

A close-up photograph of two hands, palms up, holding a small amount of dark soil and a tiny green plant with several leaves. The background is a blurred field of green grass and leaves. The text is overlaid on this image.

USE SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO SERVE OTHERS IN LOVE!

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-25

A. A Quick Recap

1. Chapter 12: Understanding Spiritual Gifts and the Body of Christ

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2. Chapter 13: Understanding Love in the Context of Serving

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1. Chapter 12: Understanding Spiritual Gifts and the Body of Christ
2. Chapter 13: Understanding Love in the Context of Serving
3. Chapter 14: How to Use Spiritual Gifts to Serve Others in Love



**B. THE ABUSE OF
SPIRITUAL GIFTS
IN CORINTH**

B. The Abuse of Spiritual Gifts

1. The Corinthians didn't see the need to to serve others with their gifts.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"


1 Corinthians 12:21

B. The Abuse of Spiritual Gifts

2. The members were flaunting their spiritual gifts at public meetings without love for others.

So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

1 Corinthians 14:23



The remedy for the abuse
of spiritual gifts is not to
disuse these gifts, but to
use them properly!

C. Paul's Remedy for Abuse of Gifts


1. We need to understand the nature and functions of spiritual gifts (14:1-25)

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1. We need to understand the nature and functions of spiritual gifts (14:1-25)
2. We need to use these gifts lovingly in an orderly manner (14:26-33)



**D. THE NATURE
AND USES OF THE
3 SPEAKING GIFTS**



Tongues, Interpretation & Prophecy
(1 Corinthians 14:1-25)

1. Gift of Tongues

a. What is Tongue?

Glossa – a language inspired by the Holy Spirit, not learnt by the speaker

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- i. It can be a human foreign language.
(*xenoglossa*)

Acts 2:7-11

⁷ They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, ⁸ and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! ⁹ Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia,

Acts 2:7-11

¹⁰ Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And *we all hear these people speaking in our own languages* about the wonderful things God has done!"

A pair of hands is shown from a top-down perspective, gently cupping a small, dark green plant with several leaves. The hands are positioned centrally, with the fingers slightly curled around the base of the plant. The background is a dark, almost black, textured surface with some faint, out-of-focus green specks, suggesting a natural setting like soil or a forest floor. The lighting is soft, highlighting the skin tones and the texture of the plant.

a. What is Tongue?

ii. It can also be an angelic language (*glossolalia*)

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If I speak in the **tongues** of men or **of angels**, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

1 Corinthians 13:1

a. What is Tongue?

iii. It can just be some mysterious utterance, only understood by God (*glossolalia*)

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For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they **utter mysteries** by the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:2

The Gift of Tongue can be:

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1. Gift of Tongues

b. The Uses of Tongue

i. As a private prayer language

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i. As a private prayer language

Anyone who speaks in a tongue **edifies themselves**, but the one who prophesies edifies the Church.

1 Corinthians 14:4

Tongue as A Private Prayer Language

¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵ So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.

Tongue as A Private Prayer Language

¹⁶ Otherwise when you are **praising God in the Spirit**, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer, say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? ¹⁷ You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified.

1 Corinthians 14:14-17

Tongue as A Private Prayer Language

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us** through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.**

The Advantages of Using Tongue as A Private Prayer Language

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- It helps the speaker to pray in accordance with God's will.
- It sharpens the speaker's spirit as he operates in the spirit realm with other spiritual gifts.

Paul Endorses the Use of Tongue as a Private Prayer Language

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

³⁹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues

1 Corinthians 14:18, 39

b. The Uses of Tongues

ii. As God's prophetic word (rhema) to believers after it is interpreted

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ii. As God's prophetic word (rhema) to believers after it is interpreted

¹³ For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say...

²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.

1 Corinthians 14:13, 27

b. The Uses of Tongues

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Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers.

1 Corinthians 14:22

When does a tongue act as a sign to an unbeliever?

a) When a tongue as a human language is understood by the unbeliever

⁷ They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, ⁸ and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! ¹¹ And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!"

Acts 2:7-8, 11

b) When a tongue is publicly interpreted and it becomes God's rhema to the unbeliever

²⁴ If an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, ²⁵ as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"

1 Corinthians 14:24-25

3 Uses of Tongues

a. As a private prayer language

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- a. As a private prayer language
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(with interpretation)

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- c. As a sign to unbelievers

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b. Use

When a tongue is interpreted by this gift, the unintelligible speech becomes a prophetic rhema to the listeners.

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.(Acts 11:27-28)
- It can also be the forth telling of God's heart and purposes for His people. (Haggai 1:3)

3. The Gift of Prophecy

b. What is the Use of Prophecy?

³ But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their **strengthening, encouraging and comfort.**

⁴ Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies **edifies the church...**

³¹ For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be **instructed and encouraged.**

1 Corinthians 14:3-4, 31

3. The Gift of Prophecy

b. What is the Use of Prophecy?

- Strengthening
- Encouraging
- Comforting
- Instructing

Prophecy always edifies the Church!

How Do We Respond to Prophecy?

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ **Do not treat prophecies with contempt** ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

A close-up photograph of two hands, one slightly larger than the other, gently cupping a small, dark green plant sprout with several leaves. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with the fingers pointing downwards. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some green foliage. The entire image is framed by a white, double-line border with rounded corners.

**E. USING THESE
3 GIFTS IN AN
ORDERLY MANNER**

1 CORINTHIANS 14:26-33

1 Corinthians 14:26-33

²⁶ What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. ²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. ²⁸ If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.

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3. A maximum of 3 persons are to speak aloud in tongues. After each person has spoken in tongue, someone must interpret the tongue.

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5. When a tongue is interpreted, it becomes a prophetic word (rhema). Those in the prophetic ministry should weigh whether this rhema is valid for the Body (1 Thessalonians 5:19-22).
6. This protocol is also applicable to those who wish to prophesy in their native language to the Church.

The Interplay of These 3 Gifts

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1. Private Tongue edifies the speaker.
2. Prophecy edifies the whole Body.
3. Prophecy > Private Tongue because it edifies a big group of people.
4. Public Tongue + Interpretation = Prophecy
5. So Public Tongue + Interpretation is as important to the Church as Prophecy



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1. Desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy, to build up the Church (14:1).
2. Understand the nature and functions of gifts so you may use them appropriately (14:1-25).
3. Use your spiritual gifts in a loving and orderly manner so that all may be edified (14:26-33, 40).
4. Be eager to prophesy, but don't forbid speaking in tongues (14:39).

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GOD BLESS YOU ALL