**EAGERLY DESIRE THE GIFT OF PROPHECY**

1 Corinthians 14:1-40

Key Verse 14:1

*“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.”*

1. Read verses 1-5. What two things did Paul next urge the Corinthians to do (1)? What does it mean to prophesy? To whom is speaking in tongues directed (2)? Prophesying (3)? Why did Paul emphasize prophesying? How can we excel in the gift of prophecy and use it to edify the church?
2. Read verses 6-12. What three examples does Paul use to illustrate the importance of meaningful communication? How does meaningless communication negatively affect the fellowship? What principle should guide us in developing and exercising our spiritual gifts (12)? How can we apply this principle in an individualistic society?
3. Read verses 13-20. If someone wants to speak in tongues in church, what should they pray and why (13)? What are the dangers of praying and singing without using our minds (14-17)? How did Paul use his gifts of tongues and prophesying (18-19)? In what respect were the Corinthians thinking like children and how did Paul help them (20)?
4. Read verses 21-25. How had God used the sign of tongues as a sign of judgment (21)? How did Paul apply this to the gifts of tongues and prophecy (22)? What two scenarios of worship did Paul give, and with what outcome (23-25)?
5. Read verses 26-33a. How did believers participate in worship in the Corinthian church (26a)? What principle must be followed in doing these things (26b)? What were Paul’s instructions about speaking in tongues (27-28)? About prophesying (29-32)? What kind of worship pleases God (33a)?

1. Read verses 33a-40. What instructions did Paul give the Corinthian women about public worship, and how did this help build orderly worship (33b-35)? What attitude should they have toward Paul’s teaching (36-37)? What is the consequence of ignoring it (38)? What was Paul’s conclusion (39-40)?