

Our Gifts & Our Calling Part 4

1 Corinthians 13:8-14:40 NIV

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they **will cease**; where there are tongues, they **will be stilled**; where there is knowledge, **it will pass away**. ⁹ For we know **in part** and we prophesy **in part**, ¹⁰ but **when completeness comes, what is in part disappears**. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For **now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known**.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Intelligibility in Worship

¹⁴ **Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.** ² For anyone who speaks in a tongue ^[a] does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit.

³ But the one who **prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort**. ⁴ Anyone **who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves**, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵ **I would like every one of you to speak in tongues,** ^[b] **but I would rather have you prophesy**. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, ^[c] unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.

⁶ Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? ⁷ Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the pipe or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? ⁸ Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? ⁹ So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air.

¹⁰ Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. ¹¹ If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and the speaker is a foreigner to me. ¹² So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, **try to excel in those that build up the church**.

¹³ For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵ So what shall I do? **I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding**; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. ¹⁶ Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer, ^[d] say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? ¹⁷ You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified.

¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹ But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.

²⁰ Brothers and sisters, **stop thinking like children**. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. ²¹ In the Law it is written:

“With other tongues and through the lips of foreigners I will speak to this people, but even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.” (Isaiah 28:11-12)

²² Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is not for unbelievers but for believers. ²³ So if **the whole church comes together** and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? ²⁴ **But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in** while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, ²⁵ as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”

Good Order in Worship

²⁶ What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. **Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.** ²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. ²⁸ If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.

²⁹ Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. ³⁰ And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. ³¹ For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. ³² **The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets.** ³³ **For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people.**

³⁴ Women ^[f] should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. ³⁵ If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. ^[g]

³⁶ Or did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? ³⁷ If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command.

³⁸ But if anyone ignores this, they will themselves be ignored. ^[h]

³⁹ **Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.** ⁴⁰ **But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.**

The Dispensation of Spiritual Gifts:

- It's only for a season – The out pouring of the Spirit (Acts 2 & Joel 2:28-32) until the Second Coming (vs 10 & 12)
- Gifts are to help people as they mature into what God has for them (vs 11).
- Maturity is found in the concepts of Faith, Hope & Love (vs, 13-14)

Developing Your Giftings:

- Eagerly desire spiritual gifts (14:1 & 39)
 - This is a command/instruction
 - Don't despise GOD'S gifts!
- It is very important for people to speak in tongues so that they are strengthened! (14:4)
- The **main purpose** of the New Testament gift of prophecy is for believers in the church to "strengthen, encourage & comfort" each other. (vs. 3)
- This teaching is within the context of the **gathering of a local congregation** (30-40 people).
- Try to excel gifts that build (vs. 12) up the church (prophecy, interpretation, service, giving, encouragement, teaching, etc.)
- A key sign of **immaturity**, is that a person is frustrated by **their inability to use "their gifts"** within the church structure/gathering. Growth comes through love, preferring each other and serving. (vs. 20)

Order in the Court (The Church Gathering – ekklesia):

- Unbeliever/Inquirer/seeker (vs. 24-25)
- Isaiah prophecy (vs. 21-25) – drunk leaders, foreigners come to "school them"... Jewish to Greek shift in church.
- Prophets can start and stop (32)
- Women must be silent? (Acts 21:9 Philip's Daughters)
- "Decently and in order" (14:33)

Announcements: www.hopecommunitysite.com

Morning Prayer Monday to Friday 9 to 10 am at the church

Communion Lunch Meal – Starting October 4th 10 am - Please come prepared on the first Sunday of each month with food to share (salads, main course, desserts) for a pot luck style meal as part of the service

Church Contact Directory: Please fill out a form with the contact information for you and your family and place it in one of the collection boxes on the back wall of the gymnasium.

God Squad Jr. High: Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Students grades 6-8 are invited to this great program.

Upward Basketball: There are two signup evaluation dates - **Saturday, October 3rd 10 am - 12 pm, and Wednesday, October 7th 6-8 pm.** Every child must attend one of the signup dates. Cost per child is \$85. It includes a uniform, one practice (Wednesday nights) and one game (Saturday mornings) per week as well as a closing awards event. For more information or to get involved in serving, contact **Barry Elliott at 705-955-4893.**

Women's Beth Moore – Living Proof Live Conference: November 6 & 7 at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga Tickets are \$69 US dollars

Men's Promise Keepers Conference: November 13 & 14 at Queensway Church in Toronto Tickets are \$60 (\$50 if we can get a group of 10)