



# 1 CORINTHIANS

SEEING EVERY PART OF LIFE THROUGH THE GOSPEL

THE GOSPEL

RESURRECTION IS INDISPENSABLE

# 1 Corinthians 14:1-3 (ESV)

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.



# 1 Corinthians 14:4-5 (ESV)

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.



**Spiritual gifts** are special abilities, talents, or graces the Holy Spirit gives followers of Jesus so that they might be effective in serving others and building up the community of faith.



Paul tells us that God distributes spiritual gifts as He sees fit, appointing and apportioning as He wills, but Paul also invites us to pursue love and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts.



**The MIRACULOUS happens at the intersection of our availability and weakness, the community's need, and God's power.**



“The idea that any believer could seek God for whatever gifts are most useful for his people was extraordinary. Early Christians democratized the supernatural—believing God could work actively in each believer’s daily life.” (Keener)



# You recognize an unmet need in the community...

- **Option # 1** - Approach church leadership and encourage them to do more/better.
- **Option # 2** - Pray for God to bring gifted workers who can meet the need.
- **Option # 3** - Pursue love and earnestly desire spiritual gifts.



**Those supernaturally used by God  
are those who ABIDE in Christ and  
are indwelled by His Spirit.**



“I am the vine; you are the branches.  
Whoever abides in me and I in him,  
he it is that bears much fruit, for  
apart from me you can do nothing.”

**(John 15:5)**



**Those supernaturally used by God  
are those who make themselves  
AVAILABLE to God's good  
purposes.**



“Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.” (2 Timothy 2:20-21)



**Availability is WILLINGNESS.**

“Here I am; send me!” (Isa. 6:8)



**Availability is MARGIN.**



**Availability is a ZEAL FOR HOLINESS.**

“If anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use.” (2 Tim. 2:21)



**Availability is a ZEAL FOR HOLINESS.**

“Let everyone who names the name of the  
Lord depart from iniquity.”

(2 Tim. 2:19)



**Those supernaturally used by God  
are those who come to terms with  
their own WEAKNESS.**



“But [the Lord] said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” **(2 Corinthians 12:9-10)**



**Those supernaturally used by God  
are those who EXERCISE and fan  
into flame the gifts God has given  
them.**



“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” (2 Timothy 1:5-7)



“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’” (Matthew 25:23)



**Speaking in tongues** refers to when a person is so overcome by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit that they suddenly find themselves with the ability to pray or announce God's truth in a language not their own, whether that be in a comprehensible human language or an unknown heavenly one.



# 1 Corinthians 14:2-3 (ESV)

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.



# 1 Corinthians 14:4-5 (ESV)

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.



# 1 Corinthians 14:6-8 (ESV)

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? 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?



# 1 Corinthians 14:9-11 (ESV)

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.



# 1 Corinthians 14:12-14 (ESV)

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.



# 1 Corinthians 14:15-16 (ESV)

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?



# 1 Corinthians 14:17-19 (ESV)

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.



- When speaking in tongues, one speaks to God, uttering mysteries in the Spirit that are unintelligible even to one's own mind.



- Paul describes speaking in tongues as praying with one's spirit and affirms that it is a blessing to the one who experiences it.



- Paul does not forbid speaking in tongues. Indeed, he would want for us all to speak in tongues, for it builds up the believer. Yet, without interpretation, Paul insists that tongues have no place in the worship gathering.



**Prophesying** is not predicting the future but supernaturally speaking God's true and timely word to those who need to hear it.



- Prophesying speaks to people where they are at for their upbuilding, encouragement, and consolation.



- Prophesying builds up the church, instructs, and is fruitful to the mind, enabling us to hear, understand, and put God's Word into practice.



- Prophesying, too, is evidence of God's supernatural presence and power.



“They said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?’”

**(Luke 24:32)**



- Prophesying enables the people of God to say, “Amen,” confirming that this was indeed God’s true and timely word for their situation.



- Prophecy convicts the sinner of their need for salvation and healing and prompting them to repentance and rebirth.



# 1 Corinthians 14:23 (ESV)

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?



# 1 Corinthians 14:24-25 (ESV)

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.

