

Part 28 | PUBLIC WORSHIP:
The Procedure for Sign Gifts | 1 Corinthians 14
First Corinthians...Sinners Yet Saints

“How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.”

1 Corinthians 14:26

As Solomon said at the end of Ecclesiastes, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter,” and it is my intent to give a conclusion on the matter of tongues and sign gifts. It is my intent to demonstrate from Scripture that the miraculous sign gift such as tongues, interpretation, miracles, knowledge and prophesy ceased by the end of the first century in conjunction with the end of the apostles and the spread of the message of the cross.

I. The Purpose Of Tongues Has Ceased

- A. Tongues were used to authenticate the message of the cross (2, 19)
- B. Tongues were used to authenticate the messengers of the cross (Mark 16:14-18)
- C. Tongues were a sign for unbelieving Jews (v. 22, Acts 2, 10, 19)

II. The Procedure For Tongues Must Be Followed

- A. Limited to three per church meeting (27)
- B. Limited to one at a time (27)
- C. Must have interpreter before speaking (27)
- D. Women are not allowed to prophesy or speak in tongues in the church (34)
- E. Uninformed Jews should be present (v. 22, Acts 2, 10, 19)

III. The Period Of Tongues Has Expired

- A. The Evidence of the Biblical text (1 Corinthians 13:8-11)
- B. The Evidence of the Epistles
- C. The Evidence of 2 Corinthians
- D. The Evidence of church history

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be equipped, thoroughly furnished for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16

Small Group Discussion:

Read Together Acts 19:1-19 and answer the following questions as a group:

- 1) Who were the disciples mentioned in verse 1? (Who were they following?)

Three baptisms are listed in this passage. John’s baptism (3), Believer’s Baptism (5) and Spirit Baptism (6). John’s baptism was a proclamation of their repentance from sin, Believer’s baptism is a public proclamation of one’s identity with Jesus in salvation and Spirit Baptism is the act by which the believer is placed into the body of Christ. Notice the first two baptisms were acts of obedience by the individual, but the last baptism is a work of the Spirit. In the first two baptisms one is proclaiming their heart and life change. The last baptism is the Spirit’s work of uniting a believer with Christ in the body of Christ!

- 2) Where did Paul begin preaching?
- 3) The location of Paul’s preaching lets us know that he was engaging the uninformed/unbelieving Jews. It is in this context that the gift of tongues and prophesy were evidenced in the transformed lives. Why is this connection important?
- 4) Were Paul’s miraculous dealings in Ephesus normal according to this passage?
- 5) Examine Mark 16:14-18 and answer the question, “Is there a connection between this prophesy and Mark 16:14-18?”
- 6) Acts 2, 10 and 19 connected with Mark 16 demonstrates clearly the distinctly Jewish and sign nature of the gifts of prophesy and tongues. How would you use these Scriptures to help a person understand the temporary nature of certain spiritual gifts.