

# PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

## 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 14:1-5

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-763 JANUARY 29, 2012

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### BODY BUILDING IN THE CHURCH OF GOD – PART 1

*DISCOVERING THE NATURE OF GOD IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Love, Church, Gifts, Unity, Growth, Witness, God**

Introduction to the Text:

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:1-5

#### 1 Corinthians 14:1-5

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**.

Because it is all based upon the Christian and the church being (#1) open to the ownership of Jesus Christ of His people and His church and (#2) the Empowering presence of the Body-Builder Himself – The Holy Spirit!

#### Acts 1:4-8

And being **assembled together** (*a holy convocation or ecclesia*) with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; :5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” :6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” :7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. :8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**A holy convocation** (*a holy convocation or ecclesia*) **in Hebrew is the** *mik-raw'*; the gathering together of the called out ones, a united gathering of the sanctified.

## **That Was Jesus' Promise – The Burden was Upon the Father to Provide – And it was the Mission-Ministry of the Holy Spirit to Perform**

### **John 14:16-18, 20, 25-27**

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - :17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. :18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.... :20 that day you will know that **I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you....** (a *holy convocation or ecclesia*) :25 "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. :26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. :27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

## **How Do We Know If Jesus Actually Ascended To The Father?**

**Because at the Feast of Pentecost. While the Believers Waited Just as Jesus Said to Do – The Promise Came...**

### **Acts 2:1-4**

**When the Day of Pentecost had fully come,** they were **all with one accord in one place.** :2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. :3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and **one sat upon each of them.** :4 And they were **all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance.**

**THIS ALL HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST**  
the word Pentecost means 50 days. On the **50<sup>th</sup> day**

**50 days after the day of the firstfruits**, the harvest was waved before the Lord, known as Shavuot or the Day of Pentecost. It was on this day that God visited His people after their exodus from Egypt and through Moses, bringing to them the Law down from Mount Sinai. This earthshaking day of visitation, trembling, marked the birthday of the nation of Israel.

The Prophetic Shadow Was

### **Leviticus 23:15-16, 21**

"And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. :16 Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a **new grain offering to the LORD...** Lev. 23:21 And you shall proclaim on the same day *that it is a holy convocation* to you.

50 days after the day of the firstfruits, the harvest was waved before the Lord God visits His people.  
This is another earthshaking day of visitation

## **According to Jewish Tradition**

When the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai took place, the birth of the nation of Israel happened in a day. That same rabbinical tradition says that when the law was given, “tongues of fire appeared and recited the Law in the languages of the earth

Remarkably - The Day of Pentecost was the day that the church was also born.

**The Power, The Presence and the Provision of the Holy Spirit**  
Must be discernable in any gathering of God's people – big or small.

### **Romans 8:13-14**

For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if **by the Spirit** you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. :14 For as many as are led **by the Spirit** of God, these are sons of God.

## **Life in The Spirit is The Christian Life.**

But **Why** do some Christians seem to make a bigger difference than others? **Why** do some Christians seem to struggle along with no real power? **Why** does God seem to use some Christian and others not much?

**The Answer is All Rooted in One Little Decision by The Christian; Nurturing a Yielded Submission to God**

### **Galatians 5:14-17**

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” (1-corinthians 13) :15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! :16 I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. :17 For the flesh lusts against **the Spirit**, and **the Spirit** against the flesh; and these are **contrary to one another**,

### **Galatians 5:24-25**

And those who are Christ's have **crucified the flesh with its passions and desires**. :25 If we live in **the Spirit**, let us also **walk in the Spirit**.

## **BODY BUILDING IN THE CHURCH GOD**

**WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!**

**1.) Strengthening your personal faith**

**v.1-2**

### **1 Timothy 4:7b-8**

...**exercise** yourself toward godliness. :8 For bodily **exercise** profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having the promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

**exercise**      **gumna<sub>ȝ</sub> zw gumnazo**, gym-nad'-zo; to practice without a hindrance. Having no distractions

### Philippians 2:12

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out** your own salvation with fear and trembling;

**work out**      **katerga<sub>ȝ</sub> zomai katergazomai**, kat-er-gad'-zom-ahee; *finish the course or the race.*  
*To make a complete finish. To press on across and through the finish line.*

## STRENGTHENING YOUR PERSONAL FAITH

### 1a.) Strengthening your focus

v.1a

**Pursue** love, and **desire** spiritual gifts,

### Church Listen Up

We cannot be content with being saved and on our way to heaven.

That truth is the reality of our journey's end.

If we are truly **new creations** and **new people** – born again – then our **new lives** live for **new reasons** and **new expressions**. Our **new lives** have **new passions** and **new desires**.

### Colossians 3:1-3

If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things** which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. :2 **Set your mind** on things above, not on things on the earth. :3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

**Pursue**      grk: **diw<sub>ȝ</sub> kw dioko**, dee-o'-ko; *To press into the mold or to push into the wax. To take on the shape of the mold.*

### Galatians 4:19

My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is **formed** in you,

**formed**      grk: **morfo/w morphoo**, mor-fo'-o; *To be fashioned. To be molded or pressed into a mold. To take on the form of another.*

### Pursue love

*(an exhortation to be focused on the main thing)*

### 1 Corinthians 13:1

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, **but have not love**, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. **Just a Noise**

**desire** spiritual(s) *gifts*

**desire**      **zhlo/w zeloo, dzay-lo'-o;** having heat or the heating up of, the ardor or zeal, a burning passion.

**A.W. Tozer says**

*"it's the heartbeat of a man's new nature that longs with an ever-increasing longing to have more of God and all of God until it is only God who is living life through the man."*

## **STRENGTHENING YOUR PERSONAL FAITH**

### **1b.) Strengthening your effectiveness**

**v.1b-2a**

Prophecy compared and contrasted to Tongues

### **Two real and God-given gifts designed for the personal and corporate strengthening of the church.**

Prophecy

**If you're going to be effective as a Christian,  
you will be much more concerned and involved with the use of your gift that edifies others --  
that is the goal.**

Tongues

### **Recorded Account #1**

#### **Acts 2:4-11**

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. :5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. :6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. :7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? :8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? :9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, :10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, :11 Cretans and Arabs—**we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.**"

### **Recorded Account #2**

#### **Mark 16:15-17**

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. :16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. :17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

## Account #3

### **Acts 10:45-46**

And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. :46 For they heard them speak with tongues and **magnify** God.

## Account #4

### **Acts 19:6**

And when Paul (*while at Ephesus*) had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

**Publically - Tongues Are for One Purpose Only;  
To praise and glorify God and His works**

**Privately – Tongues Are Used in Prayer and Devotion  
With Intercessions**

### **1 Corinthians 14:22**

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.

## **STRENGTHENING YOUR PERSONAL FAITH**

### **1c.) Strengthening your endurance**

**v.2b**

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**.

**2 For he who speaks in a tongue  
does not speak to men but to God**

**This rules out any messages or prophecies or words  
From God via the gift of tongues – unbiblical use**

**What we do See in Scripture is a Variation  
of the Holy Spirit's Application of this Gift**

**The Benefits of Speaking or Praying in a Tongue When you're alone.  
(it's very personal – its private worship)**

### **1 Corinthians 14:14:15**

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. (*that's not a bad thing*) :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.

### **1 Corinthians 14:18-20**

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;

## **BODY BUILDING IN THE CHURCH GOD**

**WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!**

### **2.) Developing the faith of others**

**v.3-4**

#### **2a.) Developing faith means confidence**

**v.3**

:3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

### **These Are The Marked Evidences of a Biblical Pastor/Teacher - a Prophet in the Church of God.**

**Edification** grk: οἰκοδόμη / **oikodome**, oy-kod-om-ay'; an architectural term meaning to "build up" or to "erect or stand straight or tall" or to "assemble" in an upward direction – implying growth.

**Exhortation** grk: παρακλήσις **paraklesis**, par-ak'-lay-sis; imploration, to excite or to energize, to come alongside with a challenge or motivation. To stir up.

**Comfort** grk: παραμυθία **paramuthia**, par-am-oo-thee '-ah; to bring consolation into a situation. To comfort or to calm in the midst of a storm.

**The Church is not a company. It is not a business. It is not a movement. It is literally, a living, breathing spiritual organism and Jesus Christ is in love with it – Jesus Loves His Church.**

## **DEVELOPING THE FAITH OF OTHERS**

### **2b.) Developing faith means power**

:4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself,

# This is the Private use of Tongues and Prayer

*which would not need the gift of interpretation*

## BODY BUILDING IN THE CHURCH GOD

### MEET ME AT “THE COURT”

#### Will You Agree with God That

Rom. 3:23 you have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God,

Rom. 6:23a That you understand that the wages of sin *is* death,

Rom. 6:23b but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom. 5:8 Believing today that God demonstrates His own love toward you,  
in that while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you.

Rom. 10:13 But He now says to you that “*if you would call on the name of  
the LORD* you shall be saved.”

Rom. 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in  
your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. :10 For  
with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth  
confession is made unto salvation.

---

*End of Study*

---

© By Jack D. Hibbs, January 29, 2012