

# PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

## 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 14:6-25

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### **GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES – PART 1**

*DISCOVERING THE NATURE OF GOD IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

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

**Introduction to the Text:                      1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:6-25**

The Church at Corinth was by Neglect – A Very Emotional Church.  
What I mean by that is that it was governed by feelings and fears.  
Feelings that elevated the carnal which was tolerated. Fear, because it was more  
concerned about its own interest.

### **This “Emotionally Based Theology”**

Was the perfect setting for flamboyance in the name of Christianity

#### **1 Corinthians 14:6-25**

But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by **revelation**, by **knowledge**, by **prophesying**, or by **teaching**?  
:7 Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a **distinction** in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? :8 For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle? :9 So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to **understand**, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. :10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them *is* without **significance**. :11 Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks *will be* a foreigner to me. :12 Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual *gifts*, *let it be* for the **edification of the church** *that* you seek to excel. :13 Therefore let him who speaks in a **tongue pray that he may interpret**. :14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is

unfruitful. :15 What is *the conclusion* then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. :16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? :17 For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified. :18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; :19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue. :20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature. :21 In the law it is written: "***With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,***" says the Lord. :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.

**The Apostles' Heart and Mission for The Church of God:  
The Church would be the living, breathing example of the work of  
Jesus Christ – that is an impossible thing!!!**

< THINK OF IT >

**Luke 10:2**

Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. :3 Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves...."

**Matthew 28:19**

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, :20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**Acts 1:8**

For 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."

**Do You See The Priority of God In This:**

Jesus is Saying - "*I am inviting you to reach the Lost with My Gospel*"  
"*It's Going to be Difficult and Hostile out there*" "*but I will be with you*" and My Power  
*I will give to you so you can get it all done*"

## The Nature of These Studies in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians = Effectiveness.

### 2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself **strong** on behalf of *those* whose heart *is* loyal to Him.

**strong** *chazaq*, *khaw-zak'*; to come upon or to stick to with favor, might, power, vigilance, strength, - to fortify. To be poured into.

**God says “This is what I want to do in your life because I love you AND because you have work to do for Me AND you don’t have much Time to do it AND I want you to soon be with Me when your life is finished.**

## Have You Ever Wondered Why God

seems to use some people in so many powerful ways and others not so much? – It’s because of the level of faithfulness and willingness that He finds within them.

### Proverbs 20:6 NIV

Many a man claims to have unfailing love, but a faithful man who can find?

And So The Lord – in all of His Provision,  
is looking for people that He can use for His glory and purposes.  
( Is that you? – Is that what you desire in your life? – To live for God?)

## Be A Mechanic

### Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **:19 Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **:20 teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and behold, **I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**”

## Have You Ever Seen The Baton Passed?

**Believe God. Be Faithful. Be Willing and Attempt Great Things for God.**

### Daniel 11:32b

The people who know their God shall be **strong**, and carry out great exploits.

**The manifestation of miraculous powers and divine gifts**  
(*all for the purpose of authenticating the preaching and teaching of the word of God*)

**Mark 16:17**

And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

**Be Careful That You Do Not Reject Biblical Miracles**  
Just because you don't see many of them today. The reason you don't is because we now have His Word – The Bible.

**“GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES”**

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!*

**1.) Is that we are clear**

**v.6-9**

**IS THAT WE ARE CLEAR**

**1a.) Clear about our call**

:6 But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you **unless** I speak to you either by **revelation**, by **knowledge**, by **prophesying**, or by **teaching**?

BY “CALL” I MEAN YOUR GOD-APPOINTED MINISTRY.

**Here Paul echoes what he had said in verse 5**

**1 Corinthians 14:5**

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,

**Our lives have been appropriated, designated, and created for a very meaningful and purposeful existence.**

:6 But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I **profit** you unless I speak to you either by **revelation**, by **knowledge**, by **prophesying**, or by **teaching**? :7 Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a **distinction** in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? :8 For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle? :9 So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to **understand**, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.

Spiritual growth comes to us when the Holy Spirit is at work and the mark of the Holy Spirit's work is clarity in the lives of His people. His clarity leads to understanding within the Church.

## REMEMBERING BACK TO OUR EARLIER STUDY

### 1 Corinthians 14:2

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.

### When tongues are used properly

This gift can be a great asset when connecting with the Lord in worship and prayer. My words fail to express or to articulate my situation or praise.

**By faith I allow my mind to rest while my spirit – the born again me – expresses my soul's desire to God. Its nobody else's business.**

:6 But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I **profit** you unless I speak to you either by **revelation**, by **knowledge**, by **prophesying**, or by **teaching**?

**revelation** *ajpokaǵluyiβ apokalupsis, ap-ok-al'-oop-sis*; to make clear by unveiling. To cause to appear, to bring or deliver something. To enlighten, to manifest.

**knowledge** *gnwǵsiβ gnosis, gno'-sis*; To know the plan or the mission. The science of that which can be studied.

**prophesying** *profh/thβ prophetes, prof-ay'-tace*; Forth-Telling and Fore-telling. An inspired speaker.

**teaching** *didach/ didache, did-akh-ay'*; An instructor in things pertaining to God. A discipler, developer, builder in spiritual matters.

## “GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES” IS THAT WE ARE CLEAR

### 1b.) Clear about our mission

:7 Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a **distinction in the sounds**, how will it be known what is piped or played?

## **America and the American Church**

has never been this powerless, this ineffective and this disjointed, but why?  
Because there's no unity – everybody is more concerned with making their own  
independent self-serving sound.

### **I Believe the Lord is Waiting to See a Unified Church**

(Unified in the Bible. Unified by the Spirit. Unified for the mission)

### **What's Sad is That He Has Had to Wait So Long.**

**Our Thoughts and Words Are to be a Beautiful Sound to Jesus.  
And Not a Cacophony.**

The gospel sounds like a death march to some people.  
To others it's the most beautiful sound they've ever heard.

Our Lives Are Making a Sound to God  
And when we walk in obedience to God we must sound like a symphony.  
What must we sound like to God?

Dr. H.A. Ironside said  
"Someday every man will have to sing solo before God"

What Will I Sing? - What Will You Sing?  
( Whatever is in your heart )

## **“GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES” IS THAT WE ARE CLEAR**

### **1c.) Clear about our usefulness**

:8 For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare  
for battle? :9 So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue **words easy to  
understand**, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be  
speaking into the air.



**easy to understand** eu ; shmoß **eusemos**, yoo´-say-mos;

Well-situated. Easily slipped into. To effortlessly slide into place.

Jesus told Peter to “Feed my Sheep” not my Giraffes.  
Sermons are to be simple, not high and lofty. They are to be edible,  
available, and easy to understand.

## We Need The Lord To Give Us Understanding.

Daniel 9:22 ESV

He (the angel) made me understand, speaking with me and saying, "O Daniel, I have now come out to give you **insight** and **understanding**."

### "GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES"

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!*

#### 2.) Is that we understand

v.10-20

Note Here That Paul Stresses the Need to "understand" 6 Times in This Short Section.

### "GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES"

IS THAT WE UNDERSTAND

#### 2a.) Understand our work

**:10** There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them *is* without **significance**. **:11 Therefore**, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks *will be* a foreigner to me. **:12** Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual *gifts*, let it be for the edification of the church that you **seek to excel**. **:13 Therefore** let him who speaks in a **tongue** pray that he may interpret.

**The Gift of Tongues** allows us to enter into a more full and deeper prayer and worship experience. This Prayer & Worship that Tongues affords will Transport your heart and soul into a deeper communion with God.

*Sava-na-rolla said*

**"When prayer reaches its ultimate, words are impossible"**

**If this is done right - all are encouraged and built up.**

The brother who interprets will be strengthened and the gathering of believers will be encouraged. - - all are built up. And the Lost will see that God's power is present.

### **Ephesians 4:11-12**

And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **:12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **:13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

**THIS IS THE GREAT PURPOSE, THE REASON  
FOR THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**“GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES”  
IS THAT WE UNDERSTAND**

### **2b.) Understand our source**

**:14** For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.  
**:15** What is *the conclusion* then? **I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.** **:16** Otherwise, if you **bless** with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the **uninformed** say “Amen” at your giving of thanks, since he does not **understand** what you say? **:17** **For you indeed give thanks well**, but the other is not edified

The Holy Spirit Within The Christian Prompts the Christian  
To come closer / deeper / further into the Preferences.

**:14** For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays,  
but my understanding is unfruitful.

**I can become liberated to worship and pray**  
in a way that is beyond myself. Beyond my intellect.

**:15** What is *the conclusion* then? **I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.**

This Is the Private / Personal / Aloneness with God



:16 Otherwise, if you **ble**ss with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the **uninformed** say “Amen” at your giving of thanks, since he does not **understand** what you say?

:17 For you indeed **give thanks well**, but the other is not edified.

## **“GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES” IS THAT WE UNDERSTAND**

### **2c.) Understand our responsibility**

:18 I thank my God I **speak with tongues more than you all**; :19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my **understanding**, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue. :20 Brethren, do not be children in **understanding**; however, in malice be babes, but in **understanding** be mature.

#### **There is a Contrast Here.**

Paul is saying that he often speaks or exercises his tongues  
BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH GATHERING.  
Then where?

### **In Small Settings / In Private**

:19 yet in the church

## **“GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES” WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!**

### **3.) Is that we be decisive**

**v.21-25**

## **IS THAT WE BE DECISIVE**

### **3a.) Decisive about our Gospel**

:21 In the law it is written: *“With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,” says the Lord.* :22 Therefore tongues are for a **sign**, not to those who believe but to **unbelievers**;

## This is Exactly What Happened in Jerusalem in Acts 2

Those gathered from among the nations for Pentecost witnessed not only the birth of the Church but the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

“In the law it is written:”

He’s referencing the warning of Deuteronomy 28, but he quotes Isaiah 28 of the coming judgment.

In the Book of Acts – Both are in the Jewish mind of thinking.

### **Acts 2:4-8,12-16**

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?... :12 **So they** were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” :13 **Others mocking** said, “They are full of new wine.” :14 **But Peter**, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. :15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* the third hour of the day. :16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

### **Isaiah 28:11 NIV**

Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues  
God will speak to this people,

### **Luke 21:24b**

...And Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles until  
the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

***For 2,000 years the Jewish People*** have had Gentiles speaking to them of Their Messiah. I have personally witnessed to many Jewish people over the years and it’s always an amazing experience.

### **Romans 11:11b**

...But through their fall, to **provoke them to jealousy**,  
salvation has come to the Gentiles.

## “GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES” IS THAT WE BE DECISIVE

### 3b.) Decisive about our discipleship

**:22b** 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?

**This is not a contradiction of verse 22** but a rebuke to the Corinthians for their  
misuse and disorderly conduct regarding the gift of tongues.  
They would stand up in a church service and start speaking in ecstatic utterances  
thinking that this is what God wanted them to do.

**:23 will not unbelievers say that you guys are out of your mind?**

**THERE ARE RULES TO BE OBEYED**

#### 1 Corinthians 14:27-28

If anyone speaks in a tongue, *let there be* two or at the most three, *each* in turn, and let  
one interpret. **:28** But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let  
him speak to himself and to God.  
( *note the control over the gift* )

#### 1 Corinthians 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order.  
( *note the control over the gift* )

#### 1 Corinthians 14:33

For God is not the author of confusion but of peace.  
( *note the control over the gift* )

## “GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES” IS THAT WE BE DECISIVE

### 3c.) Decisive about our aim

**: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.

**Acts 2:36-37**

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” :37 Now **when they heard this, they were cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”

So what do we take away from this message?  
How does it affect our lives?  
What Am I to do About it?  
What can I expect?

**“GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES”**  
must be what governs our desires and ministries.

**MEET ME AT “THE COURT”**

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*End of Study*

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