

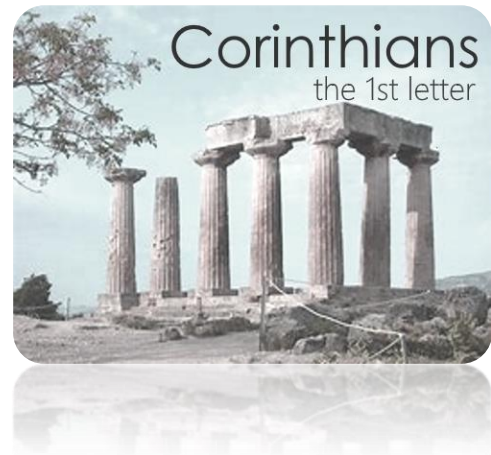
1 CORINTHIANS 14 vs 1

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In this chapter more than any other in the New Testament, we find the Greek word: **glossa**... which is the root of our word: **glossary**; and this word means = language... **tongue**. Here, Paul uses glossa 16 times. In Genesis 10:5 we read, by these [the generations of the sons of Noah] were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; everyone after his language, after their families, in their nations.

A Hebraic understanding of this word is found in the book of Proverbs where we read: a lying tongue; the flattery of the tongue; the tongue of the just; the argumentative tongue, the power of the tongue.



Now the apostle Paul writes:

¹ Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

² For he who speaks in a tongue / Paul in chapter 12 already spoke 4 times of the *genos glossa*, the different families of tongue which need an interpreter. So he is talking about language. In chapter 13, Paul speaks of the tongue of men and angels. I doubt they speak English in heaven; oh, the citizens are smart enough; they can speak English, but it's not the native language of heaven. In Los Angeles more than 150 languages are spoken in the public schools.

For he who speaks in a language, needing an interpreter, speaks not to men, rather to God: for no one understands him / for example: he that speaks in Gaelic, needing an interpreter; Obviously, they hear the noise uttered from his lips slapping together.

he speaks mysteries in the spirit / it is like the person talking to a stranger, who suddenly starts talking LOUDER... as if that will cause the individual to comprehend the things not obvious to understand. Paul says, if you speak and need an interpreter – Paul says, go get an interpreter.

³ the one prophesying speaks to men: 1. edifying, and 2. urging, and 3. giving comfort / speaking words that build up; that give persuasive advice; and strengthen God's people.

⁴ The one speaking a language / who needs an interpreter, **edifies himself** / Paul says, some people like to talk and sound important; just like... some people who like to sing but in reality, no!

but the one prophesying edifies the church / that one builds up what Jesus is building.

⁵ I wish all of you speak in languages, needing an interpreter / even though he already said: not all speak with tongues; but Paul knows, that to work with someone building up the church... brings great joy within the community. **but even more that you all prophesied: for the one prophesying is greater than the one speaking a language, needing an interpreter; unless he interprets so the church is built up.**

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6 Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you speaking a tongue... needing an interpreter, how will that benefit you, except I speak to you with a revelation or the knowledge of God, or prophesying, or teaching / apoakalupsis... is only associated with Jesus Christ, and making Him known; to build up the church Jesus is building.

And Paul gives a common, familiar illustration...

7 And if lifeless instruments give sound, whether pipe or harp, if they don't give a clear sound, how will it be known what is piped or harped?

8 For if the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who will prepare for the battle? / How are we to prepare? Are we to advance into the fray? Or, are we to retreat and regroup?

9 So also, except you with the language needing an interpreter, if you do not give intelligible speech, how will it be known what is spoken? for you will be speaking into the air.

10 There are so many different languages in the world, and none of them without meaning / there be as many sounds, and languages, voices, dialects in the world... as you can imagine.

11 Therefore if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the one speaking; and the one speaking a foreigner to me.

12 So you also, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, seek to build up the church.

13 Therefore the person speaking in a language, needing an interpreter; pray that one can interpret.

14 For if I pray in a language needing an interpreter, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15 What then?

I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding: I will sing praise with the spirit, and I will also sing praise with my understanding.

16 Otherwise when you give good words with the spirit, how will the outsider say Amen! at your giving of thanks / how will he be thankful to God? since he doesn't know what you are saying?

17 For indeed you may very well give thanks, but the other is not built up/ which is the purpose for speaking in the church that Jesus is building.

18 I thank God, I speak with a languages needing an interpreter more than all of you:

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¹⁹ Yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, so that others are also taught, than ten thousand words in a language needing an interpreter.

²⁰ Brothers and sisters, be not childish in your understanding: but be infants regarding malice; but fully grown in your thinking.

²¹ In the law is written, / Paul is quoting [Isaiah 28:11](#) I will speak to this people, by people of other languages and by the lips of foreigners; and even then, they will not listen to Me, says the Lord / no matter the languages; they still will not listen.

²² Wherefore languages needing an interpreter, are for a sign, not for believers **but for unbelievers** / not to those acting in faith; but to those who don't believe: but prophesying is not for the unbelievers, **but for believers** / speaking words that build up faith.

²³ So if the whole church assembles in one place, and all speak in languages... needing an interpreter, and there enters idiots or apistos / the unlearned idiots, or the no-faith people, will they not say you are maniacs?

²⁴ But if all are prophesying and there enters apistos or idiots, he is convicted by all, and is called to account by all / if with persuasive advice; is convicted and senses his utter condemnation:

²⁵ and thus the secrets of his heart is revealed; and falls down on his face worshiping God, and reports / to others... that truly God is with you.

²⁶ How is it then, brothers and sisters? when you come together, does each one have a hymn, a teaching / a spiritual song to sing; and a religious truth to teach, or have a tongue with a revelation ... needing an interpreter, and have an interpretation / a song with some truth, or some teaching with an explanation of the Lord Jesus.

Let all be done to edify / in the church Jesus is building.

²⁷ If anyone speaks with a tongue... needing an interpreter, **let there be two, or the most three in turn, and let one interpret** / that day, in that meeting; separately and in order.

²⁸ But if there is **no** interpreter, **that person is to be silent in the church**: and speak to himself and to God.

²⁹ **Let two or three** prophets speak, and the others should be discerning.

³⁰ If anything is revealed to another person sitting there, let the first prophet **be silent** / if, in the course of edifying the church, someone has clarity of truth revealed; who have an insight; in other words: let the first who was prophesying, finish and stop talking; and let the added insight be shared.

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³¹ **For you can all prophesy one by one; so that everyone may learn and be empowered / putting it all together; piece by piece, so all are spiritually strengthened.**

³² **And the prophets spirits are to submit to the prophets /** in other words, nobody can say, they cannot control their inclinations. Paul spelled out the order that was expected. Those who can't stop talking are not guided by the Spirit. The silence of God is evidence... that what He said is important to consider.

³³ **since God is not a God of disorder, but of peace in all the assemblies of the saints.**

³⁴ **The wives in the assembly, let them be silent /** This is the 3rd time **be silent** is mentioned. Paul said the 2 or 3 speaking in a language... needing a translator... if there was no translator... **be silent**. And if 2 or 3 are prophesying, edifying the church... and someone has an insight, till the first exhorter concludes his thought, **be silent**.

It seems Paul was irked. Have you ever gone to a service where little kids run around the aisles? Or worse, the preacher does not proclaim the word of God? I have! In those undisciplined assemblies it is best for them all to **be silent**. Paul observing the chaos in Corinth, probably said: let the **wives** be silent in that assembly: **for they are not allowed to speak** / and whisper, Honey, what are they talking about? And what do you want for lunch? **but submit also as the law says..**

Paul just said: The spirits are subject to the prophet. Same word! 1 Cor.15:28 says... and when all things will be subdued to Him. Same word! The verse continues... then will the Son also himself be subject... to God. Same word! So, wives don't panic! You are to do what Jesus does honoring His Father.

³⁵ **And if they learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is disgraceful for wives to speak in the church /** it is a shame so many hirelings occupy pulpits and the word is not taught.

³⁶ **What? Did the word of God originate from you? or did it come only to you?**

³⁷ **If anyone thinks he is a prophet, or spiritual, then acknowledge what I write to you are instructions of the Lord.**

³⁸ **But if any is ignorant, be ignorant.** / Paul wasn't going to argue with a fool.

³⁹ **So then my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with languages needing an interpreter,**

⁴⁰ **Just let all things be done decently and in order.**

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