

Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, Chapter 14, Greek Text – Westcott-Hort,
Interlinear English – G.T.Emery.

The Gifts of 'Tongues' and of Prophecy

14 Διώκετε τὴν ἀγάπην, ζηλοῦτε δὲ τὰ πνευματικά,

Follow after the agapē, let you earnestly desire and the spiritual things,

μᾶλλον δὲ ἵνα προφητεύητε.

rather and in order that you may prophesy.

² ὁ γὰρ λαλῶν γλώσση οὐκ ἀνθρώποις λαλεῖ ἀλλὰ θεῷ· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀκούει, πνεύματι δὲ λαλεῖ μυστήρια·

he speaks mysteries;

³ ὁ δὲ προφητεύων ἀνθρώποις λαλεῖ οἰκοδομὴν καὶ παράκλησιν καὶ παραμυθίαν.

the and prophesying to men speaks edification and exhortation and consolation.¹

⁴ ὁ λαλῶν γλώσση ἑαυτὸν οἰκοδομεῖ· ὁ δὲ προφητεύων ἐκκλησίαν οἰκοδομεῖ.

The speaking in a tongue himself edifies; the and prophesying a church he edifies.

⁵ θέλω δὲ πάντα ὑμᾶς λαλεῖν γλώσσαις, μᾶλλον δὲ ἵνα προφητεύητε· μείζων

I wish but all of you to speak in tongues, rather but in order that you may prophesy; greater

δὲ ὁ προφητεύων ἢ ὁ λαλῶν γλώσσαις, ἐκτὸς εἰ μὴ διερμηνεύη,

but the prophesying than the speaking in tongues, other than if not he should interpret,

ἵνα ἡ ἐκκλησία οἰκοδομὴν λάβῃ.

so that the church edification may receive.

⁶ Νῦν δὲ, ἀδελφοί, ἐὰν ἔλθω πρὸς ὑμᾶς γλώσσαις λαλῶν, τί ὑμᾶς ὠφελήσω,

Now and, brothers, if I should come unto you in tongues speaking, what you shall I profit,

ἐὰν μὴ ὑμῖν λαλήσω ἢ ἐν ἀποκαλύψει ἢ ἐν γνώσει

if not to you I should speak either in revelation or in knowledge

ἢ ἐν προφητείᾳ ἢ ἐν διδαχῇ;

or in prophesying or in teaching?

⁷ ὅμως τὰ ἄψυχα φωνὴν διδόντα, εἴτε αὐλὸς εἴτε κιθάρα, ἐὰν διαστολὴν

Yet the things lifeless² a sound giving, whether pipe³ or harp, if a difference

τοῖς φθόγγοις μὴ δῶ, πῶς γνωσθήσεται τὸ αὐλούμενον ἢ τὸ

in the musical sounds⁴ not it should give, how will it be known the being piped or the

κιθαριζόμενον;

being harped⁵?

⁸ καὶ γὰρ ἐὰν ἀδηλον σάλπιγξ φωνὴν δῶ, τίς παρασκευάσεται εἰς πόλεμον;

Also for if an indistinct⁶ a trumpet sound it should give, who will make himself ready for battle?

⁹ οὕτως καὶ ὑμεῖς διὰ τῆς γλώσσης ἐὰν μὴ εὐσημον λόγον δῶτε,

Likewise also you through the tongue if not a distinct⁷ word you may give,

πῶς γνωσθήσεται τὸ λαλούμενον; ἔσεσθε γὰρ εἰς ἀέρα λαλοῦντες.

how will it be known the being spoken? You will for into air be speaking.

1 παραμυθίαν, n.f., comfort, consolation, - only here in the NT.

2 ἄψυχα, adj., lifeless, without soul, - only here in the NT.

3 αὐλός, n.m., pipe, - only here in the NT.

4 Rom. 10:18.

5 Rev. 14:2

6 Lk. 11:47.

7 εὐσημον, adj., well marked, clear and distinct, definite, - only here in the NT.

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¹⁰ τοσαῦτα εἰ τύχοι γένη φωνῶν εἰσιν ἐν κόσμῳ, καὶ οὐδὲν ἄφωνον·

So many if may be⁸ kinds of voices are in world, and none without meaning;

¹¹ ἐὰν οὖν μὴ εἰδῶ τὴν δύναμιν τῆς φωνῆς, ἔσομαι τῷ λαλοῦντι
if therefore not I should have known the power of the voice, I shall be to the speaking
βάρβαρος καὶ ὁ λαλῶν ἐν ἐμοὶ βάρβαρος.
a barbarian⁹ and the speaking to me a barbarian.

¹² οὕτως καὶ ὑμεῖς, ἐπεὶ ζηλωταὶ ἐστε πνευμάτων, πρὸς τὴν οἰκοδομὴν
In this manner also you, since zealots you are of spiritual things, for the edification
τῆς ἐκκλησίας ζητεῖτε ἵνα περισσεύητε.
of the church let you seek in order that you may excel.

¹³ Διὸ ὁ λαλῶν γλώσση προσευχέσθω ἵνα διερμηνεύη.
Wherefore the speaking a tongue let him pray so that he may interpret.

¹⁴ ἐὰν [γὰρ] προσεύχωμαι γλώσση, τὸ πνεῦμα μου προσεύχεται, ὁ δὲ νοῦς μου
If [for] I should pray a tongue, the spirit of me it prays, the but mind of me
ἄκαρπος ἐστίν.
unfruitful it is.

¹⁵ τί οὖν ἐστίν; προσεύξομαι τῷ πνεύματι, προσεύξομαι δὲ καὶ τῷ νοί·
What therefore is it? I will pray with the spirit, I will pray and also with the mind;
ψαλῶ τῷ πνεύματι, ψαλῶ [δὲ] καὶ τῷ νοί.
I will sing with the spirit, I will sing [and] also with the mind.

¹⁶ ἐπεὶ ἐὰν εὐλογῆς [ἐν] πνεύματι, ὁ ἀναπληρῶν τὸν τόπον τοῦ ἰδιώτου πῶς
Seeing that if you should bless [in] spirit, the occupying the place of the unlearned how
ἔρεϊ τὸ Ἄμην ἐπὶ τῇ σῇ εὐχαριστίᾳ; ἐπειδὴ τί λέγεις οὐκ οἶδεν·
will he say the "Amen" upon the your giving of thanks? Since what you say not he has understood;

¹⁷ σὺ μὲν γὰρ καλῶς εὐχαριστεῖς, ἀλλ' ὁ ἕτερος οὐκ οἰκοδομεῖται.
you indeed for well give thanks, but the other not is edified.

¹⁸ Εὐχαριστῶ τῷ θεῷ, πάντων ὑμῶν μᾶλλον γλώσσαις λαλῶ·
I give thanks to the God, of all of you more than in tongues I speak;

¹⁹ ἀλλὰ ἐν ἐκκλησίᾳ θέλω πέντε λόγους τῷ νοί μου λαλῆσαι, ἵνα καὶ ἄλλους
but in church I wish five words with the mind of me to speak, so that also others
κατηχήσω, ἢ μυρίους λόγους ἐν γλώσση.
I may teach, than myriads of words in a tongue¹⁰.

²⁰ Ἀδελφοί, μὴ παιδία γίνεσθε ταῖς φρεσίν, ἀλλὰ τῇ κακίᾳ νηπιάζετε,
Brothers, not children let you be in the thinking,¹¹ but in the ill will let you be a babe,¹²
ταῖς δὲ φρεσίν τέλειοι γίνεσθε.
in the but thinking mature let you be.

²¹ ἐν τῷ νόμῳ γέγραπται ὅτι
In the Law it has been written that

Ἐν ἑτερογλώσσοις

In other tongues¹³

καὶ ἐν χεῖλεσιν ἐτέρων

and in lips of others

8 2nd aorist, active, optative.

9 One who does not speak Greek.

10 There is much variation in this verse in the ancient MSS.

11 In this verse only in the NT.

12 νηπιάζετε, be a babe, present, active, imperative, - only here in the NT.

13 ἑτερογλώσσοις, adj., other tongue, of one who speaks a foreign language, - only here in the NT.

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λαλήσω τῷ λαῷ τούτῳ,
I will speak to the people this,
καὶ οὐδ' οὕτως εἰσακούσονται μου,
and not so will give heed¹⁴ to me,

λέγει κύριος.

says Lord.

²² ὥστε αἱ γλῶσσαι εἰς σημεῖον εἰσὶν οὐ τοῖς πιστεύουσιν ἀλλὰ τοῖς ἀπίστοις, ἢ δὲ
So that the tongues for a sign are not to the believing but to the unbelievers, the and
προφητεία οὐ τοῖς ἀπίστοις ἀλλὰ τοῖς πιστεύουσιν.
prophecy not to the unbelievers but to the believing.

²³ Ἐὰν οὖν συνέλθῃ ἡ ἐκκλησία ὅλη ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτὸ καὶ πάντες λαλῶσιν
If therefore should come together the church whole upon the same *place* and all should speak
γλώσσαις, εἰσέλθωσιν δὲ ἰδιῶται ἢ ἄπιστοι, οὐκ ἔροῦσιν ὅτι μαίνεσθε;
in tongues, should enter in and unlearned or unbelievers, not will they say that you rave?

²⁴ ἐὰν δὲ πάντες προφητεύωσιν, εἰσέλθῃ δὲ τις ἄπιστος ἢ ἰδιώτης,
If but all should prophesy, should enter in and certain unbeliever or unlearned,
ἐλέγχεται ὑπὸ πάντων, ἀνακρίνεται ὑπὸ πάντων,
he is reproved by all, is judged by all,

²⁵ τὰ κρυπτὰ τῆς καρδίας αὐτοῦ φανερὰ γίνεται, καὶ οὕτως πεσὼν ἐπὶ πρόσωπον
the secrets of the heart of him manifest become, and so having fallen upon face
προσκυνήσει τῷ θεῷ ἀπαγγέλλων ὅτι ὄντως ὁ θεὸς ἐν ὑμῖν ἐστίν.
he will worship the God declaring that truly the God among you is.

Practical Implications

²⁶ Τί οὖν ἐστίν, ἀδελφοί; ὅταν συνέρχησθε, ἕκαστος ψαλμὸν ἔχει,
What therefore is it, brothers? Whenever you may be assembled, each one a psalm he has,
διδασχὴν ἔχει, ἀποκάλυψιν ἔχει, γλῶσσαν ἔχει, ἐρμηνείαν ἔχει·
a teaching has, a revelation has, a tongue has, an interpretation¹⁵;
πάντα πρὸς οἰκοδομὴν γινέσθω.
all things for edification let be.

²⁷ εἴτε γλώσση τις λαλεῖ, κατὰ δύο ἢ τὸ πλεῖστον τρεῖς, καὶ ἀνὰ μέρος, καὶ εἷς
If a tongue anyone speaks, by two or the most three, and among part (in turn), and one
διερμηνευέτω·
let interpret;

²⁸ ἐὰν δὲ μὴ ᾖ διερμηνευτής, σιγάτω ἐν ἐκκλησίᾳ,
if but not may be an interpreter, let him keep silent in church,
ἑαυτῷ δὲ λαλείτω καὶ τῷ θεῷ.
to himself but let him speak and to the God.

²⁹ προφηῆται δὲ δύο ἢ τρεῖς λαλείτωσαν, καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι διακρινέτωσαν·
Prophets¹⁶ and two or three let speak, and the others let discern;

14 Isaiah 28:11,12, but not exactly as the LXX - ἡ διὰ φαυλισμὸν χειλέων διὰ γλώσσης
ἐτέρας ὅτι λαλήσουσιν τῷ λαῷ τούτῳ ἡ λέγοντες αὐτῷ τοῦτο τὸ ἀνάπαυμα τῷ
πεινῶντι καὶ τοῦτο τὸ σύντριμμα καὶ οὐκ ἠθέλησαν ἀκούειν *'through vileness of lips on
account of another language because they shall speak to this people ἡ λέγοντες; To him this the relief
to hungry, and this the ruin, but not they wished to hear.'*

15 1 Cor. 12:10.

16 It is a modernism that prophets only foretell the future – in NT times they strengthened the Christian quality, giving encouragement and comfort.

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³⁰ ἐὰν δὲ ἄλλω ἀποκαλυφθῆ καθήμενος, ὁ πρῶτος σιγάτω.
if but to another may be revealed being seated, the first let keep silent.
³¹ Δύνασθε γὰρ καθ' ἓνα πάντες προφητεύειν,
You are able for throughout one (one by one or singly) all to prophesy,
ἵνα πάντες μαθηθῶσιν καὶ πάντες παρακαλῶνται.
in order that all may learn and all may receive consolation.
³² καὶ πνεύματα προφητῶν προφήταις ὑποτάσσεται,
And spirits of prophets to prophets be subjected,
³³ οὐ γὰρ ἐστὶν ἀκαταστασίας ὁ θεὸς ἀλλὰ εἰρήνης.
not for is of disorder the God but peace.
Ὡς ἐν πάσαις ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις τῶν ἁγίων,
As in all the churches of the saints,

Women in Church

³⁴ αἱ γυναῖκες ἐν ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις σιγάτωσαν· οὐ γὰρ ἐπιτρέπεται αὐταῖς λαλεῖν,
The women in the churches let them keep silence; not for has been permitted to them to speak,
ἀλλὰ ὑποτασσέσθωσαν, καθὼς καὶ ὁ νόμος λέγει.
but to be in subjection, just as also the Law says.
³⁵ εἰ δέ τι μαθηθῆναι θέλουσιν, ἐν οἴκῳ τοῦς ἰδίους ἄνδρας ἐπερωτάτωσαν·
If but anything to learn they wish, in house the own husbands let them question;
αἰσχρὸν γὰρ ἐστὶν γυναικὶ λαλεῖν ἐν ἐκκλησίᾳ.
a dishonour for it is a woman to speak in church.
³⁶ ἢ ἀφ' ὑμῶν ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἐξηλθεν, ἢ εἰς ὑμᾶς μόνους κατήνησεν;
Or from you the word of the God came forth, or in you only came to?

In Conclusion

³⁷ Εἴ τις δοκεῖ προφήτης εἶναι ἢ πνευματικός, ἐπιγινώσκέτω ἃ γράφω ὑμῖν
If anyone supposes a prophet to be or spiritual, let him acknowledge the things I write to you
ὅτι κυρίου ἐστὶν ἐντολή·
that of Lord they are a command;
³⁸ εἰ δέ τις ἀγνοεῖ, ἀγνοεῖται.
if but anyone is ignorant, let be ignorant.
³⁹ Ὡστε, ἀδελφοί μου, ζηλοῦτε τὸ προφητεύειν,
So that, brothers of me, let you strive after the to prophesy,
καὶ τὸ λαλεῖν μὴ κωλύετε γλώσσαις·
and the to speak not forbid tongues;
⁴⁰ πάντα δὲ εὐσχημόνως καὶ κατὰ τάξιν γινέσθω.
all things and in a seemly manner¹⁷ and according to order let be done.

¹⁷ Here & Rom. 13:13; 1 Thess. 4:12.