

Hearing The Voice of God  
I Corinthians 14.1-40

This passage is primarily about spiritual gifts—not our SS topic

1. God gives a variety of spiritual gifts, I Corinthians 12
2. No gift is superior to love, I Cor. 12-13
3. Tongues are not the “superior” gift, I Cor. 14

4. We believe the sign gifts have ended
5. Even if we are wrong about that, the sign gifts are governed by the passage
6. This is why this passage is helpful to us
7. It gives us God's thinking about speaking authoritatively, apart from the Bible

# I Cor. 14.1-25 elevates the gift of prophecy

- Prophecy is speaking on God's behalf.
- It may be something future, or something already spoken

Prophecy is superior to tongues  
because it builds the Church

1. Tongues are not understood by others: 14.2, 14.8-11
2. Prophecy builds others: 14.3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 14-17, 19
3. The ability to understand is essential to edification
4. This is a testimony to the presence of God among us. 21-25

## Here's a principle

- Nothing that God ever tells us to do personally should ever be treated as some sort of spiritual status symbol; a reflection of our heightened spiritual condition

# I Cor. 14.26-40 Regulates the use of gifts

- 14.25—what the Church did look like
- 14.26; 40—what the Church should look like
- 14.26 All must be done to edifying
- 14.40 All must be done in an orderly fashion: in an appropriate arrangement

And so...

- 2 or 3 may speak in sequence, 14.27; 29, 30, 31
- What they say must be interpreted or judged, 14.28, 29
- What they say must be in line with what God has already said, and what one says must be consistent with what others say, 14.32-33, 36-37



## Here's another principle

- God will never instruct anyone to disobey or contradict Scripture
- He will never instruct anyone to take vengeance, get a divorce, commit murder, lie, hate, or violate, in principle, His teaching

# Back to “decently and in order”

- Women may not participate, 14.33-35
- Why?
- They don't wield authority: 14.34; Genesis 3.16
- This is a restriction from participating in deciding what is or isn't authoritative.

- Women may pray and prophecy, I Cor. 11.5

This provides another principle

- Not only will God never tell us to disobey “directly”
- He will never permit us to disobey in order to obey: 2Ti 2:5 And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.