

For heaven's sake, what are you doing? Part 6

We have discussed the aspect that it is the Holy Spirit who decides which gift He wants to give you. Some of you have gifts of speaking the truth of God. Others of you have gifts of helps or service. Some of you have discovered your gift or gifts. Others of you are still in the discovery process. There are many spiritual gifts listed in scripture and perhaps some that weren't listed. I don't think the gifts listed is an exhaustive list. I think there are many more besides. In the Old Testament we read that Bezalel had and Oholiab had several gifts.

Exodus 35:30-35 (NLT2)

³⁰ Then Moses told the people of Israel, "The LORD has specifically chosen Bezalel son of Uri, grandson of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.

³¹ The LORD has filled Bezalel with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts.

³² He is a master craftsman, expert in working with gold, silver, and bronze.

³³ He is skilled in engraving and mounting gemstones and in carving wood. He is a master at every craft.

³⁴ And the LORD has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach their skills to others.

³⁵ The LORD has given them special skills as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple, and scarlet thread on fine linen cloth, and weavers. They excel as craftsmen and as designers.

We find then that The Spirit of God (say the Spirit of God) gave him these gifts; great wisdom, ability and expertise in all kinds of crafts. Expert in working with gold silver and bronze... vs. 34 -35.

In vs. 34 we find that they had the ability to teach their skills to others. All of these were given by the Spirit. They were to use these gifts for the glory of God. Their assignment was to make the tabernacle as instructed by the Lord. They made the ark of the covenant and all the furnishings of the tabernacle.

God had a plan in place for the children of Israel. His plan was for them to build a meeting place so the Israelites could connect with God. And what do you know, there just happened to be two fellows in camp who was expert in the giftings needed to accomplish the task. What a coincidence! I see that her at LifeChange. God reveals His plan to us and walaah the people are already in place to make it happen. What a coincidence!

As I said, there are many, many gifts. Every gift given is to build up, to edify the body of Christ. You have a been given a gift to edify the body.

If you had the ability to choose one gift, what would it be? Should we even desire and pray for a gift that hasn't been given to us yet? Should we be content with the gifts that we have or is it OK to want more. To answer that question let's look at a passage in

1 Corinthians 12:27-31 (NASB)

²⁷ Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

²⁸ And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *various* kinds of tongues.

²⁹ All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of miracles*, are they?

³⁰ All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?

³¹ But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 14:1-5 (NASB)

¹ Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy.

² For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in *his* spirit he speaks mysteries.

³ But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.

⁴ One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.

⁵ Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but *even* more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

A. Desire earnestly spiritual gifts. (Say it)

B. Desire the greater gifts. (Say it.) Paul qualifies the greater gifts by those being the ones that is used for edification of the body. The greater the edification, the greater the gift.

The most important gifts Paul tells us is the ones that build up the church.

C. Paul mentions the gift of prophecy as being the greatest because this gift brings about the greatest edification. (Pause)

D. Many claim this gift to have passed away. I like to look at Vines Expository Dictionary but sometimes even he gets it wrong. He writes, "With the completion of the canon of Scripture prophecy apparently passed away.

Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament and New Testament Words.

E. So, here we have God saying one thing and a well-intentioned man saying something else. When there is a discrepancy between what man says and what God says, always side with God. I grew up in a denomination that promoted this idea and used the same scripture to back their claims. Be careful to search the scripture. Don't just swallow everything put on your plate. If a scripture is misquoted, taken out of context, or twisted to mean something that doesn't line up with other scriptures then don't swallow what has been dished out.

There are two scriptures vine uses to persuade his readers of his error. [1 Cor. 13:8, 9](#).

1 Corinthians 13:8-10 (NASB)

⁸ Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of prophecy*, they will be done away; if *there are tongues*, they will cease; if *there is knowledge*, it will be done away.

⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part;

This sounds somewhat plausible. There will come a time when there will be no more prophetic gift. There will come a time when there will be no more gift of tongues or gift of supernatural knowledge, words of knowledge. TRUTH. But when will that occur? Well, let's read the next verse. This will shine light on the confusion.

¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.
When will the perfect come? When Jesus returns.

I don't think the Lord would remove what Paul calls through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the greater gift - the gift of prophecy.

So, hopefully, we have fully established with certainty that the gift of prophecy has not been removed and it is still given by the Holy Spirit to whoever He will.

What is the gift of prophecy?

The prophets of the Old Testament and the gift of prophecy spoken of in this passage is not the same. The Old Testament prophets would often speak warning of God's judgment upon Israel or Judah. They would at times predict or speak of future events. Things to come. But the gift of prophecy is not necessarily nor is it primarily foretelling or predicting the future. However, there are occasions when those with the gift of prophecy may speak regarding future things. For example: we find in Acts a prophet named Agabus...

Acts 21:8-14 (NKJV)

⁸ On the next *day* we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was *one* of the seven, and stayed with him.

⁹ Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.

¹⁰ And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

¹¹ When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his *own* hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles.' "

¹² Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem.

¹³ Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

¹⁴ So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The will of the Lord be done."

We also see from this scripture that Philip the evangelist had four daughters who prophesied. So, this gift as any gift can be given to both men and women. This was a prophecy that was first spoken by Joel the prophet and then quoted by Peter on Pentecost.

Acts 2:16-18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ *'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.*

¹⁸ *And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.*

So, if this gift is not primarily for future revelation, what is it for?

The purpose of their ministry was to edify, to comfort, and to encourage the believers

1 Corinthians 14:3 (NLT2)

³ But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them.

Notice: This gift is not given to beat down, to brow beat, to discourage, or to trample on people. I've heard of some who are self-proclaimed prophets who are nasty, vile spirited, and loveless. This is not the attitude of a person with the New Testament gifting of a prophet. The primary reason for the gift of prophecy is to strengthen, (say it) to encourage believers (say it) to comfort (say it). Do you as believers need someone to strengthen you sometime, to encourage you, to comfort you? Then why in the world would God take this gift away from us? If there was ever a time when we need this gift the time is now, in all its flavors.

I have to admit that I am skeptical of a lot of prophets who begin speaking of future things. A couple of reasons is that 1. Many times their forth telling is so vague it's hard to know what they are saying and the second thing is that there are many who say "Thus saith the Lord" and it doesn't happen. The Old Testament would call them false prophets whose punishment for predicting falsely was stoning. But regardless of my skepticism this is what we are told regarding prophets.

1 Thessalonians 5:20 (NASB)

²⁰ do not despise prophetic utterances.

So, we are not to despise the prophetic gift, or the things spoken, but we are to examine it. Put on discernment. Use a gift of discernment which we will need to talk about another time.

1 Thessalonians 5:20-22 (NASB)

²⁰ do not despise prophetic utterances.

²¹ But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good;

²² abstain from every form of evil.

How is it used?

The person with a gift of prophecy is a truth bearer. They will not be swayed by culture, by man's opinion, by religion or by any other ideology. They know truth and will speak truth boldly for the cause of Christ. They speak on behalf of God. They will speak the things God has on His heart. He or she will not blow smoke to make you feel good. They know truth and they will speak truth though the truth may hurt. They will speak the truth regardless if no one agrees. Jesus was the ultimate truth bearer. Paul spoke truth. The apostles spoke truth. The Old Testament prophets spoke truth regardless of the consequences. It cost Jesus His life. It cost Paul His life. It cost many prophets their lives because they refused to embrace a lie. They refused to cater to the community. They are often rejected and unwanted.

Paul tells us to desire earnestly the best gifts or the greater gifts. Prophecy being the greatest. We need to desire it. We need to pray for it. We need to seek after it. We need to ask for it but first we need to be truth bearers.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn was a Russian novelist, philosopher, historian, short story writer, and political prisoner. One of the most famous Soviet dissidents, Solzhenitsyn was an outspoken critic of communism and helped to raise global awareness of political repression in the Soviet Union. He wrote many works and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. One of his writings was a small 5 page treatise called Live not by lies. At the end of this essay, He writes

So, in our timidity, let us each make a choice: whether to remain consciously a servant of falsehood (of course, it is not our inclination but to feed one's family that raises one's children in the spirit of lies), or to shrug off the lies and become an honest man worthy of respect from one's children and contemporaries.

And from that day on he:

*Will not sign, write or print in any way a single phrase which in his opinion distorts the truth.

*will utter such a phrase, either in private conversation nor in public, neither on his own behalf nor at the promoting of someone else, neither in role of agitator, teacher, educator,, nor as an actor.

*will not depict, foster or broadcast a single idea in which he can see a distortion of truth, whether it be painting, sculpture, photography, technical science or music

*will not cite out of context, either orally or in writing, a single quotation to please someone, to feather his own nest, to achieve success in his work, if he does not completely share the idea which was quoted, or if it does not accurately reflect the matter at issue.

*will immediately walk out of a meeting, session, lecture, performance or film if he hears a speaker tell lies, or purvey ideological nonsense of shameless propaganda.

*will not subscribe to or buy a newspaper or magazine in which information is distorted and primary facts are concealed.

He goes on to write. I have not enumerated, of course, all possible and necessary ways of avoiding lies, but whoever begins to cleanse himself will easily apply the cleansing pattern to other cases. It will not be the same for everybody at first. Some will lose their jobs. But there are no loopholes for anybody who wants to be honest.

This guy is serious about being honest and truthful. A prophet has the same mindset. We need prophets. This gift is given to the body of Christ but it is also a gift that we must desire. Is it so bad to be truthful? Is it so bad to be honest? Is it so bad to speak truth with the love of Christ? What's wrong with that? Would you be willing to seek after the gift of prophecy? Would you begin to lay down all form of lies and exaggeration? Would you pray for the gift of prophecy? The church needs it.

A prophet has his ear tuned in such a way to see what the Spirit is saying to them as well as to the church.

I want to conclude with one more quick thought. I've spoken it but I want to make sure you hear it.

1 Corinthians 14:1-5 (NASB)

¹ Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 13:2 (NLT2)

² If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing.

Love is the principal thing. In all your getting – get love.

The gift of tongues or languages:

This topic has been confusing for many. It has caused division within the Christian arena. On one extreme there are those who say that this gift is no longer given. On the other extreme there are those who have said, I haven't heard it recently, but have said that you are not a Christian unless you speak with tongues. Others will say that tongues is a sign gift that you have been baptized with the Holy Spirit a second outpouring of God's Spirit on you after you have received Jesus.

What I share today, some of you may not agree with me. None of you may agree with me. Now, your interpretation may be different than mine. Your experiences may be different than mine. What you have been taught may be different than what I was taught. What I'm teaching you today, is not what I learned in the denomination I grew up in. What I'm teaching you today is what I understand scripture to say.

There is apparently three different

1. Known languages
2. Unknown languages for prophecy
3. Prayer language.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (NKJV)

- ¹ Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:
- ² You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.
- ³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.
- ⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
- ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.
- ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*:
- ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,
- ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,
- ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
- ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Should we desire and ask for spiritual gifts or is it left up to the Holy Spirit to decide?

Why tongues?

1 Corinthians 14:1-3 (NKJV)

- ¹ 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.

1 Corinthians 14:4-5 (NKJV)

- 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.

1 Corinthians 10:23 (NKJV)

- ²³ All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.

WHAT GIFTS ARE AVAILABLE TODAY?

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE AND VALUE OF GIFTS?

DO ALL BELIEVERS HAVE GIFTS?

DO I SEEK GIFTS OR ARE THEY SIMPLY GIVEN?

CAN GIFTS BE CONTROLLED AND DEVELOPED?

ARE SOME GIFTS MORE IMPORTANT THAN OTHERS?

Honestly, I don't know if intercession is a gift. It isn't mentioned. I think it is perhaps something that as we practice, we learn how to intercede on behalf of others. An intercessor usually has a sensitive spirit to the needs of others.

There are many gifts mentioned in I Corinthians 12, 13, 14, Romans 12, Ephesians 4 as well as other places. I would like to point out that we do not have an exhaustive list. I believe Paul gave us a list but there are some mentioned in Ephesians that aren't mentioned in Corinthians or Romans. And some of those mentioned in Romans are not mentioned in Corinthians or Ephesians. There are tests that one can take to try to help identify one's spiritual gift but it's hard

Why spiritual gifts?

Pharoah's heart hardened. Exodus 7 - 14

Unbelief causes a hardness of the heart.

Psalm 95:7-8 (NKJV)

⁷ For He *is* our God, And we *are* the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice:

⁸ "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As *in* the day of trial in the wilderness,

Matthew 19:8 (NASB)

⁸ He **said* to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.

Evangelism is a spiritual gift that can be developed.

What are the gifts for primarily?

The reason for the Corinthian letter.

The gift of tongues

Talk about Corinth and the reason for the letter.

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)

¹¹ 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--

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

I. verse 16 - Whole body, every joint, every part does its share.

Paul uses the body as an illustration as to how the church should operate. The eye can't do the job of the ear. The heel can't do the job of the finger. The knee can't do the job of the tongue. Can you imagine what that would be like? But every joint does its part.

I Corinthians 12:12-27 (NKJV)

¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ.

¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

- ¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many.
- ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?
- ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?
- ¹⁷ If the whole body *were* an eye, where *would be* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *would be* the smelling?
- ¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.
- ¹⁹ And if they *were* all one member, where *would* the body *be*?
- ²⁰ But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body.
- ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."
- ²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
- ²³ And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable *parts* have greater modesty,
- ²⁴ but our presentable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it,
- ²⁵ that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another.
- ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*.
- ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

1 Corinthians 12:1-31 (NKJV)

- ¹ Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:
- ² You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.
- ³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.
- ⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
- ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.
- ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*:
- ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,
- ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,
- ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
- ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.
- ¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ.
- ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.
- ¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many.
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¹⁷ If the whole body *were* an eye, where *would be* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *would be* the smelling?

¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

¹⁹ And if they *were* all one member, where *would* the body *be*?

²⁰ But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body.

²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

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²³ And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable *parts* have greater modesty,

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²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

²⁸ And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

²⁹ *Are* all apostles? *Are* all prophets? *Are* all teachers? *Are* all workers of miracles?

³⁰ Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

³¹ But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 14:1-40 (NKJV)

¹ 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.

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 himself 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.

²⁶ How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

²⁷ 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.

²⁹ Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.

³⁰ But if *anything* is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent.

³¹ For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

³² And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

³³ For God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

³⁴ Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but *they are* to be submissive, as the law also says.

³⁵ And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

³⁶ Or did the word of God come *originally* from you? Or *was it* you only that it reached?

³⁷ If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

³⁸ But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.

³⁹ Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

⁴⁰ Let all things be done decently and in order.