

# TONGUES

*We'll begin with the **stated purpose** for 'Tongues' ....*

*It's plain .... and it's clear ....*

*and we need to 'keep it in mind' through-out this study.*

**1 Cor 14:22** Wherefore **tongues are for a sign,**

**not to them that believe,**

**but to them that believe NOT:**

but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

*We'll be in the 2nd chapter of Acts awhile.*

*Let's began with '**WHEN**' tongues began:*

**Acts 2:1-4** And **when the day of Pentecost was fully come**, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and

**began to speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

*Here we find '**WHO**' tongues at Pentecost **were for**:*

**Acts 2:5** And there were dwelling at Jerusalem **Jews**, devout men, **out of every nation under heaven**.

*Let's notice this same thing again (about **WHO** tongues were for) in another scripture:*

**1 Cor 1:22** For **the Jews require a sign**, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

*Israel is the people who needed 'signs' to read from God .... not the Gentiles.*

*Next, let's see **exactly 'WHAT' tongues were:***

**Acts 2:6-8** Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that **every man heard them speak in his own language.**

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

8 And how **hear we every man**

**in our own tongue, wherein we were born?**

*Quite simply ....*

*'tongues' were **'actual LANGUAGES' .... from 'different' NATIONS.***

*Then the scriptures lists 17 particular different places from all over the world (even including Asia, an entire continent) in the next 3 verses (Acts 2:9-11).*

*The last part of verse 11 tells us **'WHAT the INTREPRETATION' of their tongues was .... that is 'what' they were speaking:***

11 .... we do hear them speak in our tongues **the wonderful works of God.**

*Another point that we need to see is that:*

**Tongues was part of the 'PROPHECY' program.**

*Picking back up where we left off .... in Acts chapter 2, beginning with vs. 12:*

**Acts 2:12-18** And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hear-ken to my words:

15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

16 But **this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;**

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

*So, we see that when God poured out His Spirit at Pentecost,*

*‘tongues’ (which were actual languages) was a ‘prophesied’ event.*

*It was ‘for’ unbelieving Israel.*

*Now, let’s examine Paul’s letter to the Corinthian church on the topic of tongues.*

*God wants them to be knowledgeable about the issue, and we should be informed, as well:*

**1 Cor 12:1** Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

*It is important to realize that the specific definitions of these gifts are not given in scripture.*

*Therefore, we must let the ‘names’ of the gifts be sufficient for our understanding.*

*So, here’s a list of God’s ‘spiritual gifts’ which He gave to the church:*

<b>1 Cor 12:8-10</b>	For to one is given	
	by the Spirit	• the word of wisdom;
	to another	• the word of knowledge
9	To another	• faith
	to another	• the gifts of healing
10	To another	• the working of miracles;
	to another	• prophecy;
	to another	• discerning of spirits;
	to another	• divers kinds of tongues;
	to another	• the interpretation of tongues:
		by the same Spirit;
		by the same Spirit;
		by the same Spirit;

*Notice .... that every man had ‘more than one’ of them:*

**1 Cor 12:11** But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit,  
**dividing to every man severally** as he will.

*Though the gifts ‘varied’ among the members .... yet they were for the benefit of them all, as they functioned in unity .... together ‘as one’:*

**1 Cor 12:12** For as the body is one, and hath many members,  
and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

*No one was to be exalted above another .... as they all realized their need for each other:*

**1 Cor 12:21-25** And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

25 That there should be no schism in the body;  
but that the members should have the same care one for another.

*We are talking about the church, the Body of Christ, here:*

**1 Cor 12:27** Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

*Now, here is another list of the spiritual gifts ....*

*in which, some are the same gifts as the previous list we just read ....*

*and some are different gifts than that other list:*

**1 Cor 12:28** And God hath set some in the church,

- |             |                           |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| first       | • apostles,               |
| secondarily | • prophets,               |
| thirdly     | • teachers,               |
| after that  | • miracles,               |
| then        | • gifts of healings,      |
|             | • helps,                  |
|             | • governments,            |
|             | • diversities of tongues. |

*Next, we see again, that every person did not possess every one of the gifts:*

**1 Cor 12:29-30** Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

*The 'IMPLIED' answer is 'NO' ... though every person did have SOME of them.*

*While we're thinking about these 'lists' of spiritual gifts ....*

*let's check out yet another listing of them.*

***In Paul's epistle to the Romans, he makes some of the same points.***

*The first point is ....*

*that they are not to be 'puffed up' or 'conceited' with whatever gifts they had:*

**Rom 12:3** For I say, through the grace given unto me,  
to every man that is among you,  

- not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think;
- but to think soberly,  
according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

*The second point is ....*

*that they are all many members with different gifts, yet they are all one body:*

**Rom 12:4-5** For as we have many members in one body,  
and all members have not the same office:  
5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ,  
and every one members one of another.

*The third point is ....*

*that here is another list of spiritual gifts ....*

*also **BOTH 'similar' AND 'different'** from the other two lists:*

**Rom 12:6-8** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us,  
whether • prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;  
7 Or • ministry, let us wait on our ministering:  
or • he that teacheth, on teaching;  
8 Or • he that exhorteth, on exhortation:  
• he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity;  
• he that ruleth, with diligence;  
• he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

*Paul did say 'gifts' (plural).*

*Now, let's examine yet **another epistle of Paul's to the church at Ephesus:***

*Here, we find that every person was given **GRACE:***

**Eph 4:7** But unto **every one of us is given grace** according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

*This next verse is important .... because it tells us the 'TIMING'*

*of 'WHEN' Christ actually 'gave' the gifts to the men of the church:*

**Eph 4:8-10** Wherefore he saith, **When he ascended up on high,**  
he led captivity captive, **and gave gifts unto men.**

9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He that descended is the same also that **ascended up far above all heavens**, that he might fill all things.)

*The verb 'gave' is in the past tense, which means the gifts were '**ALREADY**' given at that **SPECIFIC** point in time .... He is not 'still giving' them today.*

*WHEN Christ went up far above all heavens ---- is ----*

*WHEN He gave spiritual gifts unto men.*

*Don't miss that point .... of WHEN the gifts WERE given --- it was then, not now.*

*Here is another 'list of the spiritual gifts':*

**Eph 4:11** And he gave some,     • apostles;  
and some,                     • prophets;  
and some,                     • evangelists;  
and some,                     • pastors  
and                               • teachers;

*That's what the gifts '**WERE**' .... Here's what they were '**FOR**'*

**Eph 4:12**     • For the perfecting of the saints,  
                  • for the work of the ministry,  
                  • for the edifying of the body of Christ:

*Now let's go back to Corinthians and see HOW they were supposed to operate.*

*We're specifically on the subject of TONGUES .... and we have already studied that tongues are LANGUAGES .... actual WORDS .... with meaning.*

*They were not '10-second sound-bytes' .... or 'short, quick syllables run together'.*

*In this passage, Paul mentions some of the gifts,*

*but his point is that, the gifts must be used with LOVE:*

**1 Cor 13:1-3**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Though       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I speak with the tongues of men <b>and of angels</b>, and have not charity,<br/>I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.</li> </ul> |
| 2 And though | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries,</li> </ul>   |
| and          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all knowledge;</li> </ul>   |
| and though   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity,<br/>I am nothing.</li> </ul>  |
| 3 And though | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I bestow all my goods to feed the poor,</li> </ul>  |
| and though   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I give my body to be burned, and have not charity,<br/>it profiteth me nothing.</li> </ul>  |

*Then Paul explains how LOVE causes the gifts to operate:*

- |              |                                      |   |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Cor 13:4-7 | Charity<br>and<br>charity<br>charity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• suffereth long,</li> <li>• is kind;</li> <li>• envieth not;</li> <li>• vaunteth not itself, (<i>to vaunt means 'to brag'</i>)</li> </ul>                                 |
| 5 -----      |                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is not puffed up,</li> <li>• Doth not behave itself unseemly,</li> <li>• seeketh not her own,</li> <li>• is not easily provoked,</li> <li>• thinketh no evil;</li> </ul> |
| 6 -----      |                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rejoiceth not in iniquity,</li> <li>• but rejoiceth in the truth;</li> </ul>   |
| 7 -----      |                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beareth all things,</li> <li>• believeth all things,</li> <li>• hopeth all things,</li> <li>• endureth all things.</li> </ul>  |

*WHY all that talk about love? Because there will come a time ....  
when the 'spiritual gifts' will stop operating .... but 'love' is what will endure.*

**1 Cor 13:8** Charity never faileth:

but whether there be	• prophecies,	they shall fail;
whether there be	• tongues,	they shall cease;
whether there be	• knowledge,	it shall vanish away.

*We'll come back later to see 'WHEN' the gifts will stop.*

*But for now, let's drop down to chapter 14,*

*to see Paul's REBUKE to the Corinthians .... for their MIS-USE of the gifts.*

*Paul tells them first to 'love' ....*

*then to 'want' the gifts, but the greater thing is to be a prophet:*

**1 Cor 14:1** Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts,  
but rather that ye may prophesy.

*People have created ALOT of confusion of this next verse.*

*They use it to try to teach a special prayer language ... that only God knows.*

**1 Cor 14:2** For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

*To understand that verse, we must  
remember what we already learned about tongues .... **in other verses:***

- 1. Tongues were actual languages, actually spoken in various nations.*
- 2. Tongues were for a sign to unbelieving Israel (the Jews).*
- 3. Tongues were given to the church to edify the entire body.*

*So, when a person spoke in a 'foreign language' that **no one in the assembly was of that particular nationality** .... nobody knew what he said, except God.*

*'Whatever he said' (in verse 2) was a mystery to everybody (even 'to himself'),*

*because no one could understand the language ....*

*not even the person who spoke it .... only God.*

**--- And God didn't need anyone to pray to Him in a private, SECRET CODE ---**  
**or 'so-called' prayer language.**

*That is why Paul just told them (in verse 1) to 'rather desire to prophesy' ....*

*because people could understand prophecy.*

**1 Cor 14:3-4** But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men

- to edification,
- and exhortation,
- and comfort.

4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself;  
but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

*The Corinthians felt good about having spiritual gifts.*

*Unfortunately, the people with tongues began to 'show off' their gift ....*

*when there was no one there (present in their assembly)*

*who could understand the words they were speaking.*

**They were NOT supposed to be edifying THEMSELVES, but EACH OTHER.**

**1 Cor 14:5** I would that ye all spake with tongues,

but rather that ye prophesied:

for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues,

except he interpret, **that the church may receive edifying.**

*Paul didn't care how many people spoke with tongues .... or even if they all did.*

*He was just saying that the gift of prophecy was better*

*(because everyone could understand what was being said) ....*

*unless someone could **INTERPRET** the message given in tongues  
so the whole body could benefit from it.*

*Paul's point is that .... when anyone spoke (or prayed) in unknown languages*

*--- it didn't do anyone any good --- because no one knew what was said.*

**1 Cor 14:9** So likewise ye,  
except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood,  
how shall it be known what is spoken?  
for ye shall speak into the air.

*They were putting sound waves' .... 'floating around in the air' ....*

*but unless there was a 'RECEIVER' .... like a 'TRANSLATOR'*

*.... it could not be edifying to the church.*

*ALL languages are important .... and they ALL have MEANING of their words:*

**1 Cor 14:10** There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world,  
and none of them is without signification.

*It doesn't make any sense to speak ....*

*if the hearers can't make sense out of what you are saying:*

**1 Cor 14:11** Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice,

I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian,

and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.

*The Greeks and Romans considered most foreign nations to be barbarian ....*

*because they were less CIVILIZED than themselves ....*

*in their language, laws, manners, and customs.*

**1 Cor 14:12** Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts,  
seek that ye may **excel to the edifying of the church.**

*Paul brings it up again - that they need to edify the church -- instead of themselves.*

*Then, he tells them that 'if they are going to speak in tongues' ---*

*then they need to be able to tell people what they said:*

**1 Cor 14:13** Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue (*unknown language*) pray that he may interpret.

*Paul is NOT 'praising' these Corinthians for what they were doing ---- rather, he is 'scolding' (rebuking) them for their 'selfishness' ....*

*He is instructing them about **how to use** their spiritual gift to the benefit of the Body.*

**1 Cor 14:14** For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

*This is repeating alot .... but again, Paul explains that if you pray and 'only God knows' what you said .... it doesn't help anybody in the church ... or the person praying for that matter --- and God doesn't need to be edified.*

*So, here's his question: **What are you going to do about it then?***

**1 Cor 14:15** What is it then?

I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the **understanding** also:  
I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the **understanding** also.

*Did you get his answer? Don't bother to speak, pray, sing, or whatever unless you can **understand** yourself --- and communicate to others what you said.*

*Otherwise, you're just **making noise** in the room.*

**1 Cor 14:16** Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he **understandeth not** what thou sayest?

*No one can agree with you (say 'Amen') .... if they didn't know what you said.*

*Even if they were blessing and thanking God in tongues,*

*no one could be interested to listen since they **couldn't understand**:*

**1 Cor 14:17** For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other **is not edified**.

*The spiritual gift of tongues was 'a GOOD thing'.*

*Paul was glad to have it ----- BUT -----*

*the whole PURPOSE of TALKING is to communicate WORDS that have MEANING.*

**1 Cor 14:18-19** I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

19 Yet **in the church** I had rather speak five words with my **understanding**, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

*Some people who believe 'praying in tongues' is for us today hang on that phrase 'in the church' to make it a PRIVATE prayer language.*

*They also link it with verse 2, where it says "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue (unknown language) speaketh not unto men, but unto God:"*

*(It is 'men' that need to be ministered to .... not God.)*

*And they link it with verse 14, where it says "... if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth,"*

*The fact is that people REALLY WERE ABLE to do that then ....*

*They really could pray to God in a language that only God understood.*

---

*The thing that made the tongues be 'unknown' ....*

*was that **no one in the room knew that language**.*

*They weren't unknown to God though .... because He knows every language.*

***But the basic problem with 'praying in tongues' was that it loses the entire context of the whole chapter ....***

***which is teaching them NOT to use gifts to gratify themselves ---***

***but to encourage the Body of Christ.***

*Paul was trying to get them to **BEHAVE LIKE ADULTS***

*who are concerned for each other:*

**1 Cor 14:20** Brethren, **be not children in understanding**: howbeit in malice be ye children, but **in understanding be men**.

*The next verses in the passage of Eph. 4 (where we already read the list of spiritual gifts) tells them basically the same things:*

*Not to act like KIDS ---- but to be like GROWN-UPS ---- like GROWN MEN*

*and*

*To function in the entire Body of Christ as people  
that loved and edified one another --- not themselves:*

**Eph 4:14** That we henceforth **be no more children**, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But **speaking the truth in love**, may **grow up** into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the **edifying** of itself in love.

*Let's go back now to the 14th chapter of 1st Corinthians -- where it says that God prophesied in the law about the tongues:*

**1 Cor 14:21** In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto **this people**; (*Israel*) and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

*That quote is from the prophet Isaiah --- who wrote to Israel --- **THEY are the 'this people'** who were refusing to listen to God:*

**Isa 28:11-12** For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

*God promised to send them 'refreshing' --- but they refused it ....*

*Peter offered that 'refreshing' to Israel in Acts chapter 3. It is the time when Christ will return to earth and 'restore' the kingdom to Israel, yet they refused it:*

**Acts 3:19-20** Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, **when the times of refreshing shall come** from the presence of the Lord;  
20 And **he shall send Jesus Christ**, which before was preached unto you:

*Go back now to 1 Cor. 14.*

*This verse plainly states the purpose of tongues .... and WHO they were for.*

**1 Cor 14:22** Wherefore **tongues are for a sign**, • **not** to them that **believe**,  
• but to them that **believe not**:  
but **prophesying** serveth • **not** for them that **believe not**,  
• but for them which **believe**.

*Tongues were NOT for believers to edify themselves with ....*

*they were FOR unbelievers (which 'prophetically' was Israel) ....*

*It was 'God's witness' against them (for the prophets said they would not hear), nevertheless --- it proved God was JUST to 'cut them off'*

*and*

*it was part of 'God's provoking them to jealousy' --- as they saw 'their gifts' being given to the Gentiles.*

*God also designed the gift of Tongues to be used to tell of His wonderful works (Acts 2:11) --- and thereby, unbelievers could get saved, and that would cause the whole church to rejoice.*

*Prophecy, on the other hand, was given to edify the church .... not the unbelievers.*

*Imagine this: If an 'outsider' came into the assembly .... and everyone in the church spoke in other languages in one room .... **it would sound like mass confusion**. The 'visitor' would think they were crazy .... with all those people just 'jabbering away' in different languages they couldn't even understand:*

**1 Cor 14:23** If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are **mad**?

*But, on the other hand, if a visitor stopped by and heard all those 'church people' prophesy .... words that could CONVICT him .... and CONVINCED him ---- THAT would be messages that he **could understand**:*

**1 Cor 14:24-25** But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:

25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

*Paul is 'laying out' the **proper manner** in which the gifts should be used ....*

*again, notice that the instruction is to **edifying the Body**:*

**1 Cor 14:26** How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you

- hath a psalm,
- hath a doctrine,
- hath a tongue,
- hath a revelation,
- hath an interpretation.

**Let all things be done unto edifying.**

*Now Paul gets specific about the proper use of the gift of tongues, in particular:*

**1 Cor 14:27** If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; *(that means to 'take turns' .... or 'go in order')* **and let one interpret.**

*He is very precise about tongues,*

*when no one is present that understands that particular language ..*

*if no translator is there --*

*then be quiet and keep it to yourself .... and, of course, to God (who understands):*

**1 Cor 14:28** But if there be no interpreter,

**let him keep silence in the church;**

and let him speak to himself, and to God.

*Then Paul deals with the order for the gift of prophecy:*

**1 Cor 14:29-32** Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.  
30 If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.  
31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that **all may learn**, and all may be comforted.  
32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

*In summary, when people back then had the gifts were supposed to exercise self-control ---- so that, different people were not trying to talk at the same time,*

*and thereby, 'muddle' up the messages:*

**1 Cor 14:33** For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace,  
as in all churches of the saints.

*These next two verses can REALLY make some women MAD as a wet hen.*

*Often, it is the WOMEN .... not the MEN .... in some churches that are claiming to be speaking in tongues. Yet that is completely **forbidden** in the scripture:*

**1 Cor 14:34-35** Let your **WOMEN** keep **SILENCE** in the churches:  
for it is **NOT** permitted unto them to speak;

but they are **commanded to be under obedience**, as also saith the law.

**35 And if they will learn ANY thing,**

**let them ask their HUSBANDS AT HOME:**

**for it is a SHAME for WOMEN to speak in the church.**

*This is in the context of speaking in tongues. Some people claim to obey all the scriptures. Wonder why they don't obey this one?!*

*In the next verse, Paul is questioning them ....*

*Do they think that THEY are the ONLY people that sent out OR received God's word? Of course, they weren't!*

*The apostles and prophets in ALL the churches did that:*

**1 Cor 14:36** What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?

*An 'apostle' is 'one sent with authority' .... 'a messenger'. His gift was one of communication. Apostles were ministers who would take God's word .... COPIES of the letters which were the Holy SCRIPTURES .... from one church to another.*

*A 'prophet' was a man who was God's SPOKESMAN.*

*He told the people, "Thus saith the Lord."*

*A prophet speaks God's Word ----- He IDENTIFIES what God says.*

*One of the prophets' functions was*

- *to proclaim God's word to the people*

*and it was also the prophets' responsibility*

- *to identify WHICH letters were Holy Scripture.*

*In this next verse,*

*Paul asserts his GOD-GIVEN authority in WRITING the BIBLE.*

*He realized what he was doing ....*

*and he told the prophets to recognize His letter as the Word of God:*

**1 Cor 14:37** If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that **the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.**

*In wrapping up the issue of spiritual gifts,*

*after Paul had given the Corinthians so much information ....*

*there was NO EXCUSE for anyone not to understand about the gifts .... so he says:*

**1 Cor 14:38** But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

*Then Paul reminds them once again -- while tongues were still being used --*

- *they should 'want' to speak God's word ....*
- *and not keep others from doing so either, in other languages:*

**1 Cor 14:39** Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

*But in everything they did, they should be courteous and respect each other's turn:*

**1 Cor 14:40** Let all things be done decently and in order.

*The scripture says that prophecies, tongues, and knowledge WILL stop:*

**1 Cor 13:8** Charity never faileth:

but whether there be prophecies,	they shall fail;
whether there be tongues,	they shall cease;
whether there be knowledge,	it shall vanish away.

*We will conclude this study .... with a very important question and answer.*

*The question is 'WHEN' will they END ? Let's consider the answer:*

*At that time .. when Paul was writing this epistle ... the spiritual gifts were operating.*

*But the local churches had only PARTIAL knowledge and PARTIAL prophecy given by whatever apostles and prophets they had in their local assemblies*

*.... AND .... by whatever letters they had*

*that had been identified, copied, circulated, and distributed as SCRIPTURE:*

**1 Cor 13:9** For we know **in part**, and we prophesy **in part**.

*You need to look carefully at the verses, and think this thing through*

*because LOTS of people get this next verse WRONG:*

**1 Cor 13:10** But when that which is **PERFECT** is come,

**then that which is IN PART shall be done away.**

*The BIG question is ----- WHAT is .... 'THAT' which is PERFECT ???*

*Many people say that it is Jesus, because He is perfect, that is, without sin.*

*That belief means that tongues (languages) would cease when Jesus returns to the earth.*

***It was the 'knowledge and the prophecy' that were IN PART (from vs. 9) .... and the opposite of 'in part' is 'complete.'***

*Well, I believe that we can use other verses of scripture to tell us WHAT that PERFECT is.*

First, let's **understand** the second part of verse 10 ....

*the 'things' that are 'in part' are clearly identified for us in verse 9. They are 'knowledge' and 'prophecy'. That's what are 'in part.'*

*The words 'in part' are set in the context of both verse 9 and 10 .... in contrast .... with the word 'perfect' .... which means 'complete' in the context .... because it is the opposite of something 'in part'. Jesus was never 'in part'.*

So, in **contrast** to 'WHEN knowledge and prophecies are 'in part' ....

The question is 'WHEN will knowledge and prophecies be **COMPLETE**'?

The answer is very clear ... *Paul tells us that his writings of the revelation of the mystery is the very thing that COMPLETED the word of God:*

**Col 1:25-26** Whereof I am made a minister,  
according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you,  
**to fulfil the word of God;**

26 **Even the mystery** which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of **this mystery** among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; **that we may present every man perfect** in Christ Jesus:

*Do you believe the scripture is COMPLETE .... or do you not?*

*Paul said God gave the responsibility to him .... to fulfil -- to complete it.*

*So .... not only is the scripture 'perfect' (complete) .... that means there are*

**NO MORE** *knowledge or prophecies COMING forth from God to mankind but it is the 'perfect, complete' scripture (Col. 1:25) .... that 'perfects' (or completes) a man (Col. 1:28):*

**2 Tim 3:16-17** **All scripture is given** by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 **That the MAN OF GOD may be PERFECT,** (Col. 1:28) throughly furnished unto all good works.

*When they only had knowledge and prophecy 'in part' ....*

*they only had the scriptures 'in part' ----*

*therefore, now that we have the scriptures 'perfect or complete' .... (Col. 1:25)*

*now we have 'perfect, complete' knowledge. (Eph. 4:13)*

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*Now, remember that we read a list of spiritual gifts in Eph. 4:8-12,*

*well, the very next verse tells us HOW LONG the gifts will operate:*

**Eph 4:13 TILL we all come** in the unity of the faith,

and **of the KNOWLEDGE of the Son of God,**

**unto a PERFECT MAN,** (Col. 1:28)

unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

*It is Paul's revelation of the **mystery** that gives us the **COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE** of Christ .... and that **perfect scripture** that Paul **completed** is **WHAT** makes us a **perfect man**.*

*That is **WHEN** the gifts **ceased (stopped)** to be in operation. There is no more need for them, because **NOW** we have God's **full revelation**.*

*We no longer '**know IN PART**' .... as **THEY** did ... **WE** have it **ALL** now found in our complete, perfect **BIBLE**.*

*So, the verse Eph. 4:13 helps explain 1 Cor. 13:8-10, and basically tells us the same thing ....*

*That **WHEN** the completed revelation comes .... (which is the completed scripture that we **NOW** have) .... it **HAS ALREADY** come, by the way, and the things that were partial **WERE** done away with. Jesus is **NOT** still giving spiritual gifts, including tongues (languages), today. We don't need them **anymore**, because **NOW** we have His **completed, perfect WORD of God entirely!***

*We affirm that 'tongues' **WERE** a functioning part of God's program in 'times past' .... as were 'animal sacrifices, tithing, water baptism, etc.' But 'tongues' (as other things) have 'passed away' in today's program during the dispensation of grace.*