

Spiritual Gifts in Worship

Lesson 11

I Corinthians 14:1 - 40

Introduction

In this chapter Paul continues his discussion of spiritual gifts. He explained in chapter twelve, that their various gifts were the product of one Spirit. In the previous chapter, love is said to be superior to any spiritual gifts. But their confusion over spiritual gifts extended to their worship services. Perhaps as an expression of their factions and divisions, they were using their gifts in a disorganized and disruptive manner.

Paul gives them practical advise about using the gifts, noting that prophesying was better than the use of tongues. The overriding rule was to do all things decently and in order (vs. 40) and unto edifying (vs. 26).

Use of Tongues and Prophecies - 14:1-19

1. Note that even though Paul stressed love, he also urged them to desire spiritual gifts (vs. 1).
2. Whom is edified by tongues? prophecies?
3. What was needed in addition to the tongue? What examples does Paul give to show this?
4. Why should they seek spiritual gifts (vs. 12)?
5. Why would prayers, blessings, etc. be incomplete if without understanding?
6. What did Paul desire over ten thousand words in a tongue?

Spiritual Gifts to the Lost - 14:20-25

1. The Corinthians were to be in mind? in malice?
2. To whom are tongues and prophecies a sign?
3. What would be the effect on an unbeliever if he witnessed a church where prophecies occurred?

Guidelines for Worship - 14:26-40

1. What general rule does Paul give for their worship services? How can we apply this today?
2. What were the rules for using tongues? prophecies?
3. Did those that possessed spiritual gifts have control over them? How is this truth violated today?
4. Was Paul only giving his opinion in these matters?