

Power for Building Up: Prophecy & Tongues

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-25

Use your words to build up the church!

1. ARE YOU EAGER?

"[Prophecy] should be defined not as 'predicting the future,' nor as 'proclaiming a word from the Lord,' nor as 'powerful preaching'—but rather as 'telling something God has spontaneously brought to mind.'"¹

"The principal content of most prophetic utterances is defined by the effects they produce. Prophetic utterances may *edify*, *exhort*, and *console* (1 Cor. 14:3). They may bring *conviction* as the secrets of the sinner's heart are exposed (14:24-25). They may *teach* (14:31). They may on occasion give *direction for ministry* (Acts 13:1-3), contain *warnings* (21:4, 10-14), or present *opportunities*. They may even *identify and impart spiritual gifts* (1 Tim. 4:14)."²

"Speaking in tongues is prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker."³

"We may define the gift of interpretation as reporting to the church the general meaning of something spoken in tongues."⁴

¹ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 1049

² Wayne Grudem, *Are Miraculous Gifts for Today?*, 210

³ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 1070

⁴ *ibid*, 1076

GOD'S
empowering
presence

	Tongues (Private)	Prophecy
Audience	God	People (i.e. church)
Person edified	Self	Church
Content	Mysteries, prayers, praise, thanksgiving	Words of upbuilding, encouragement, and consolation
Intelligible?	No (unless interpreted)	Yes
Type of sign	Negative for unbelievers	Positive for believers (and also for 'humble' unbelievers)

2. WHY BE EAGER?

3. HOW TO BECOME EAGER

How to eagerly desire prophecy and tongues:⁵

- Pray
- Be content with present gifts
- Grow toward Christian maturity
- Have right motives
- Use present gifts
- Persevere
- If you get a gift, use it

Recommended Reading:

Showing the Spirit – D.A. Carson

The Gift of Prophecy – Wayne Grudem

Next week: James #1 – Faith Works in Real Life, James 1:1

⁵ Adapted from Wayne Grudem, *The Gift of Prophecy*, 177-179