

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 14:6-25

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX767 MARCH 11, 2012

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES – PART 2

DISCOVERING THE NATURE OF GOD IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

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

Introduction to the Text: 1st Corinthians 14:6-25

The Uniqueness of Every Believer
God Uses To Build The Strength and Effectiveness
of His Church in The World.

1 Peter 2:4-5

Coming to Him as *to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious, :5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-15

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; :14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, :15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ.

Spiritual Maturity Is God's Will For Us

Matthew 16:18

...I will build My Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

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 **convicted** 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.

“GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES”

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

1.) Is that we are clear

v.6-9

1a.) Clear about our call

1b.) Clear about our mission

1c.) Clear about our usefulness

“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 fuller 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;

“GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES” IS THAT WE UNDERSTAND

2b.) Understand our source

The “Attitude” of Praying

!!! THE HOLY SPIRIT IS 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.**

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

My Human Understanding is Biased by My Desires and My Perceptions.

: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.**

When We Come to That Place of Arriving at The End of Us.

We have the LORD waiting there in absolute power and peace.

Romans 8:26-27

Likewise the **(Holy) Spirit also helps in our weaknesses.** For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the **Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings** which cannot be uttered. **:27**

Now He who searches **the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is,** because **He makes intercession for the saints** according to the will of God.

Charles Ryrie / Dallas Theological Seminary

“The Holy Spirit helps our *weakness*, that is our inability to pray intelligently about a pressing situation. By praying with unutterable *groaning* we are enabled to surrender more effectively to the will of God in that matter. These groanings referred to are not in the words or the languages of earth. This available intercession is in accordance with God’s will based on verse 27.”

This Is a Private / Personal / Aloneness with God

: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.

Moving Inside You:

The Holy Spirit came to dwell inside of you at your conversion. At that very moment you were born-again - - God the Holy Spirit set His seal of ownership upon you as your Lover-Master-King.

Coming Out From You:

This same Holy Spirit knows you from the inside out. He knows everything, your hurts, your joys, your fears, your desires...

**And So He Talks to the Father on your behalf.
Jesus Christ Himself also prays for you.**

1 John 2:1

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

The Great Puritan Pastor, Matthew Henry wrote:

“The Holy Spirit is the spring of all our desires toward God, which are often more than human words can utter. The Spirit of God is He who searches our hearts and can perceive the mind and will of our human spirit, our renewed mind, and thus advocates our cause. The Holy Spirit makes intercession, mediation, arbitration for us to God so that we would be victorious and that the enemy prevail not against us.”

Hebrews 7:24-25

But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. **:25** Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

**“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.

:19 yet in the church

There is a Contrast Here.

Paul is saying that he often speaks or exercises his tongues **BUT NOT IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH.**

Then where?

In Small Settings / In Private

The “Attitude” of Praying

“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?

- 1. How does it affect my life?*
- 2. What Am I to do about it?*
- 3. What can I expect to happen?*

“GOD-ORDAINED PRIORITIES”
are what must govern our way of life, desires and motives.

MEET ME AT “THE COURT”

————— *End of Study* —————

© By Jack D. Hibbs, March 11, 2012