Senior Pastor  
Pastor David K. Baker III, 2<sup>nd</sup> Presiding  
802 W. 15<sup>th</sup>, Little Rock, AR 72202, 501-416-5894

[www.RiceMemorialBaptistChurch.org](http://www.RiceMemorialBaptistChurch.org)

## **Seek the Good of Others**

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance  
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition  
or Roget's Thesaurus – **July 27, 2014**

**Worship with us** at **3201 Mary St** until we rebuild our sanctuary at 802 W. 15th,  
...We're just behind Kaufman's Lumber Company in Little Rock Arkansas...

## **1 Corinthians 14:13-26**

**Introduction:** In this chapter the apostle discourses concerning the use of spiritual gifts, and prefers prophesying, or preaching, to every other gift; and directs to the order and manner of using it, and also points at the persons who should exercise it; and whereas there was much confusion and disorder in this church, in the management of the affairs of it, the chapter is concluded with a general exhortation to do everything in a **decent** and **orderly** manner. (Source: [biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/](http://biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/))

**Intro continued:** For the sake of clarity, I'd like to back up to chapter 12 where the King James Version of the bible first records the phrase "Spiritual gifts" in regard to the church.

**1 Corinthians 12:1**, Now concerning **SPIRITUAL** gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

**Spiritual defined 4152**, [**divinely** {of God}] **supernatural** (whatever is above and beyond the scope, or the established course, of the laws of NATURE).

**NOTE:** *Spiritual gifts.* The word "**gifts**" is not in the original. The Greek refers to "spiritual" things in general, or to anything that is of a **spiritual** nature. (Source: [Barnes' Notes on the New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bnn/](http://Barnes' Notes on the New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bnn/))

**1 Corinthians 12:27-28**, Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that **miracles**, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, **diversities** (VARIETY [many and different kinds]) of **tongues**.

**Tongues defined 1100**, **glossa** pronounced *gloce-sah'*, a language (**specially**, one **naturally** **unacquired**). (Meaning this language is supernaturally acquired)

**Thought 1.** Notice, there are "different kinds" of supernatural languages. Most Christians are aware of only one kind, which is a source of more confusion.

**1 Corinthians 14:1**, Follow after **charity**, and desire **spiritual** gifts, but rather that ye may **PROPHESY**.

**Prophesy defined 4395**, to foretell events, **speak under inspiration**, **exercise the prophetic office**: --**prophesy** (in Scripture, to PREACH; to instruct in religious

doctrines; to interpret or explain Scripture or religious subjects; to exhort).

**Thought 1.** As in 1 Cor. 12:1, the word “gifts” was added by the translators.

**1 Corinthians 14:2,** *For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto MEN, but UNTO God: for no man **understandeth** him; howbeit in the **spirit** he speaketh **mysteries (secret [what is not revealed, or not to be revealed]).***

**Thought 1.** First, notice the word “unknown.” It was added by the translators to make clear the fact the language is not a “naturally” learned language to anybody, to include the hearer and the speaker. And so, “NO MAN understandeth him.”

The next point is in Acts 2, the people who heard them speak DID understand what was said. So, this causes us to know all manifestations of tongues are NOT the same.

**Acts 2:6, 11,** ...the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them **speak in his OWN language.**  
...we do HEAR them speak in **our tongues** the wonderful works of God.

**Thought 2.** This manifestation is known as “divers kinds” of tongues. It's one of, what's commonly called, “the nine gifts of Spirit.” And we know from scripture, it can be languages of MEN, or of angels. (1 Cor. 12:10, 13:1) This takes place as God desires to speak to people through someone in a language the speaker has NOT acquired naturally, but supernaturally.

Also notice they were not “preaching” the gospel in TONGUES. The preaching would be done by Peter and others in their own natural language.

**Acts 2:14,** But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem...

**Thought 3.** Now notice, the person is speaking unto God. As you know, to speak to God, is “praying.” So, to speak to God in “tongues” is to PRAY in the Holy Ghost. This is commonly called a Christian's “prayer language”, a child to his Father!

**Jude 1:20-21,** But ye, beloved, **building up yourselves** on your most holy FAITH, **praying** in the **Holy Ghost**, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

**Thought 4.** Even though it's done by faith, it can't be done until the Christian is filled by the Spirit. At that time, IF they understand, they also have the faith, to speak as often as they so desire. And sometimes, because of their reverence for God and faith, some people are BORN of the Spirit, and the next split second, FILLED by the Spirit.

**Acts 10:44-47,** While Peter yet spake these words, the **Holy Ghost** fell on all them which heard the word. ...they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them **speak** with **tongues**, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid WATER, that these should not be **baptized**, which **have received** the Holy Ghost as well as we?

**1 Corinthians 14:3-5,** *But he that **prophesieth** speaketh unto MEN to **EDIFICATION**, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue **edifieth** himself; but he that prophesieth **edifieth** the **church**. 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**.*

**Edification defined 3619, fig., confirmation** (fixing, settling, establishing or making more certain or firm), **edify** (to instruct and improve the MIND in knowledge...

**1 Corinthians 14:10-12**, There are, it may be, so many **kinds** of **voices** in the world, and none of them is without signification. Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a **barbarian (foreigner)**, and he that speaketh shall be a **barbarian (foreigner)** unto me. Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the **edifying** of the church.

**NOTE:** But whatever proper signification the words of any **language** may have in themselves, and to those who understand them, they are perfect **gibberish** to men of another language, who understand them not. In this case, speaker and hearers are **barbarians to each other**, they talk and hear only sounds without sense; for this is to be a barbarian. (Source: *The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible* classic.studylight.org/com/mhc)

**1 Corinthians 14:13**, Wherefore let him that **speaketh** in an unknown **tongue** pray that he may interpret.

**Thought 1.** When we remember that in the case of speaking TO God in tongues, we're speaking "mysteries (secrets)", it wouldn't make sense to ask for interpretation that the church might know what was said, because it's a secret. It's not for them to know. So, the benefit to the church in asking that we may "interpret" is when God speaks something FOR the PEOPLE, but it comes forth in tongues, and needs interpreting. On the other hand, some Christians today believe tongues have "passed away." This is in large part to NOT understanding what Paul said in Chapter 13.

**1 Corinthians 13:8-11**, Charity never **faileth** (**become inefficient** [unproductive]); but whether there be prophecies, they shall **fail** (**become of no effect**); whether there be TONGUES, they shall **CEASE**; whether there be knowledge, it shall **vanish away** (**to be entirely idle** [not turned to appropriate use].).

**Cease defined 3973**, "pause [temporary stop or rest, 1913 Webster's]".

**Thought 2.** As we see, what he said was "tongues" shall be put on pause in certain occasions. He even said that "knowledge" is idle, at times. But, no matter what the situation, "charity (LOVE) is never unproductive!"

**1 Corinthians 14:14**, For if I **pray** in an unknown **tongue**, my **spirit** prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

**Thought 1.** This is where the ability to interpret is useful to the speaker, since there are times where God wants the secrets being spoken from OUR spirit, as we pray in the Holy Ghost, be revealed to US, to OUR understanding. The times when it's happened to me, I could hear the interpretation of what was being said, while praying. Then I could make use of what was said using God's wisdom, to bring to pass his will.

**1 Corinthians 14:15**, What is it then? **I will pray** with the spirit, and **I will pray** with the understanding also:

**I will** **sing** with the **SPIRIT**, and **I will sing** with the **understanding** also.

**Thought 1.** Since praying "with the spirit" is to do so in "tongues", then to sing in the spirit is to sing in "tongues." And notice too, the way he made this statement. He was making clear that we have the ability to choose HOW we're going to pray, and do so at OUR choosing. So, even though we're praying in tongues when we pray with the spirit, and the Holy Ghost gives us the articulation, we're in control of WHEN we do it. On the other hand, when it comes to speaking in tongues from God TO give his people a message to be interpreted, only he controls WHEN it's going to happen.

**1 Corinthians 14:16-17**, Else when thou shalt **bleſs** with the **ſpirit**, how ſhall he that occupieth the room of the **unlearned** ſay Amen at thy giving of thanks, ſeeing he **underſtandeth not** what thou ſayeſt?

For thou verily givest thanks **WELL**, but the other is not **edified**.

**Thought 1.** Here Paul ſays it's neceſſary to know WHEN to pray with the ſpirit, and when we need to pray with our underſtanding. It's not wiſe to give thanks in tongues.

**1 Corinthians 14:18-19**, I thank my God, I ſpeak with tongues **MORE** than ye all: Yet IN the church I had rather ſpeak **five words** with **my underſtanding**, that by my voice I might **teach others** alſo, than ten thousand words in an unknown **tongue**.

**Thought 1.** Firſt, the tongues in which Paul is ſpeaking is not what he **LEARNED** as Hebrew and Greek. But, he's talking about ſpeaking as the Holy Ghoſt gives the utterance from his ſpirit. He then makes clear the fact the moſt important thing is to **FEED** God's flock ſo they can **GROW** up and be equipped for the work of the miniſtry.

**Ephesians 4:11-16** ...he gave ſome, apoſtles, prophets, evangeliſts, paſtors, and teachers; for the perfecting (complete furniſhing) of the ſaints, for the work of the miniſtry, for the **EDIFYING** (building up in Chriſtian knowledge; improving the **MIND**) of the body of Chriſt: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God, unto a **perfect (of full (mature) age)** man, unto the meaſure of the ſtature of the fullneſs (perfection) of Chriſt: that we *henceforth* be **NO MORE children (BABE)**, toſſed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the ſleight of men, and cunning craftineſs, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but ſpeaking the **TRUTH** in LOVE, may **GROW UP** into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Chriſt; From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which **EVERY JOINT** ſupplieth, according to the effectual working in the meaſure of every part, maketh increaſe of the **BODY** unto the **edifying** of itſelf in **LOVE**.

**1 Corinthians 14:20**, Brethren, be not children in **underſtanding**: howbeit in **malice** be ye children, but in underſtanding be **MEN (of full age)**.

**NOTE:** Do not be children in underſtanding: In their ſelfiſh deſire to **edify** themſelves at the expense of others in the meeting, the Corinthians were ſhowing themſelves to be children, and ſelfiſhly **immature**. Paul points them to a higher call.

(Source: David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible [classic.studylight.org/com/guz](http://classic.studylight.org/com/guz))

**1 Corinthians 14:21-22**, In the **law** it is written, With men of other **tongues** and other lips will I ſpeak UNTO this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, ſaith the Lord. Wherefore **tongues** are or a **ſign**, not to them that **believe**, but to them that **believe not**: but **PROPHECYING** ſerveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

**NOTE:** Biſhop Pearce paraphraſes this verſe as follows: "With the tongues of foreigners and with the lips of foreigners will I ſpeak to this people and yet, for all that, will they not hear me, ſaith the Lord." To enter into the *apostle's* **meaning** we muſt enter into that of the *prophet*. The Jewish people were under the *teaching* of the **prophets** who were ſent from God; theſe *instructed, reprov'd, and corrected* them by this Divine authority. They however became ſo **refractory** (obſtinate unyielding) and **diſobedient** that God purpoſed to caſt them off, and abandon them to the Babylonians: then, they had a people to *teach, correct, and reprove* them, whoſe language they did not underſtand. The *discipline* that they received in this way was widely different from that which they received while under the teaching of the prophets and the government of God; and yet for all this they did **not humble** themſelves before their Maker that this affliction might be removed from them.

**Verse 22. Wherefore tongues are for a sign** The miraculous gift of tongues was never designed for the benefit of those who have **already believed**, but for the instruction of *unbelievers*, that they might see from such a miracle that this is the *work of God*; and so embrace the Gospel. But as, in the times of the prophet, the strange Babylonish tongues came in the way of *punishment*, and not in the way of *MERCY*; take heed that it be not the case *now*: that, by **dwelling on the gift**, ye **forget the Giver**; and what was designed for you as a blessing, may prove to you to be a curse. For if, because ye have the gift of tongues, ye will choose for your OWN aggrandizement to use them in the public congregation where none understands them, God may curse your blessings. **Prophecy** -Teaching the things of God in a known language is of infinitely more consequence than speaking in all the foreign tongues in the universe.

(Source: *The Adam Clarke Commentary* [classic.studylight.org/com/acc/](http://classic.studylight.org/com/acc/))

**1 Corinthians 14:23**, If therefore the **whole church** be come together into one place, and ALL speak with tongues, and there come in *THOSE* that are **unlearned**, or **unbelievers**, will they not say that ye are **mad**?

**Thought 1.** Here, Paul uses the extreme case of speaking in tongues to SHOW clearly what God's wisdom dictates should not be happening when believers come together for worship. If all we did was EVERYBODY speak in tongues, they'd think we're mad.

**1 Corinthians 14:24-25**, But if ALL **prophecy**, and there come in ONE that believeth not, or ONE unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is **judged** of **all**: And thus are the **secrets** of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is **IN you** of a truth.

**NOTE:** If all those who **teach** do it in the tongue which all UNDERSTAND; if an unbeliever, or one who knows nothing of the sacred language, come in and hear things just suited to his own state, he is convicted by all, and he is judged by all.

**Verse 25. And thus are the secrets of his heart** As these, who were the *prophets* or *teachers*, had often the discernment of spirits, they were able in certain cases, and probably very frequently, to tell a man the **secrets** of his own heart (MIND); and, where this was not *directly* the case, God often led his ministers to speak those things that were **suitable** to the **case** before them, though they themselves had no particular design. The sinner, therefore, convinced that God alone could **uncover the secrets** of his heart (MIND), would be often obliged to *fall down on his face*, abashed and confounded, and acknowledge that God was truly among them. This seems to be the **plain meaning** of the passages before us.

(Source: *The Adam Clarke Commentary* [classic.studylight.org/com/acc/](http://classic.studylight.org/com/acc/))

**Thought 1.** I dare say, this manifestation of "prophecy" happens on a regular basis among us Christians today! If the pastor and ministers sharing God's word, do so from the "heart" at some point during the message, the Lord WILL address an issue that people in the congregation are facing. And over the years, as well as recently, I've seen God reveal and help in areas about which I had no knowledge. And without fail, it gets the person attention about God being **IN** me, because how he addressed it.

And some cases, the visitor became upset with the person who invited them because they believed that person had been talking to me about their situation. At which time, the person who invited them informed them that nothing was said to me. But, what happened was because God LED me to say it, he helped them, even though I knew nothing about the person. But, As senior pastor, I was just speaking what I **HEARD** God tell me to say as I shared and **EXPLAINED** the scriptures to his people.

**1 Corinthians 14:26**, How is it then, brethren? when ye **come together**, every one of you

*hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let ALL THINGS be done unto **edifying**.*

**NOTE:** It seems more likely that, when the WHOLE Church came together, among whom there were many persons with extraordinary gifts, **each of them** wished to put himself **forward**, and **occupy** the time and attention of the congregation: hence **confusion** must necessarily take place, and perhaps not a little **contention**. This was contrary to that edifying which was the intencion of these gifts.  
(Source: *The Adam Clarke Commentary classic.studylight.org/com/acc/*)

**Thought 1.** Since Paul has already stated that “I will PRAY and sing with the SPIRIT and with the understanding”, he acknowledges that tongues has a place in our worship of God in the church. But, since our purpose for coming together is to EDIFY, the people in attendance, tongues, in any form, has a VERY limited place.

**1 Corinthians 14:27**, *If any man speak in an unknown **tongue**, let it be by two, or at the MOST by three, and that by course; and let one INTERPRET.*

**NOTE:** Paul had shown to them (1 Corinthians 14:22) that the main design of the gift of tongues was to convince unbelievers; he here shows them that **IF** ...that gift was exercised in the church, it should be in such a way as to promote **edification**. They should not speak at the same time; nor should they regard it as necessary that all should speak at the same meeting. It should not be so as to produce **disorder** and **confusion**; nor should it be so as to detain the people beyond a reasonable time. The speakers, therefore, in any one assembly, should not exceed **two** or **three**.  
*And that by course.* Separately; one after another. They should not all speak at the same time.

(Source: *Barnes' Notes on the New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bnn/*)

**Thought 1.** When we remember that PRAYING in the Holy Ghost is done UNTO God, speaking secrets, we know he's not talking about two or three “prayers.” Along with this truth, we should also understand that just as a congregation prays in “unison” with the understanding, so it is also in order for the congregation to spend a FEW minutes praying in the spirit”, which, as we've said, is their “prayer language” to their heavenly Father.

**1 Corinthians 14:28**, *But if there be **no interpreter**, let him **keep silence** in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.*

**Thought 1.** Remember, Paul said in verse 13, if a person “speaks” in tongues pray that he also be able to “interpret.” When I began to speak in tongues, I was taught this truth by my pastor, because I didn't know to do so. After I prayed to be able to interpret, when I prayed in tongues, I also could hear the interpretation as I spoke.

**1 Corinthians 14:39-40** ... *brethren, covet to **PROPHECY**, and forbid NOT to **speak** with TONGUES. Let all things be done **decently** and **in order**.*

**NOTE:** Let all things be done in an *appropriate and becoming* manner; decorously, as becomes the worship of God. Let all be done in *order, regularly*, **without confusion**, discord, tumult. The word used here (\~kata taxin\~) is, properly, a military term, and denotes the order and regularity with which an army is drawn up. This is a general rule, which was to guide them. It was **simple**, and **easily** applied. There are many things which cannot be subjected to rule, or exactly prescribed; there are many things which may and must be left to pious feeling, to good sense, and to the views of Christians themselves, about what will promote their edification and the conversion of sinners. (Source: *Barnes' Notes on the New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bnn/*)