

**Life Group Notes**  
**Sunday 02 April 2017**

**Speaker:** Scott Taylor

**Passage:** 1 Corinthians 14:1-12

**Title:** Prophecy & Tongues... Part 1

So, Paul has set out his stool for what it is to be spiritual in Jesus – being able to say Jesus is Lord and mean it; all gifts are given by the triune God displaying the diversity we are to have as a church, and the gifts are there for the common good – all have gifts and all are necessary. A level playing field with every gift needed and expected. Then, Paul has set that against the background of love – a love that does not look to ego, envy or presumption but rather looks to be others focussed. And that's where he picks up right at the beginning of chapter 14 v1:

Pursue love – this is the gospel, it's what God did, he pursued love – he sent Jesus. Jesus pursued love in coming, in living a perfect life, in facing our punishment on the cross, in rising again, in ascending to the Father and in sending us the Holy Spirit. He pursued love!!! And Paul says: pursue love before anything else.

Verses 2-6 he lays out an argument for intelligibility in the gathered church – he reasons that tongues are good for building up the inner man, ourselves, whereas prophecy builds up the church – why because we can understand what is said and what is to be done in response. We are not left feeling like foreigners that don't get it but can understand. That is the point of the three pictures that Paul paints with the musical instruments, the bugle and the different languages. He wants them to desire the spiritual gifts but also strive to excel in building up the church – pursue love.

As a church, we need to be clear that tongues is a good gift but will mainly be used in personal worship and praise time and occasionally in a public meeting where it will be interpreted – so it can build up the church!

Prophecy is not scripture and is not infallible, so it is okay to ask question so f it. If someone says 'God said' and it clearly does not line up with scripture, we are to challenge that in love and respect. We are not to abuse prophecy to get our own way. When receiving a prophetic word from someone – always way it – talk it through with trusted counsellors; line it up against the bible; seek God on it. If you don't think it is relevant for now write it down and review again some other time. If you are giving a prophetic word, be humble – we only prophesy in part; deliver what you have heard and then trust it to the hearers to weigh. Remember the new testament mainly speaks about prophecy being encouraging and consoling building up the church. Be wise if you do receive a word of warning or challenge – be respectful, take a trusted person with you, maybe talk it through with an elder or deacon first. When sharing be gentle and loving treating people as you would want to be treated. Acknowledge you only prophecy in part and pray along those lines.

**Suggested application and questions**

- 1) What did you hear on Sunday that was new or a fresh reminder for you?
- 2) Get those who do speak in tongues to explain how it helps them in their walk with Jesus.
- 3) When have you ever prophesied? How did/ does God speak to you?
- 4) Can you recall a time when you have received a prophesy? What did you do with that? How was it brought to you?
- 5) Spend time practicing the gift of prophecy.