Message Outline



The Superior Gift

1 Corinthians 14:1-25

I. Introduction

II. The Superior Gift

1 Corinthians 14:1-4 (CSB)

1 Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, and especially that
you may prophesy. 2 For the person who speaks in a
tongue is not speaking to people but to God, since no one
understands him; he speaks mysteries in the Spirit. 3 On
the other hand, the person who prophesies speaks to
people for their strengthening, encouragement, and
consolation. 4 The person who speaks in a tongue builds
himself up, but the one who prophesies builds up the
church.

1 Corinthians 14:5 (CSB)

5 I wish all of you spoke in tongues, but even more that you
prophesied. The person who prophesies is greater than the
person who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets so that
the church may be built up.

1 Corinthians 14:6-12 (CSB)

6 So now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you speaking in
tongues, how will I benefit you unless I speak to you with a
revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? 7 Even
lifeless instruments that produce sounds — whether flute or
harp — if they don't make a distinction in the notes, how
will what is played on the flute or harp be recognized? 8 In
fact, if the bugle makes an unclear sound, who will prepare
for battle? 9 In the same way, unless you use your tongue
for intelligible speech, how will what is spoken be known?
For you will be speaking into the air. 10 There are doubtless
many different kinds of languages in the world, none is
without meaning. 11 Therefore, if I do not know the meaning
of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker, and the
speaker will be a foreigner to me. 12 So also you — since
you are zealous for spiritual gifts, seek to excel in building
up the church.

1 Corinthians 14:13-19 (CSB)

13 Therefore the person who speaks in a tongue should
pray that he can interpret. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my
spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What
then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with my
understanding. I will sing praise with the spirit, and I will
also sing praise with my understanding. 16 Otherwise, if you
praise with the spirit, how will the outsider say "Amen" at
your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are
saying? 17 For you may very well be giving thanks, but the
other person is not being built up. 18 I thank God that I
speak in tongues more than all of you; 19 yet in the church I
would rather speak five words with my understanding, in

order to teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

1 Corinthians 14:20-22 (CSB)

20 Brothers and sisters, don't be childish in your thinking, but be infants in regard to evil and adult in your thinking. 21 It is written in the law, **I will speak to this people by people of other tongues and by the lips of foreigners, and even then, they will not listen to me**, says the Lord. 22 Speaking in tongues, then, is intended as a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is not for unbelievers but for believers.

"For he will speak to this people with stammering speech and in a foreign language. He had said to them, 'This is the place of rest; let the weary rest; this is the place of repose.' But they would not listen." (Isaiah 28:11-12, CSB)

1 Corinthians 14:23-25 (CSB)

23 If, therefore, the whole church assembles together and all are speaking in tongues and people who are outsiders or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your minds? 24 But if all are prophesying and some unbeliever or outsider comes in, he is convicted by all and is called to account by all. 25 The secrets of his heart will be revealed, and as a result he will fall facedown and worship God, proclaiming, "God is really among you."

Takeshi Yozawa
Tokyo Baptist Church
August 2 & 3, 2025

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