

Questions

1. Read the section on Spiritual Gifts in GBC's Confession of Faith (found under the About tab on our website). If you have questions, talk to a GBC elder.
2. Why would Paul forbid speaking in tongues without interpretation within the gathered church?
3. What would have been the advantage of the gift of prophecy over tongues that were not interpreted in the local church?
4. What are you being urged to do by verses like Ephesians 4:29; Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16; and 1st Thessalonians 5:11? How can you grow in this area of ministry?
5. The Holy Spirit still impresses truth on the hearts of believers that might be helpful for serving another believer. How should you go about communicating something that God's Spirit may have impressed upon you about a brother or sister?

For further reading: *Spiritual Gifts* (2018) by Thomas Schreiner and *Perspectives on Pentecost* (1979) by Richard Gaffin, Jr.

Need prayer? Someone will be up front by the piano to pray with you after the 1st & 2nd services.

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The Gifts of Prophecy & Tongues

1 Corinthians 14

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First Corinthians 14 is a challenging chapter that has divided Christians over the gifts of prophecy and tongues. Today, we'll see how GBC has traditionally viewed those gifts, even as we are reminded of the importance of the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts in the gathered body of believers.

Continuationist – Believes the gifts of prophecy and tongues remain active and useful today.

Cessationist – Believes the gifts of prophecy and tongues ceased early in church history.

Tongues appears as a gift involving foreign languages in Acts 2. Foreign languages are also in the context of the tongues discussion in 1st Corinthians 14 in verses 10-11, 21.

While tongues that are not interpreted could have a limited purpose between the individual believer and God (14:2 & 4), they cannot be used in the gathered congregation without interpretation (14:28).

Ephesians 2:20 helps us think about the duration of apostles, prophets, and further authoritative revelation, beyond the foundation that God built through the apostles and prophets.

The gift of prophecy appears to be an authoritative and spontaneous revelation given to and through a believer by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 13:2; 14:24-25, 29-30; cf. prophecies in Acts 11 & 13).

Regardless of particular spiritual gifts, all believers are called to rely on the sufficiency and authority of the Bible, and the power of the Holy Spirit to communicate encouragement, edification, and exhortations to other believers (Romans 15:14; Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 3:16; and 1st Thessalonians 5:11).

Prophecies served, among other things, to strengthen, encourage, console (14:3), and exhort (cf. 1 Thess 2:3) other believers.