

## I. Review of Spiritual Gifts and Charity

We have talked about how in every chapter, Paul has to deal with the Corinthian church on issues where they are completely messed up. When we got to 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14, I told you that these three chapters make up a complete section in this book where he deals with them on their misuse of spiritual gifts.

If you remember, I showed you how he put that in order. In 1 Corinthians 12:1, the first verse says, "Now concerning spiritual gifts." Then, in the last chapter, in the last verse, he simply says, "Let all things be done decently and in order." In between those two verses—the one in 1 Corinthians 12:1 and the one in 1 Corinthians 14:40—you have him putting the concept of spiritual gifts in the right order for this church.

By him doing that for them, trying to get them straightened out, we learn from their mistakes. We learn by the things that they were not doing, that we know the Bible teaches, how to put them in the proper order. So, we have taken each chapter and given you exactly the key aspects in it. My goal for you is to have these chapters broken down into your Bible. That is the way I have approached it. I figured since we are coming through this, let us get the material together in the right place where you can have everything laid out for you exactly the way that you want it, so you have it at your fingertips.

In 1 Corinthians 12, you will remember that we saw a list of gifts. We defined spiritual gifts and gave you a very clear Bible definition. Out of that definition, we found that spiritual gifts fall into three categories. This was vital in understanding how to keep it all separate, and this is what the church at Corinth was not doing.

We saw that there was a set of spiritual gifts that were given strictly to the apostles, and these are called the gifts of the apostles in 2 Corinthians 12:12. Then we saw the second category were gifts that were given to the church. We went to Ephesians 4:8-11 and we saw those gifts laid out.

*Ephesians 4:8-11*

*Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*

*(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?*

*He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)*

*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

Then the third section of gifts we talked about was the one that God gives to us as individuals. We talked about how God has a job for you and me to do. When you get saved and you get plugged into a church, and you begin to get what the church is supposed to do for you, then as you grow and the Spirit of God begins to manifest itself through you, you get whatever you need by the Spirit of God to do whatever job He has called you to do.

Those three categories ought to be at the top of your list to understand spiritual gifts, because if you do not get the right order in that category, then you are going to get messed up just like the church at Corinth. We also told you that all three of these gifts, no matter whether to the apostles or to whom, they are all given by the same Spirit of God. They are just in different aspects for different things.

Then we came to 1 Corinthians 13, and we saw in 1 Corinthians 13 that there can be no power of God—that is, the gifts of God—there can be no power of God in your life without the character of God in your life. Now we know what that character is because we defined it last week, did we not? We know that the character of God is nothing more than the aspect of charity. We talked about that last week and went through the sixteen concepts that are listed in that chapter of what charity is. We showed you how in all the new Bibles, they take out the word "charity" and put in the word "love." You know that is not what we are to do. The word is "charity," and now you know why it should be "charity." We have seen the sixteen aspects of charity that truly make up the character of God in your life and in my life.

The church does not have this. Then in 1 Corinthians 12:7, we saw that all this is a manifestation of the Spirit of God in your life. That is truly the goal for you being here today. When you leave here today, you should be a little bit better than when you came. My job is to give you the opportunity that when you come to church or you come to Thursday night Bible study or anything that we do, my job is simply to have you leave better than when you came in. Now, you might not always like what was said, and it may rub you the wrong way, but as long as it is the truth, that is good. I cannot make you do what is right with what I give you. My job responsibility is just to give you the opportunity to get the material. You have to be accountable for that.

God is giving you what you need right now, whatever spiritual stage you are in. Some of you have just gotten saved. Some of you have been around for a while, and you are really starting to put it all together. Some of you have been here since we opened the doors, and you are really handling a major part of this work. Many of you are doing that. That only happens for one reason: it is because as you grow, God manifests Himself through you. Then, in the process of you getting God's character, the biblical principles looking at your life, making decisions, and doing things the way the Bible says to do them in your own personal life, in your own public life, and everything that you do, then God gives you the power, the gifts, to get that job done, whatever God has called you to do.

## II. Introduction to 1 Corinthians 14 and the Issue of Tongues

So now we come to 1 Corinthians 14 today. In this last chapter, Paul begins to deal with the main issue that this church is really misusing. It formed for us one of the greatest studies that we can ever hope to take, because now, where he has really never hit the subject, in 1 Corinthians 14, he is going to deal with the issues of speaking in tongues. Boy, he hits it very hard, and he deals with it up front through the Word of God and leaves no questions about it. For you and for me, in the world that we live in today, we have mirrored all this to the modern charismatic movement.

He begins to deal with the issue of speaking in tongues and the church of Corinth misusing them and abusing them. What he basically does for us, which is invaluable, is he now sets the guidelines. He sets the basic rules for it. You remember last week we talked about 1 Corinthians 13:1, and we saw that they had done two things with tongues. The first thing he talks about in 1 Corinthians 13:1 was the tongues of men. We know from our past studies that that is other languages, known languages. They had brought in tongues that were the legitimate tongues, but they were misusing them and using them to set up some kind of, "Well, I speak with tongues, so I am more spiritual than you." Of course, tongues was never given to the Gentile church to be used the way that they are using it.

Then the second issue we saw was the tongues of angels. This church has taken almost everything that God has given them and totally put it in disarray, completely misusing it. Not only are they taking the legitimate tongues that were given to the nation of Israel and misusing them in the church, that was not enough. Now they are coming up with some kind of unknown language that nobody understands, nobody knows, and the person speaking in that language is profaning that God is giving them some great revelation. Now it is a "who gets a better revelation from God" deal, and that is what is happening here.

Paul deals with this issue. One of the things that I think comes out of a study like this, at least I hope it does, is that you can see how going to the Bible, and only the Bible, will solve any issue that comes up about anything in life. I get that from almost everything that I teach. I am not sure, maybe you all get it, but I am telling you, the example out of this is very clear. Whatever issue comes up in life, whatever somebody wants to talk about or get into, if you go to the Bible and the Bible alone—and we are going to explain that in just a moment—you can figure it all out, and you get the answer, and you never make a wrong choice.

As I have stated many times, I am not doing this study to change anybody's mind. I am really not. You may be listening to this tape on the internet, or somebody may have given you this tape or this series on CD or whatever, and you may be listening to it, and I am hoping it is a blessing to you. But at the end of the day, you need to know, I am not doing this so I will change the world's mind about tongues. That is not my goal. My goal is to teach my people the truth so you know what the Bible says about it. That is all I take it. God wants to use it in somebody's life other than that, that is great, but I am not coming up here with the idea that I am going to change everybody's mindset on planet Earth or in Kansas City about speaking in tongues. That is not my goal. You are my responsibility, you and you alone. My responsibility does not really go outside of the church that God gave me as far as me taking care of my people. My job is to make sure that in everything in the Bible, I give you the truth the way the Bible lays it out, that you have the tools to put your Bible together and learn it. That is the only reason I am doing this. I want you to

understand the Bible and the right Bible doctrine concerning not only just tongues but spiritual gifts, because I guarantee you, everybody in this building probably has somebody that is connected with the tongues movement, either directly or indirectly. I guarantee you.

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul deals with two basic issues, and this is the first thing we want to get out. We are going to break this chapter down into sections, and I want you to get these sections down. If you are sitting at one of our study tables in the back, then you are going to have an easier time, but you need to just go ahead and do it right now because it is going to be very easy to follow, and you might as well get it done.

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul deals with two issues on speaking in tongues, and the whole book breaks down around these two issues. The first thing that he deals with is the issue of an unknown tongue. He tells us what an unknown tongue is or what it is not, and that is very important that you learn that. This will really help you today when we just understand this format. But then the second issue that he does, I think, is even more invaluable, because what he does next is he lays down the rules for speaking in tongues. He lays out six rules that if you are going to speak in tongues, you have to follow these rules. By doing this, he basically eliminates the modern-day tongue movement. He goes through six rules.

When he does this, Paul basically puts an end to the idea that tongues were ever for the New Testament church in the sense of today or in the last 2,000 years. You have to remember that Paul is the apostle to the church. I am the pastor to this church, and my authority and my responsibility is to you to make sure you get the truth. Take that and make it in a larger format and take the Apostle Paul. Apostle Paul was not a pastor; he was an evangelist, but more than that, he was an apostle. His job as the apostle—he is not an apostle to the nation of Israel, he is not one of the original twelve—Paul's apostleship is to the church. What Paul did was he wrote authoritatively to the church and told the church exactly what they are supposed to believe, exactly how the church is supposed to operate, and he never deviates from that. So when the apostle to the church writes to the church issues about how you conduct a service, how you deal with things, and certainly in this case, spiritual gifts and speaking in tongues, he is our authority. He is our authority.

You are going to find out, as I said earlier, when you simply just take the Bible and let the Bible speak for itself, and just take it as you find it, and let it lay itself out, and you break this chapter down as we break all chapters down as easily as we can, then we are good to go, and we are going to see some things. I think you will see from the Bible today that the modern-day tongues movement is filled with, like the church of Corinth, a lot of baby Christians, and without exception, every aspect of speaking in tongues is totally wrong and against the Word of God today in everything that you will see. You can let the Bible be the judge.

I want to give you this first. I think this is classic. I am not under any illusion that this is going to, as I said, change anybody's mind who has already bought into it, because we already know that the charismatic mindset is not one that follows the Bible as their final authority. But I want to give you two key verses in this chapter, which basically we are going to hitchhike off of all through today. It is found in 1 Corinthians 14:37-38. I think this is a classic. This is Paul at his

best, and this is what I call the old trap play up the middle. The Bible is famous for trap plays up the middle because the Bible is the only book in the world—and I say it all the time—the Bible is the only book in the world when you start reading it, it starts reading you. The Bible says it discerns the thoughts and intents of your heart. Boy, I am telling you something, you want to believe what you want to believe in spite of what the Word of God said? God puts places just like this to break your neck.

Now watch this. Look at 1 Corinthians 14:37.

*1 Corinthians 14:37*

*If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual,*

Are you a spiritual person? You say, "Well, I am a charismatic." Well, that is good, because we learned last week that the word "charismatic" means "gifted one." So you are a gifted one? You have the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, is that right? "Yes, I do." Then you are what he is talking about. If any man thinks that he is a prophet or spiritual, you have the fullness of the other gospel, do you? The fullness of the signs, do you? You have experienced the baptism of the Holy Ghost, have you? Then you fancy yourself as someone who has a great relationship with God and has the power of God. Is that you? You see, that is who he is writing to. The church of Corinth thought that is who they were, and many times charismatics will think that is who they are.

Look what he says:

*1 Corinthians 14:37*

*Let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.*

Now you get that. Then if he lays down six rules of tongues that do not go along with your church or what you think, who is right or who is wrong now? He just told you that if you are a prophet and you are spiritual, that the things he is about to tell you are the commandments of God. You say, "I do not want to believe that." When I am done with this sermon this morning, they say, "Walk out of here and say, 'Well, I think he is dead wrong. I do not like one thing he said. I do not think that he is right at all.'" Well, I have a verse for you. It is 1 Corinthians 14:38.

*1 Corinthians 14:38*

*But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.*

You see that thing? Now, what do you do with that? What God is about to show you on tongues is the definition from the Apostle to the church under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God, and that seals it. You either accept it as being spiritual, or you stay as ignorant as you already are. Your choice, your call.

### III. Section 1: Prophecy and the "Unknown" Tongue

This chapter will break down into seven sections. Within these seven sections, we are going to see six rules. I am going to show you these sections one at a time. I want you to mark them in your Bible and then put the notes in correspondingly, however you have to do it.

The first section will be in 1 Corinthians 14:1-3. Before we read that, let us go to the Lord in prayer.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We do love You. We thank You for all that You do for us, for all that You have given us. We pray now, Father, that You will help us to grasp the great principles of this chapter. Help us to learn and be everything that we need. Lord, we do love You now, and we ask Your blessings upon this time in Jesus' name, for His sake, we ask it. Amen.

As I said, this chapter will break down into seven sections. Section one will be 1 Corinthians 14:1-3. All right, let us read that.

*1 Corinthians 14:1-3*

*Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.*

*For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.*

*But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*

The first thing I want you to see here, and I want to remind you of what we talked about last week, the first thing he says here is "follow after charity." We saw charity last week, and we saw that charity was the number one thing to have over every spiritual gift that you could have. We now know that, and we know that he is saying here that spiritual gifts are good, and you desire spiritual gifts, but that you should prophesy.

Let me explain prophesying for you. Prophesying is preaching. Prophesying is taking the Word of God and telling somebody else what God said in His Word. That is another word for preaching. I know we think that many times when somebody says "prophesy," they are just talking about something in the future. That is prophecy. But prophesying is basically telling somebody else what the Bible has laid out and has said.

Now I want you to look at 1 Corinthians 14:2, and here comes our first issue that he deals with. He says, "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue." This is the first time the word "unknown tongue" shows up in your Bible. Now, the charismatic would have you believe that this unknown tongue was the tongues of angels, and it is a heavenly language that only real spiritual people get to. Of course, that is not true. Real spiritual people would catch that the word "unknown" looks a little different than the word before it and the word after it. That is what a real spiritual person would do. A real spiritual person would see that the word "unknown" is in italics. A real spiritual person would take the time to find out why there are words in italics in your Bible. Now, that is what a real spiritual person would do. A real spiritual person would not come down and read "unknown tongue" and just make it whatever you want. A real spiritual person would stop and say, "That word does not look like the other words. Oh, that word is in italics. Wow! There is

another word in italics. Wow! There are a number of words in italics in my Bible. Gee, I wonder why the words in italics are in my Bible." Now, that is what a real spiritual person would do, or you would think they would say.

Yet the average Christian today, the average charismatic, without exception, does not have one clue why there are words in their Bible that are in italics. They have no clue why the word "unknown" is in italics. Of course, the reason for that is simple. The reason for that is... by the way, if you have any other Bible than the King James Bible, if you have an NIV this morning, it will not even say the word "unknown" in there. They just take that word out and make it "tongues," and they make it real confusing. If you follow with me here, you will see why this thing has got the word "unknown" in it.

Let me talk to you about the words in italics. All the new Bibles take them out, and the reason why all the new Bibles take them out is because the new Bibles did not come off the same Greek text that the King James Bible came with. But we do not need to get into all that boring stuff today. But that is the fundamental reason. Let me tell you about the words in italics. When you go from one language to another, you have in language translation what they call idioms. Idioms are particles of words or words that make the sentence make sense. When you go from one language to another, direct translation, the idioms do not match up. So you cannot get a direct translation that makes sense going from, in this case, Greek to English. You could not do it if you went from German to English or French to German. Anytime you switch from one language to the other, the words are not going to match. The not matching of those words are called idioms.

What happened was when the King James translators translated the King James Bible from the Greek to the English, the words that they had to add, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, I might say, the words that they had to add to make the text make sense, they put in italics. Let me just tell you something about the King James translators. Again, this is not a history lesson this morning, but originally fifty-seven men started out—fifty-four men started out to translate the King James Bible. By the time they actually got down to it, some of them had died, and there were only forty-seven. Those forty-seven men met together, and they divided into six groups, and they were represented by Oxford, Cambridge, and Westminster, which was the main Bible aspect in England at that particular point in time.

When they translated the King James Bible, they were probably some of the most honorable, godly men the world has ever seen. They wanted to put out a translation that honored God. So when they had to add words that were in the thing to make the thing make sense, they were so honest in their intent that they put those words in italics so you and I, the reader, some 400 years later, would know what words they added to make the sentence make sense. You cannot get any more honest than that.

In this particular case here, as you come on down through here, you remember I told you last week that from the close of the book of Acts up to 1900, nobody on planet Earth spoke in tongues. Nobody healed. We came through the Bible basics yesterday, and I showed you when we came through the seven stages of church history, the seven periods of church history, I showed you that the great missionaries that went out around the world in the Philadelphia church

age, most of them were doctors. They were doctors because they were going to primitive countries where medicine was unheard of and people were under disease. So they actually went as medical doctor missionaries. Why? Because they did not have the power to heal. You are certainly going to tell me that Dr. David Livingstone, Robert Moffat, who spent fifty-one years in Cape Town, South Africa, you are going to tell me that Adoniram Judson, who spent his whole life in Burma, you are going to tell me that these guys who invested their whole life, many of them buried their wives and their children on the mission field, you are going to tell me that when David Livingstone, Dr. Livingstone, died in Africa, the natives loved him so much and knew his burden for Africa, before they sent him back to Westminster Abbey to bury him there, the natives cut out his heart and buried it in the soil of Africa because they knew that is where his heart was? You are going to tell me that those men did not have the power of God in their lives? I wonder where they would bury your heart tonight if you died. These men were the men that had the power of God, and not one of them spoke in tongues. Not one of them had the power to heal.

The King James translators, when they translated your Bible, knew that tongues was not unknown tongues, the tongues of angels. What the church of Corinth was doing was not legitimate. They knew what real tongues were, and they knew what the church of Corinth was all about, and they knew that the unknown tongue, this heavenly angelic language that they talked about, this gibber-jabber that they were doing, was not biblical. So the King James translators put the word "unknown" in front of that word so you know that was not the real tongues of Acts 2. I never met a charismatic on the planet Mars, Venus, and Saturn that understands what I just said, but that is the bottom line. That is the bottom line. The words in italics were there because of the fact that they knew that that was not Bible tongues, and he wanted the reader to know that what they were doing, you had to go through there and look at the places where Paul talks about real tongues in the chapter, and then they talk about the unknown tongues. He does not put "unknown tongues" when Paul talks about it. We will see it in a minute. There is a difference between tongues in a legitimate sense and the unknown tongue that the church of Corinth used. The King James translators were smart enough to know that that was not the real tongue. So when they translated it from one language to another, they put that word in there so you would know, and put it in italics to draw your attention to it. So, if you are spiritual and you are inquiring and you want to know the truth, you would ask yourself, "Why is that?" When you find it out, it makes the whole thing just go away. But we do not care what the Bible says anymore.

#### IV. Section 2: Edification and the First Rule of Tongues

Now, let me show you the second section here, and this will be 1 Corinthians 14:4-12. This is where I will show you what I was talking about just a second ago.

*1 Corinthians 14:4-12*

*He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.*

*I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.*

*Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?*

*And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?*

*For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?*

*So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.*

*There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.*

*Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.*

*Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.*

This is a great second section here that you need to mark off, because you want to put this by this section. Basically, we see that the job of the church, first and foremost, is to edify. If you look back at 1 Corinthians 14:3, it said that three things are supposed to happen when you go to church. You are here this morning. You are in church. Three things ought to happen today for you and to you:

1. You ought to get edified.
2. You ought to get exhortation.
3. You ought to get comfort.

Those are the three things that you ought to leave here with every Sunday. You should leave better than when you came, as I said just a moment ago. The job of the church, first and foremost, is to edify you. That is the job of the church. That is not what the church of Corinth was doing. They had taken the spiritual gifts of tongues, made it into an unknown tongue, and are lifting themselves up, edifying themselves, and the church is getting nothing. Because unknown tongues bring zero edification. Prophecy brings, and preaching brings, 100% edification.

Edification. Ephesians 4:8-12, the gifts that He gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, the teachers. Why? For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and the third thing was what? Edifying the body of Christ. That is the job. My job is to teach you truth clearly, plainly, where you can grasp it, that when you leave here, you leave better than you came in, that through the aspect of edification, exhortation, and your comfort, that you leave here better than when you came in. You see, to edify somebody helps you grow.

That is the job of the church. The job of the church is to help you grow by continually giving you truth, wisdom, understanding, to help you figure it out, that in our church, Sunday mornings, Thursday nights, but special classes like the Bible basics, the one-on-one, it all leads to one thing: it helps perfect you and puts you into the work of the ministry as you get edified as the body of Christ. This is what the church of Corinth is not doing.

He is saying when you speak in an unknown tongue, or even an unknown language, and nobody understands, nobody gets edified. I mean, that is what he is saying. He says in 1 Corinthians 14:4, he says, "You edify yourself and nobody else." Now look at 1 Corinthians 14:5, 6, and 9. "I would that ye all speak with tongues." You see, there is no "unknown" there. Look at 1 Corinthians 14:6, "Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongue." There is no "unknown" there. Look at 1 Corinthians 14:9, "So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words." There is no "unknown" there. You see, when Paul talks about the correct usage of tongues in the biblical sense, he does not put the word "unknown" in front of it. But when he is talking about the gibber-jabber, that unbiblical stuff that they are doing, that is when the King James translators put the word "unknown" in so you know there was a difference between the two. That is Bible basic. I cannot figure, how do you read a map and you cannot figure that out in your Bible? I mean, that is as easy as the sun coming up in the morning.

1 Corinthians 14:9 says in the church, you edify people here. It is with words that are easy to understand. You do not get up and talk about concepts and words that people do not understand. What good is that? I get up here, and I talk to you about soteriology. What good is it? I talk about angelology. What good? I talk about eschatology. What good is it? I stand up here and talk about, use words that nobody in the Bible ever used, and you are supposed to go out and be edified with that. You would have to have a Webster's dictionary you would carry around with you. Edifying is done by taking the Bible, breaking it down into a simple form with words that are easy to understand, and then giving you those words and giving you the truth. This is the number one job that I do. My job is real simple. It does not have many aspects to it, but the fundamental, number one aspect of my job is to take a Bible that looks hard and complicated and then show you how easy and simple it is. Brother, if you just finished Bible basics, you know that is exactly what we did. We took a Bible that everybody tells you takes thousands of years to learn. We took a Bible that everybody in this city says you have to know Greek and Hebrew to figure out. We took a Bible that runs 36,170-something words. We took a Bible that just, it completely, the world looks at it and Christians look at it, think it is unapproachable, and I showed you how basic and easy it is, and just in three months, and just three classes, if you did your work, you are farther ahead than most guys who spend three years in Bible college of getting a handle on your Bible. Why? That is the job of the church. Where did we get the idea that the pastor's job is to make it more complicated? Your life is already complicated enough. You do not need me adding to the complication of it. When we see this and understand this, you do edification by words that are easy to understand.

I told you yesterday that on September 24th, I am again going to take one last Saturday, and I am going to show you twenty or thirty key words in your Bible that are easy words that will break

the whole Bible down for you in context, where every time you find this word in Scripture, that tells you what you are dealing with.

## V. Section 3: Rule 1 - The Need for an Interpreter

All right. Now look at section 3, and this will be 1 Corinthians 14:13-19. Here is where we start to get the rules on speaking in tongues. You want to get these rules down, kind of laid out in a format here. Now, here we go.

*1 Corinthians 14:13-19*

*Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.*

*For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.*

*What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.*

*Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?*

*For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.*

*I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:*

*Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.*

Now, I have been preaching now for about forty minutes, and I did not count the words I have said, but I guarantee you I have said more than five. If I got five to ten thousand right now, I am probably looking at whatever I have said to you is probably at least six or seven million times more important than anybody getting up and giving you five days straight of speaking in tongues. You know why? Because you can understand what I said.

Now look what he says in 1 Corinthians 14:14-18. Note the example that he uses in 1 Corinthians 14:15. He says you pray, and people understand what you say. You sing songs in your spirit, and people get blessed by the words of the song, and people say amen because they understand what you are saying. So when you pray and you sing the words of the song or your words in a prayer, people get edified. But when you start to preach, you speak in an unknown tongue. Nobody knows what in the world you are saying, so nobody gets edified. This is what he is saying. This is what he is saying, and in the church, five words of understanding are better than ten thousand in an unknown tongue.

Here is rule number one:

- 1.) If you are going to speak in tongues, you have to have an interpreter.

If you are going to speak in tongues, you have to have an interpreter. Now, tongues in an original form were a language that we know, that we have studied that from Acts 2. When somebody

would speak in tongues to somebody, to the languages that were there, there would be other people they did not know it. Somebody would interpret for them what he is saying, much like if you go to a foreign country. I have spoken through an interpreter many, many times. I speak it in English, and he speaks it in Spanish or German or whatever the case may be, and you go through a translator. The people that speak German, who do not speak English, understand it, as people that speak English and not German, they understand it. Everybody gets edified. But when you stand up there and you talk about something that nobody can interpret, you see what he did is basically with rule number one, he threw out speaking in an unknown tongue.

Let me show you how human nature gets around that. Remember now, you are spiritual, you are a prophet. These things are the commandment of the Lord. He just told you that you cannot speak in a tongue without it is unknown or a language if there is not an interpreter, because the number one issue is not you speaking in tongues, it is the church getting edified. If nobody knows what you are saying, what is the point?

You know the Roman Catholic Church, what they did after Vatican II, they put the Mass in English. Before Vatican II, the Mass was in Latin, and a lot of the old-time Catholics, they liked that. I mean, the Catholic Church has a lot of things going for it if you just like that aspect of religion. I mean, you are in a big old dead, dark, beautiful building. It echoes, and the mysterious mystique about it is going to a church service where some guy gets up and says, "Amino, Nana, Nana, Nana's blessed be the, you know, blessed be the fruit of the womb, you know, Obama the daughter," so do it in Latin, and everybody says, "Oh my God, that is so spiritual." You walk out of there, "That was a spiritual time." "Yeah, what did he say?" "Well, I do not know what he said, but man, I sure felt spiritual." The younger Catholics quit going, and the church had a dilemma. Then what they did after Vatican II, they started putting the Masses in English. You know why? Because the younger crowd coming up, they were going there saying, "What is that all about? I do not know what he said." So they would go someplace where they understood something, so they had to adjust to that.

That is what you have here. You came here every morning and every Sunday, and all I did was get up and jibber-jabber, and I was dancing around. I had a power of God in my life, and you said, "Boy, he sure is happy. I will tell you what, that was a great service this morning." "Yeah, what did he say? What did you get out?" "I do not know. He can jump." You do not get anything out of it. You have to have an interpreter.

Let me show you how human nature gets around that. Human nature gets around that in several ways. Years ago, I had three charismatic guys come into my Sunday School ministry years ago, and they started putting out this stuff about speaking in tongues and all that. So finally, I called them in, and they got to the point where I would say, "Look, what are you guys doing?" There were three of them, and one kid said, "Well," he said, "I have the gift of healing." The other kid, I said, "That is great." The other kid said, "I have the gift of tongues." And the latter kid said, "Well, I have the gift of interpretation of tongues." So I said, "Well, that is great. I have a gift, my discernment, and I think you are both—all three of you—phony. Do not do it anymore." Human nature always finds a way around it if you do not want to do what the Bible says. I mean, he said

you have to have an interpreter, and if you speak in an unknown tongue and nobody can interpret it, then do not do it. Do not do it. Do not do it.

Years ago, I had a friend of mine, he is in the ministry, named Jim Lake. We did a lot of things back when I was young, probably goofy things. I do not think you could get away with it now, but back then, we used—we had what we called a tent ministry, and it was not really to go up and put up a tent and preach. It was to go to—we had a lot of charismatic evangelists come through, and they put up tents on empty fields and had big revival services, and the tent ministry was going in and taking over the tent. If you were smart about it, it was really easy to do, and that is where I learned a lot of preaching. I do not tell you this to do it today. I do not think you can do it today; you would get shot. But anyway, back then, they were pretty stupid, and if you went in there and you sat down in the front row and you got in there, sooner or later, the guy was going to need—we always would do that. We would all take turns doing it, and the guy would say, "If you want to give a testimony." Well, we knew that the guy had not preached yet, and he was going to basically just waste a lot of people's time. So we had always worked the deal where whoever's night it was, that when the guy would ask if anybody wanted to testify, one of the guys would say, "Yes." So the guy would go up to testify. He would preach for forty minutes. One night, it was my turn, and the guy said, "I want to hear from the happiest man." He was bouncing around, you know, and doing all their goofy stuff, and he said, "I want to hear from the happiest man here." I said, "That is me right here. That is me." He says, "Come on up here." And I preached for an hour. I preached for an hour. Had three people saved. You know, that is what you did.

But my old buddy Jim Lake, he is a pastor up in Montpelier, Vermont. He was a lot older in the Lord than I was, and he helped me in a lot of ways. He was a tongue speaker in our crowd, and he would always tear up the service. There was another thing that we did that he would get up and he would start speaking in tongues, but it would be the bibble-babble stuff, no language. Sure enough, to pull the facade off the phony person in the crowd, some lady would get up and start interpreting. So Jim is going off a lot about that, "I'm die feet five oh, pomme is well above an Englishman," you know. And he would go through that thing, and sure enough, this lady jumps up on the side, and she starts saying in English what he is saying and blessing the crowd. Jim goes about five or six minutes, and he stops and looked at her. He said, "That is not what I am saying." He had to take over. He said, "You have to have an interpreter. You have to have an interpreter." Biblically, this puts them right out of business, but you see, human nature always finds a way.

## VI. Section 4: Rule 2 - Tongues as a Sign for Unbelieving Israel

Now I will show you the fourth section. Look at 1 Corinthians 14:20-22.

*1 Corinthians 14:20-22*

*Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.*

*In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.*

*Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.*

Here is rule number two, and you notice how Paul and I are on the same track. The second rule he gave them is the very first thing I gave you. He quotes Isaiah 28. I gave you that three weeks ago. He goes back to Isaiah 28 and tells them that in the prophecy of Isaiah 28:11, tongues are for the nation of Israel. He goes right back to the Bible, just like I did. He goes back and he quotes exactly in 1 Corinthians 14:21, "this people." Isaiah 28:14 says "this people" that is in Jerusalem, and he puts it right back in Acts 1 and Acts 2, just like we did. He says the sign for them that believe not, that is Israel. He says prophesying is not for them that believe not. Prophesying is for you that are already saved, that you grow.

I told you this Thursday night, most people do not understand the fundamental concept of the church. Most people do not realize that the fundamental concept of a New Testament local church, God did not start the church to save anybody. Did you notice over there in Ephesians 4 when he gave gifts unto men? He said for the what? He said for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. God never intended the church to save anybody. God intended the church to equip you, to give you the tools, to make you what God wanted you to be, to get into the ministry, and then you go out and win them to Christ. Then you bring them to church. They get edified. They get... We get somebody comes in here, brings it, and they get saved in the Bible study, they get saved in a church. That is going to happen. But fundamentally, that is not the job of the church. The job of the church is to equip you. Fundamentally, your job is to bear fruit between you and the Holy Spirit of God and winning people to Christ. Then you bring them back here. We train them up, and the whole process just keeps going over. That is the concept.

That is why we are here, not to spoil it, not to get people saved, though if you want to get saved, I am glad I led you to Christ. But my primary purpose is not to get people saved. Then you have pastors who mess that up. Every sermon they get up, it is about somebody needs to get saved. I have been in churches where all the guy knows when he gets up there, he may start wherever he starts, he winds up screaming and yelling and just telling about everybody dying, going to hell, and he never teaches his people anything about the Bible. He never edifies anybody. He has got one channel, and that is winning people to Christ. I am all for winning people to Christ, but I am also smart enough to know that this church on Sunday morning is going to be very limited in winning people to Christ if I train 150 people here this morning to go out in the world and win people to Christ, then bring them back here. That is what I am talking about. That is the way it is supposed to work.

That is why the fundamental job is to edify you, light a fire under you, get you to realize that when God saves you, He gave you a job, and that job is to get the power of God. But you have to get some things out of your life to get the power of God. You have to have the character of God. That is edification. That is exhortation. Edifying is to give you truth. Exhortation is lighting a fire

under your rump to get it done. That is why you know you have seen it in this church. We have had planning sessions on New Year's Eve where we have laid out the next year, and somebody was lost, and we gave an invitation. They got saved. How do you get saved at a planning meeting? Unless you just do not want to get left out of the plan. I do not know, it happens. But the bottom line is, fundamentally, that is not what this church is about. The church is about getting you equipped to be God's missionary, God's evangelist, that wherever you go, you win them to Christ and bring them back, and then we get them equipped by edification. Of course, if we stand up here and just do all the fruit loop stuff and just talk about all the stuff that does not edify anybody, nobody gets it. Nobody gets it done, and we walk around thinking, "Wow, we had a great service with God today. We had a great encounter with God. We had a great time. We spoke in tongues, and we felt the Spirit. Heaven came down, and glory filled my soul." Everybody leaves and says, "That is the stupidest thing I have ever been in my life."

## VII. Section 5: Rule 3 - Orderly Speaking in Tongues

Now look at section 5, 1 Corinthians 14:23-32. Here it comes.

*1 Corinthians 14:23-32*

*If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?*

*But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:*

*And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.*

*How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.*

*If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.*

*But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.*

*Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.*

*If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.*

*For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.*

*And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.*

Here is rule number three:

- 3.) In any given situation, only three people can speak in tongues.

Notice it is not "unknown"; it is "tongues." Paul does not use "unknown" here. He says only three people can speak in tongues, and they cannot do it at the same time. It says "by course," one, two, three. Here is how it worked in the early church. They got together, and somebody said, "Okay, we are going to start the service now." And somebody said, "Well, we have some Japanese people here. I have a message. I want to speak in tongues from God." He said, "Do you have an interpreter?" "Yes, I do." "Go ahead. You can do it." He is done. Somebody said, "Brother, I have a message to the Japanese, to the Korean people that are here. Do you have an interpreter so we all can get it?" "Yes, I do." "Go ahead and speak in tongue." Third guy after that. "Okay, folks." Somebody said, "Okay, I have a message." And some lady said, "Well, I have a message in tongues." He said, "No, folks, one, two, or three. Open your Bibles. We are going to have some preaching now." That is how they did it. That is exactly what it says.

Are you spiritual? Are you a prophet? Then you acknowledge that these things are the commandments of the Lord. He says one, two, three, by course, and if you have no interpreter, keep silent. That is how it works. He says if an unsaved man comes in and hears a hundred people going off at the same time, and everybody hanging from the ceiling, is he not going to say you are nuts? But if the same man comes to a place that somebody is preaching, painting off the wall, and he is preaching in a language that you can hear, and he is preaching the Word of God, he is laying the thing out, everybody gets convinced, everybody gets convicted, and the guy falls down on his face. He gets saved.

1 Corinthians 14:26, "Let all things be done for edifying." If you are not edifying the people when they come to church, and you are not doing it by the rules, then you are doing it wrong. I do not know of one charismatic church on the planet today that even knows these rules, much less follows them.

Then 1 Corinthians 14:32 is a great verse and principle, "The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." You know what that verse says? That verse says you control your own spirit in what you do. There are lots of things I would like to say to you when I preach or say to people when I preach that I do not say. I have things in the back of my mind that I think that probably would nail some people right between the eyeballs and hopefully would get them right with God, but I do not do it. There are things that I would like to maybe express one way and put it down into a way that everybody would get it, but I do not do it. You know why? Because the spirit of the prophets are subject to the prophets. When you do God's work, you keep yourself under control to the point that you do not look like an idiot. I am not up here representing me. I am not even up here representing Old Paths Baptist Church. I am up here representing God, and if you think I am going to look like an idiot because I do something absolutely stupid and off the wall, everybody goes... I do enough dumb things without somebody just doing it on purpose. The spirit of the prophets are subject to the prophets. You control what you do.

I have seen places. I grew up in the middle of it, and right up the road in Akron, Ohio, was a guy by the name of Ernest Angley. I remember seeing him. He was one of the greatest healers that you ever saw. He would have church services, and they would be lined up, three hundred people. His big deal was casting out demons. People would come down, and he would not let them talk, and he would ask them something and shut them up, and he would just take them, and he would

hit them. He would have two big guys right behind him, and he would just take them, and he would come out, "Come out!" And he would hit them right square in the face, knock them out. They would go back, and the people would carry him off, and everybody would clap and say, "He has been delivered! He has been delivered!" And people believed that. He was known as the greatest healer, and his wife died. His wife's name was Angel. If you would go to that grave site, there is a big golden angel standing on her grave, a sculpted date, and he put on there, this guy was worth millions. Her name was Angel, and she died, and the greatest healer in Ohio could not save her from dying. He could bring everybody else back from the dead. He could heal everybody else in a 209, but he could not do his wife. But he is so phony, and he always would explain it away, "Well, God is going to bring her back." Do you know what he did? My wife knows this is true. If you go to that graveyard and go to that grave, it will be the only graveyard and the only grave plot with a phone line going down into it, because Ernest Angley buried a phone in his wife's casket so that when God brought her back to life, she could call and have him get her out. Now, God is the only one who can appreciate the real beauty in that, because obviously when they were carrying her down and dropping her in that hole, somebody dropped the casket on the wrong end, and the phone is off the hook. He cannot figure out why he gets an unknown busy signal every time. This woman is a talker. You are laughing, but you know what? That man made millions and millions and millions of dollars off of stupid God's people who bought into that, who never read their Bible, never got into that Bible, and he would funnel money into that just like it was, it was just like he was Robert Schuller.

That is what it is. Boy, you go into those places that a thousand people are going gibber-jabbering at the same time. People are falling over the pews, kicking around, going around in a circle. You think breakdancing is bad? Go to a charismatic church sometime. They are passing out. They are falling over, being slain in the spirit. Some saved guy comes in there, and he says, "I want out of here." You come into a place where somebody is taking the paint off the wall, and you are unsaved. You may be uncomfortable. You may want out. You may not like it, but you are getting a message.

## VIII. Section 6: Rule 4 - God is Not the Author of Confusion

Now here is probably the greatest. This is section 4. It is one verse, and this is rule number 4. This is in 1 Corinthians 14:33. This is a great principle.

*1 Corinthians 14:33*

*For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*

That is a great verse. This is one of the greatest principles in the Bible, not just for your own personal life, but for in this particular situation here, that is why it is in this chapter. God is not the author of confusion. When you go into a church and it is confusing, when you go to a church that is not plain and simple, when you are going to a church that is not everything is made where you can get it and grasp and get a handle on it, and it is all confusing, and you are wondering around what is going on and who is doing what, who is saying what, then that is a principle here, and it is a rule. God is not in that.

Now if you are spiritual and you think yourself to be a prophet, that there is a commandment of the Lord, God is not the author of confusion. Again, 1 Corinthians 14:26, "Let all things be done unto edifying." That is what you have got.

## IX. Section 7: Rule 5 - Women's Silence in the Church

Now look at section 7. This will be 1 Corinthians 14:34-35, and this will be rule number 5. Now remember, this is going to be a touchy one. Are you spiritual? Think yourself to be a prophet? Do you? Are you? Okay, you are charismatic. You have the gifted one. You have the baptism of the Holy Spirit. You are really in touch with God. Okay, well, then you have to acknowledge that these things are the commandment of the Lord.

Look at 1 Corinthians 14:34.

*1 Corinthians 14:34-35*

*Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.*

*And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.*

Then rule number five is:

- 5.) No women get to speak in tongues.

Now what do you do with that? I will tell you what they do with it. This is a good thing. I will tell you what they do with it. They will tell you that that is not speaking about tongues. I had a woman one time, and I was dealing. I said, "Well, the women do not speak in tongues." And I said, she says, "If you took the women out of the charismatic movement, you would not have charismatic movement." She was all hot. Three or four ladies were all hot, and she said, "That is not what that is talking about." And I said, "Well, ma'am, that is what it is talking about. That is the context." I was getting ready to explain it to her biblically, but you know the Bible says, "Answer a fool according to his folly," that is the wise rule. Then sometimes it says, "Answer a fool not to his folly." So when she was shooting her mouth off, I decided to go on that one instead of the first one. And she said, "That is not what it is talking about." She said, "You are wrong. You are wrong. You are teaching heresy." I said, "Oh, what is it saying? It says that a woman should not even speak in church." I said, "Well, shut up and sit down then." I mean, either way you go, you are fixed. You are fixed.

Then here again, a complete reject. Did you ever notice that all false religions, or all heresy teachings, they all have to add something other than the Bible? The Jehovah's Witnesses used the King James Bible for almost a hundred years, and they were getting their tails kicked by Baptists with the King James Bible so much that finally they had to dump that, and they came up with their own translation that they changed everything, and they wanted to go along with. It is called the New World Translation, totally theirs. We have Mormons that live over here in Independence, and the great Mormon Church out in Utah. You see, they have a Bible, but the Bible is not

enough for them because they cannot prove what they want to believe from a Bible. So they have to have a Book of Mormon that adds to the Bible to get across what the Bible does not say, but what they want to believe, so it works. That is how it works. Catholics do the same thing. You cannot find anything the Catholics teach in the Bible, so they have to have the Apocrypha. They add fourteen more books that you do not have just so they can prove what they want to believe.

Modern-day Baptists do the same thing. They do the same thing. They are all in the same boat. They cannot just take the Bible where it is. They have to go to the Greek and the Hebrew to get their point across. I mean, they all do it, and the charismatic does the exact same thing. Muslims do it. Muslims cannot stand the Bible the way it is because in their Bible, in the Bible that you and I have, all the blessings and the promises go to Isaac. They cannot deal with that, so they have to write their own book called the Quran that takes all the promises from Isaac and puts them on Ishmael. They cannot stick with the one book. Nobody can. Nobody can. The Jews do the exact same thing. They do not teach out of the Old Testament anymore. They teach out of the Midrash or the Talmud. You know what that is? That is two books the rabbis wrote to get around the Bible with all the prophecies of Jesus Christ in it. Charismatic does the same thing. It does not accept the Bible. His experience is his deal. What he has experienced, his speaking in tongues. I have had him tell me a thousand times, "You cannot deny my experience." I said, "Sure I can. Watch." "Well, this is my experience. This is what I have. This is what I take." "The Bible says this." "I do not care what the Bible says. I have had the experience." That is their final authority.

Now, like it or not, and as hard as it may be, that is the true test for any church. If you are looking for a church, just give you a piece of advice, it does not cost you nothing. The thing you want to look for is a church that believes the Bible plus nothing. The Bible plus nothing. If the Bible is not everything we need in the form that God gave it to us, then we are wasting our time. If I have to go out and get something else that man wrote to prove what I want to believe because I cannot substantiate it in here, I am in the wrong business. The true test of any ministry, any church, or any preacher, or any Christian for that matter, is your stand on this book, that it is this book plus nothing. Zero. That is it. That is it.

Now let us get a context of this. In this chapter, we are big on context around here. We should be. Twenty-one times in this chapter, you have to mark these. I am going to give them to you. Get a little yellow pen and mark them up. They are all marked in my Bible. It is the way you want to do it. You cannot go to heaven without a yellow China marker.

Look at 1 Corinthians 14:2. You see the word "speak" or some form of that word two times. In 1 Corinthians 14:3, you find it once. In 1 Corinthians 14:4, you find it two more times. In 1 Corinthians 14:5, you find it two times. In 1 Corinthians 14:6, once. In 1 Corinthians 14:9, you find it two times. In 1 Corinthians 14:11, once. In 1 Corinthians 14:13, once. In 1 Corinthians 14:14, once. In 1 Corinthians 14:18, once. In 1 Corinthians 14:19, once. In 1 Corinthians 14:21, once. In 1 Corinthians 14:23, once. In 1 Corinthians 14:27, once. In 1 Corinthians 14:28, once. In 1 Corinthians 14:29. Now you have twenty-one times that he uses the word "speak" or some form of that word, and every one of those times he uses it, he is talking about speaking in tongues. But suddenly when we get to 1 Corinthians 14:34, it is talking about something else?

You are out of your mind. The context of this chapter is speaking in tongues, and rule number five in section number seven is women do not speak with tongues. End of story. Period. Exclamation mark. But you see, that is kind of tough when you realize that the charismatic movement started in 1900 out in Los Angeles with a woman who blows your whole thing right out the window. Aimee Semple McPherson. The Azusa Street Mission on Azusa Street in Los Angeles, still there, the mission is still there, and that is what you are dealing with.

Now, you are a prophet, you are spiritual. Well, these things are the commandment of the Lord. You see, that book will make you or break you. God will put you in a situation just like that where you have to change the way you think, or you have to just walk away from the clear teaching of the Bible, because that book reads your meter, brother. It will pull your dipstick, and you will be four quarts low. I guarantee you.

## X. Section 8: Rule 6 - Decency and Order

This is section 8. That is what we all need to be.

*1 Corinthians 14:36-40*

*What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?*

*If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.*

*But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.*

*Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.*

*Let all things be done decently and in order.*

Rule number six is that God has an order in everything He does. That is true of everything in the Bible. What you are getting in 1 Corinthians 14 that puts an end to the spiritual gifts concept is He is showing you that if you are going to speak in tongues, then you better do it by the Bible, and if you do not do it by the Bible, then do not do it. All things have to be done decently and in order. What you saw yesterday at the end of our Bible basics, or list at the end of that third one, anyhow, that is what we did with the Bible, did we not? I told you yesterday that what we did was basically take the Bible and break it down into eight sections, show you the order of those eight sections, and then give you not only the main events that take place from Genesis to Revelation, but we simply put them in the right order. Now you have everything in the right order, the way it lays out, with the definitions of what it is. That is how you learn your Bible. God does everything in an order, an orderly fashion, by an orderly God. Everything needs to be done in order.

When I was in Ohio, we were out at the mall one day, and we were walking around, and the kids were getting a little dinky stuff, and my girls were picking up stuff they needed to get, and I was sitting down. I was just kind of sitting in the middle of the mall. I like to watch people. There was this lady that was sitting next to me. She was probably, you know, maybe late fifties, early sixties, and she was very nice, very nicely dressed lady, and she was sitting, you know how they

put those big easy chairs out in the mall, and she was sitting here, and I was sitting there, and the grandkids came over, and they usually wanted money. So I sent them on their way, and she was very pleasant, and she says, "I take it you are not from around here." And I said, "No, we are from Ohio." She was very nice. I talked to her. She said, "Oh," she says, "What part?" I said, "I am from Kansas City." I said, "I am really from Ohio." And she said, "Well, what part of Missouri are you from?" I said, "Kansas City." And she said, "Oh," she said, "I hear that is lovely." I said, "Yes." She said, "What do you do?" She said, "Beautiful grandchild." I said, "Yeah," I said, "They are adopted, but they are really nice." She says, "That is not true, is it?" "No, who is your favorite grandpa in the whole wide world?" "All right, okay." So she said, "What do you do?" And I said, "Oh, I am a pastor." She says, "Oh, a pastor." She says, "I was married to a pastor once." And I said, "Oh, really?" I said, "You know, I am not going to say, 'Well, what happened to that?'" I said, "That is nice." I said, "That is great." Then she began to tell me. She says, "Do you do a, what kind of, what kind of church do you have?" I said, "We have a Baptist Church." And she says, "Oh," she says, "And I told her most of our church is young couples." And she says, "Oh, that is wonderful." She says, "I bet you do a lot of marital counseling." And I said, "Oh, yeah," they said, "That is probably the number one process." "Oh, I know," she says, "You know what?" She says, "I found the secret to life, and it is really, and it was just getting things in the right order." And I thought, "Well, I am just, maybe she is going to teach me something." She says, "Yes, I have been married four times." And she says, "You can tell your people." She says, and now she is like world buddies now. She is tapping me on her shoulder, and she said, "You can tell your people," she said, "The key to a great life is being married four times." And I said, "Really?" I said, "Yes." She says, "My first husband, my first husband was a banker." And I said, "Well, that was nice." And I said, if she says, "Then I married him for a while. My second husband was a movie producer." And I said, "Well, that is really good." She said, "Now my third husband, he was the preacher." And I said, "Well, that is an interesting order." She said, "Oh, no, my last husband, the one I am married to right now, he is an undertaker." And I said, "Well, that is pretty interesting." I said, "Okay, may I ask what is the reasoning behind that?" She said, "Oh, it is easy. One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, four to go." And she said, she said, she says, "Did not you like that?" I said, "Yeah." Off the stings, he went on the cement. Now that is an order she had.

You have to have an order. The Bible is in an order. God is an orderly God, and that is what you have to have. You see, the church of Corinth, they are acting like the Bible started and ended with them. They are acting like that they are right and everybody else is wrong, and Paul says, he says there, he says, "What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?" You think you guys have the corner on the Bible? You have all this spiritual stuff going on that you are trying to pretend you are the only people in the world who have got the truth. He says, "Let me tell you something, if any man think he is a prophet or you think you are spiritual, do you? I mean, you are acting like it." Then he nails them. "Well, let me tell you something, if you are a prophet and you are spiritual, then the things I am telling you are the commandments of God." Now you either have to fish or cut bait. You either get it lined up with the Word of God, or if you want to stay ignorant, stay ignorant. Shoot yourself, whatever you want to do. But then he closes out by saying this, "That all things be done decently and in order." When it comes to spiritual gifts in these chapters, that is what he does, and you should get that in your Bible. You should

understand these three chapters as a set. You should get what he said in 1 Corinthians 12, break it down. Get what he said in 1 Corinthians 13, break it down. And then break down what we did today and get the rules, because the rules put the charismatic right out of business today, and then it is real easy. It is real simple, and your choice today, wherever you are sitting on the fence with it, it is real easy. You are going to take the Bible, which now you were told that the things that I just gave you were not from Bob Alexander, it was from the commandments of the Lord, or you reject it. You take the book, or you hold on to your experience, or your grandmother's experience, or your uncle's experience, or your mother's experience.

Now here is the bottom line. I have a completed Bible. This is why I do not need tongues today. Somebody comes to me and says, "I have got a message in tongues." My first question is, "Is it in the Bible?" "Yes, it is." "Then why do I need it from you when I can read it myself?" Somebody says, "I have got a message from God." "Is it in the Bible?" "No, it is not." "Well, I do not want it. I have got everything I need right here." This church stands on the Bible plus nothing. If this Bible cannot get us through life and everything in life and everything we have experienced in life, then we are shot. If this book is not what God claimed it to be, then I doubt if God is who He claimed to be. This book is the absolute standard of your life and my life, by which it is all you need. Man from time and eternity has tried to add to this book, bring other things in to get his point across when he did not agree with what God said. We do not do that here. We believe the book as we find it, and we take it as we find it, and we believe it as God gave it to us, and we do not look for anything else. The Bible is not a book to us that contained truth. The Bible to us is a book that is all truth. That is just the way that it is.

That is why I told you, you find how these things work, and you need to learn these things. My job here is to help edify you. If you are saved here this morning, no matter when you got saved, no matter where you are at in this spiritual pecking order of God, God has something He wants you to do. You may begin to understand it now. You may not get it. You may not have a clue, but I guarantee you, wherever you are at in your walk with God, if you are saved, God has something that He wants you to accomplish. The only way you are going to do that is to get edified, get exhorted, get comforted, and get everything that you need from that book, that the Spirit of God can begin to manifest Himself through you. You have to get rid of the character qualities of you, and you have to get the character qualities of God. When you do that, the Spirit of God will give you the gifts and the power for you to do whatever God wants you to do. That is what you have: 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14. We will hold up there.

Now let us have a word of prayer. The tapes are ready to be picked up for those of you from Bible Basics class yesterday. If you would like to get them, help yourself to the bookstore. Also, if you would like to, 4:30 today, let us be here on time. We will have a great time looking forward to it. All our military guys, if you are a visitor here this morning, you are certainly all welcome to come back. You say, "Well, I did not sign up." Do not worry about it. Come on and come. Do not bring nothing, just show up. You will be our guest this afternoon. We are thankful that you are here today. Hope you come back. Let us have a word of prayer, and then we will be dismissed. Do not forget, John Christison wants to meet his work team over here.

Let us pray. Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. We thank You for the Word of God, for its truth. We pray now, Father, that You will dismiss us, bring us back this afternoon, that we may honor the men and women in our church that have been faithful in serving our country. We thank You for bringing Shane home and keeping him safe. Lord, I know he has got to go back, but we pray Your hand upon him and let us just have a great time today as a family. This church is what we are. We all love each other. We all just care for each other the way it should be. Lord, let us always do things decently and in order, and never let us stray from that book. Always let everything we do be based on just a simple book that God gave us, and help me edify people with words easy to understand, and help me, Lord, to take them and bring them and give them everything that they need, that they have the best chance to be used of God, because, Lord, this church in itself is not the tool that You want to use. It is only made up of the people that You put in it, and help them to get to the point where they become a missionary for You and a witness for You in everything that they do in their jobs and their lives and their school and all that they do. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake, we ask it. Amen. God bless you. You are dismissed.