

# Understanding Spiritual Gifts

I Corinthians 14.1-40

## Having Told the Corinthians

- There is one body and many gifts within that body (I Cor. 12)
- All gifts must be exercised in love (I Cor 13)
- He now tells them that prophesy is superior to tongues (I Cor. 14)
- Why?

## 14.1-19

- Prophecy builds the Church, but tongues don't
- Both things: tongues and prophecy, are revelatory. Paul is not talking about things already in the Bible. He is talking about new revelation

- New revelation is necessary—the implementation of the New Covenant requires new information
- Therefore, interpretation (14.13-19) is essential

## 14.20-25

- 14.20: Be mature in your understanding
- 14.21-22: Understand tongues
- This is a reference to Isaiah 28.9-16
- 14.23-25: Understand tongues—they have a completely different purpose

## 14.26-40

- 14.26: Control the pandemonium
- 14.27-28: tongues are limited in the number of speakers, the sequence of speakers and a mandatory interpreter
- 14.29-33: prophets are limited in number of speakers, must speak in sequence, and the authority of content

- 14.34-35: Women may not participate
- 14.36-38: Paul's authority supersedes theirs.
- 14.39-40: exercise your gifts, not only in love, but in order

# Why can't women participate?

- Considering Joel 2.28
- Which is fulfilled in part at Pentecost, Acts 2.16-21