



1 Corinthians 14:1-5

1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. **2** For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. **3** On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. **4** The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. **5** Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

What do you think it means to pursue love, or as another version translates, "follow the way of love"? How can we actively pursue it on a daily basis?

Why does Paul want people to especially desire the gift of prophesy? Are we using our gifts to build up others or only ourselves?

1 Corinthians 14:6-12

6 Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? **7** If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? **8** And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? **9** So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. **10** There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, **11** but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. **12** So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

Paul wrote last chapter, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." Here his illustrations are instruments. What point is he trying to make in comparing speaking in tongues to these things that make noise? How can they both be useful?

The theme Paul is repeating is "building up the church." When we pray and desire the Spirit to respond to our prayers, do we frequently pray for the church, or are we more inclined to pray for ourselves? How can we better pray (and do so in specific ways) for the upbuilding of the church?

1 Corinthians 14:13-25

13 Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. **14** For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. **15** What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. **16** Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? **17** For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. **18** I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. **19** Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue. **20** Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. **21** In the Law it is written, "By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord." **22** Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. **23** If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? **24** But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, **25** the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

Based off of a passage like this one, would you say coming together in worship is simply an individual experience or is it something to be done in and for the community?

What does it mean to be "infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature"?

1 Kings 3:5-14

5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." **6** And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. **7** And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. **8** And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. **9** Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" **10** It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. **11** And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, **12** behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. **13** I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. **14** And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

What did Solomon ask for and why? Was it for his own benefit or was it to "build up" those around him? Like Solomon seeking to receive a gift for the good of others, what can we pray for?

How can you apply these Scriptures to your life?