

# PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

## 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 14:1-5

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX765 FEBRUARY 12, 2012

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### **BODY BUILDING IN THE CHURCH OF GOD – PART 3**

*DISCOVERING THE NATURE OF GOD IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Love, Church, Gifts, Unity, Growth, Witness, God**

#### **1 Corinthians 14:1-5**

**Pursue** love, and **desire** spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy. :2 For he who speaks in a tongue *does not speak to men but to God*, for no one understands *him*; however, in the spirit he speaks **mysteries**. :3 But he who prophesies speaks **edification** and **exhortation** and **comfort** to men. :4 He who speaks in a tongue **edifies himself**, but he who prophesies **edifies the church**. :5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies *is greater* than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive **edification**.

**The church is a living thing, made up of the true followers of Jesus Christ. The church has been designed by God to reach out and serve, not only one another but the world. If the world is going to truly receive help and aid that matters, the goal is to rescue them for time and eternity.**

**But to do this Great Commission of reaching the world for Jesus – it will take power. It will take unity and it will take abilities that are not of this world.**

**It's no wonder that when Jesus came preaching and teaching the kingdom of God, He did it in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**But He Didn't Leave Us to Our Own – He Empowered Us.**

**Acts 1:8**

But you shall receive **power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses** to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**John 14:12**

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, **the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.**

**But It Will Require Willingness and Application on Our Part.**

**1 Timothy 4:7b-8**

...**exercise** yourself toward godliness. :8 For bodily **exercise** profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having the promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

**A Wise and Healthy Exhortation from the Apostle:**

**1 Corinthians 12:1**

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be **ignorant:**

**ignorant** *ajgnoe÷w agnoeo, ag-no-eh'-o;* to decide not to know. To willingly lack information or intelligence regarding an issue. To ignore.

**#1 - Typological Picture:**

**Isaac's 3 day death**

**#2 - Typological Picture:**

**Eliezer the Servant's role**

**#3 - Typological Picture:**

**Rebekah's engagement gifts**

**BODY BUILDING IN THE CHURCH OF GOD**

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!*

**3.) Sustaining the faith of the body**

**v.5**

:5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you **prophesied**; for he who **prophesies is greater** than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive **edification.**

What I mean by “**Sustaining**” is that of the Continuance of the church's effectiveness. The ministry success of a local church that is undeniable in her culture.

**The Church - the force to be reckoned with  
by a profound love for all. With its strong stand for what is right and  
with a deep desire to reach the lost for Jesus Christ.**

## **BODY BUILDING IN THE CHURCH OF GOD**

### **Sustaining the faith of the body**

Faith is an often misunderstood thing. The truth is - everyone practices some form of faith toward someone or something always.

**It's the object of your faith that determines your future and wellbeing.**

### **For example. If my faith was in politics**

I would be eventually disappointed. But I do vote, and I do participate in the process.  
YES – WHY? Because I am SALT AND LIGHT, A CHRISTIAN.

But many today will say that “**they have faith**” but when pressed to define their faith, they too often say that they have “**faith in faith**” that is a dangerous understanding of what faith is. *Faith is like a car that takes you to a destination. Your expectation is in the destination and your faith is the vehicle that takes you to the desired end.*

Your “biblically based faith” is the greatest possession that you could possibly own.

#### **Romans 10:17**

So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

#### **Hebrews 11:6**

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

#### **Matthew 17:20**

...if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

## **BODY BUILDING IN THE CHURCH OF GOD**

***WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!***

### **3.) Sustaining the faith of the body**

**v.5**

#### **3a.) Sustaining the faith means being usable**

:5 I wish you all spoke with tongues,

### **The Bible Says In Acts 2:1-12**

When the Day of Pentecost had 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 the whole house where they were sitting. :3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. :4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. :5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. :6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. :7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? :8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? :9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, :10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, :11 Cretans and Arabs - **we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.**" :12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

:5 for he who **prophesies** *is greater* than he who speaks with tongues

**prophesies** GRK: **profhteu/w propheteuo**, *prof-ate-yoo'-o*; to foretell and speak under inspiration. To speak for God under the control of God.

### **Active-usefulness is stressed over brilliance!**

The **preaching** and **teaching** that the gift of **prophecy** provides are greater **because of what it accomplishes.**

**Prophecies // Preaching leads to conversion. Teaching equips the Christian for active-usefulness and the useful Christian reaches one another and the lost.**

He who prophesies ***is greater***  
( **this is a terrifying glory – a beautiful fright** )

**greater** **mei÷zwn meizon**, *mide'-zone*; highly irregular. Exceedingly unusual. The highest. The greatest. The largest. The loudest. The mightiest. The strongest. The fear - *as in awe.*

The Proclaiming of the Bible  
Should hold the man or woman serving up that gift in absolute terror!

The Fear is This:  
"Am I faithfully, accurately and properly Putting Forth God's Bible?"

**Colossians 1:28**

Him we **preach**, **warning** every man and **teaching** every man in all wisdom,  
that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Why is the gift of prophecy or putting forth the word of God  
so highly esteemed?

BECAUSE IT REACHES EVERYONE, OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE

What are the results of the gift of prophecy?

DECISIONS ARE MADE EVERY SINGLE TIME FOR CHRIST.  
AGAINST CHRIST. TO FOLLOW CHRIST.

It's the desirable gift because of what it demands +/-  
IT DELIVERS A GREAT SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

**2 Corinthians 2:14-16**

Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us  
diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. **:15** For we are to God the  
fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are  
perishing. **:16** To the one *we are* the aroma of death *leading* to death, and to the other  
the aroma of life *leading* to life. - - And who *is* **sufficient** for these things?

*Tongues Has No "Flushing Out" Ability like Prophecy Has*

We're Surrounded by False Teachers & Prophets Today.  
They're Everywhere.

**2 Peter 2:1-2**

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false  
teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the  
Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. **:2** And many will  
follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

**1 Timothy 4:1**

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving  
heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

**Matthew 24:3-5**

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" :4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. :5 For many will come in My name, saying, "I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

**Ezekiel 13:3-9**

This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing! :4 Your prophets, O Israel, are like jackals among ruins. :5 You have not gone up to the breaks in the wall to repair it for the house of Israel so that it will stand firm in the battle on the day of the LORD. :6 Their visions are false and their divinations a lie. They say, "The LORD declares," when the LORD has not sent them; yet they expect their words to be fulfilled. :7 Have you not seen false visions and uttered lying divinations when you say, "The LORD declares," though I have not spoken? :8 "Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because of your false words and lying visions, I am against you, declares the Sovereign LORD. :9 My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations.

**Jeremiah 23:21**

"I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.

**3b.) Sustaining the faith means being active**

Active meaning that there cannot be an inactive existence to the church.

Our faith is to be constantly in action. Faith never sits idle. It never has to catch its breath. Faith is on the move because of Who our faith-object is: = Jesus Christ.

1. Would you rather have a Christian for a Soldier or an atheist?
2. Would you rather have a Christian for a Doctor or an atheist?
3. Would you rather have a Christian for a President or an atheist?

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> President - Thomas Jefferson  
and His Example of Taking God Everywhere without Apology.

There will be a variation of the gift and its use and application.

This gift will operate among another gift(s).

**>>> this leaves no room for critics and gainsayers <<<**

**Personally:**

*I am not affected by critics and judges about what God has called me to be doing. I know what He has said to me about ministry. I am also keenly aware of what I am supposed to be doing. So then I am not to entertain the demands or judgments of others. – I don't waste my time on that.*

**How Can I Be so Dogmatic About This?**

*Because on a Saturday night at CCCM I would attend the*

**Saturday Night Men's Prayer Meeting**

*And on one of those Saturday nights in 1981 – This is what happened...*

**Romans 12:6**

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

**Be Who You Are – And not another Billy Graham or Chuck Smith**

### **3c.) Sustaining the faith means being obedient**

(5) unless indeed he **interprets**, that the church may receive **edification**.

**1 Corinthians 14:32**

And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

**1 Corinthians 14:39-40**

Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. **:40** Let all things be done decently and in order.

**1 Corinthians 14:22**

**Therefore** tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe. **:23** Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in *those who are* uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? **:24** But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. **:25** And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on *his* face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

(vs 5) unless indeed he **interprets**, that the church may receive **edification**.

### Will You Agree with God That

Rom. 3:23 you have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God,

Rom. 6:23a That you understand that the wages of sin *is* death,

Rom. 6:23b but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom. 5:8 Believing today that God demonstrates His own love toward you,  
in that while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you.

Rom. 10:13 But He now says to you that *“if you would call on the name of  
the LORD you shall be saved.”*

Rom. 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in  
your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. :10 For  
with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth  
confession is made unto salvation.

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*End of Study*

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