

# The Holy Spirit: His Person and His Work

## Sunday, December 6, 2015

### 1 Corinthians 14

#### I. Introduction

***“All spiritual gifts, especially prophecy, are given by the Holy Spirit for the building up of the church of Jesus Christ.”***

#### II. The Gifts of Spirit (v.1-19)

v.1 - This is an exhortation, an imperative, a command, not merely a statement of fact. Look at v.39 as well.

A simple definition would be that ***“prophecy is the human report of a divine revelation.”*** ***W. Grudem*** Prophecy is the speaking forth in merely human words something God has spontaneously brought to mind.

The goal of these gifts is to build up the body of Christ (v.3,5b,12b,26b,40).

v.12-19 – The value of prophecy over uninterpreted tongues!

#### III. Tongues and Prophecy As Signs (v.20-25)

Signs can be used in the Bible as either positive or negative and sometimes both. Sign can often mean “an indication of God’s attitude.”

Tongues, if not interpreted, are a sign of judgment. Paul is using Isaiah 28:11 as a warning sign of judgment. It would indicate God’s disapproval and carry a warning with it. This is what Paul has in mind when speaking to the Corinthians.

*“What, then, is the principle that Paul finds in Isaiah 28:11 that applies to Corinth (and to us)? It is this: when God speaks to people in a language they cannot understand, it is a form of punishment for unbelief. It signifies his anger. Incomprehensible speech will not guide or instruct or lead to faith and repentance, but only confuse and destroy. Thus, if outsiders or unbelievers come in and you speak in a language they cannot understand, you will simply drive them away. You will be giving a “sign” to unbelievers that is entirely wrong, because their hardness of heart has not reached the point where they deserve that severe sign of judgment.”* Sam Storms

But prophecy is a ‘sign’ for those who believe and obey God. This would indicate God’s presence and power among his people to bless them.

*“Prophecy is an indication of God’s approval and blessing on the congregation because it shows that God is actively present in the assembled church.”* WG

1. Prophecy functions in evangelism to reveal the secrets of an unbeliever's heart and thereby to amaze him with the power of God at work and to convict him of his sins.

2. In doing this, prophecy also serves as a certain indication (sign) that God is present and at work in the congregation to bless it and cause it to grow.

*"We should heed Paul's warning to the Corinthians and not be childish and immature when we think about our congregational worship...Mature thinking about prophecy would see it as something to be encouraged in the congregation, even when unbelievers are present. If prophecy is encouraged and allowed to function, it will convict both unbelievers and believers of sin, and will bring to the congregation a much more vivid sense that God is truly among them. It will be a "sign" of God's approval, of his presence, of his blessing on his people. We ought to see it as this and give thanks for it." W. Grudem*

#### **IV. Gifts, Prophecy and Women (v.26-40)**

v.26-32

Paul gives some guidelines and direction to be applied in a corporate gathering!

v.33-40

The view most popular among conservative scholars understands Paul to be prohibiting women from participating in the passing of judgment upon or the evaluation of the prophets (14:29). In other words, Paul is not imposing absolute silence on all women. Rather he is calling for silence only in one regard, namely, the public evaluation of prophetic utterances.

#### **V. Conclusion**

As we explore and apply our gifts to the church, let us be mindful that we are to pursue love and build up the body which is the Church of the Living God.