

**“THE GIFT of PROPHECY”
(1 Corinthians 14:1-33)**

March 5, 2016

Paul turns to a spiritual gift that he certainly had, the gift of prophecy or, as we call it today, PREACHING.

The more common kind of prophecy in the Bible is forth-telling or speaking the TRUTH for God. That is what preachers do.

Paul makes a case for a “greater” gift – preaching.

- I. The ADMONITION to seek this gift**
- **Love should be the HIGHEST goal**
 - **But prophecy/preaching should be sought after ALSO**

Why is preaching so important?

He [Jesus] said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.” *Mark 16:15*

Jesus instructed his disciples to preach the gospel, which mattered because, as Paul wrote: *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...* *Romans 1:16*

And Paul said to his protegee: *Preach the Word...* *2Timothy 4:2*

II. The ADVANTAGES of this gift

- **It strengthens, encourages and comforts BELIEVERS**
- “My role is to comfort the afflicted – and afflict the comfortable!”**
-Spurgeon

- **It edifies the ENTIRE church**
Tongues edifies (educates) the user, while preaching edifies the HEARER.

- **It is Paul's DESIRE for the church**

- **It is Paul's BEST way of helping churches**

The church NEEDS preaching, and Paul needed to preach:

Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 1Corinthians 9:16

- **It is 2,000 times MORE effective than the gift of tongues**

III. The ANALOGIES concerning this gift

- **From the MUSIC world:**

No one understands the speaker, unless he uses CLARITY.

“We pursue clear and relevant biblical teaching.”

- **From the MILITARY world:**

Trumpets have been used from ancient times to stir the troops and get them ENGAGED. If the call is unclear, who will be ready to go?

- **From the DAILY world:**

In short, unclear language is USELESS language.

IV. The ADMONITIONS concerning this gift

Paul felt it important to lay out a few guidelines.

- **Very FEW should speak.**

- **Their words should be EVALUATED.**

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. Acts 17:11

- **The preacher should remain under CONTROL.**

For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace. (33).

We should all be thankful, but we should do even more: we should “desire” our gifts, in the sense of wanting to know and EMPLOY them.