

2 Chronicles 7:14, “And if my people [a client nation] who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven; will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” We need to pray for our president, our military and civilian leaders every day.

Matthew 6:34: Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will care for itself [Don’t concern yourself with the problems which may occur tomorrow.]. Each day has enough evil [trouble] of its own.

1 Corinthians: Outline of chapter 14:1-40:

1-25: Tongues is an inferior gift; amplifies 1 Corinthians 12:28

26-35: The regulation of tongues

36-40: The importance of living by doctrine

14:1. Pursue love [in one’s spiritual life: personal for God the Father and God the Holy Spirit; unconditional love for mankind and occupation with the Lord Jesus Christ] **and seek the spiritual gifts** [when you assemble], **but more** [importantly seek the communicative spiritual gifts such as prophecy] **that you may prophesy** [this gift not only involved foretelling, but forthtelling as well.].

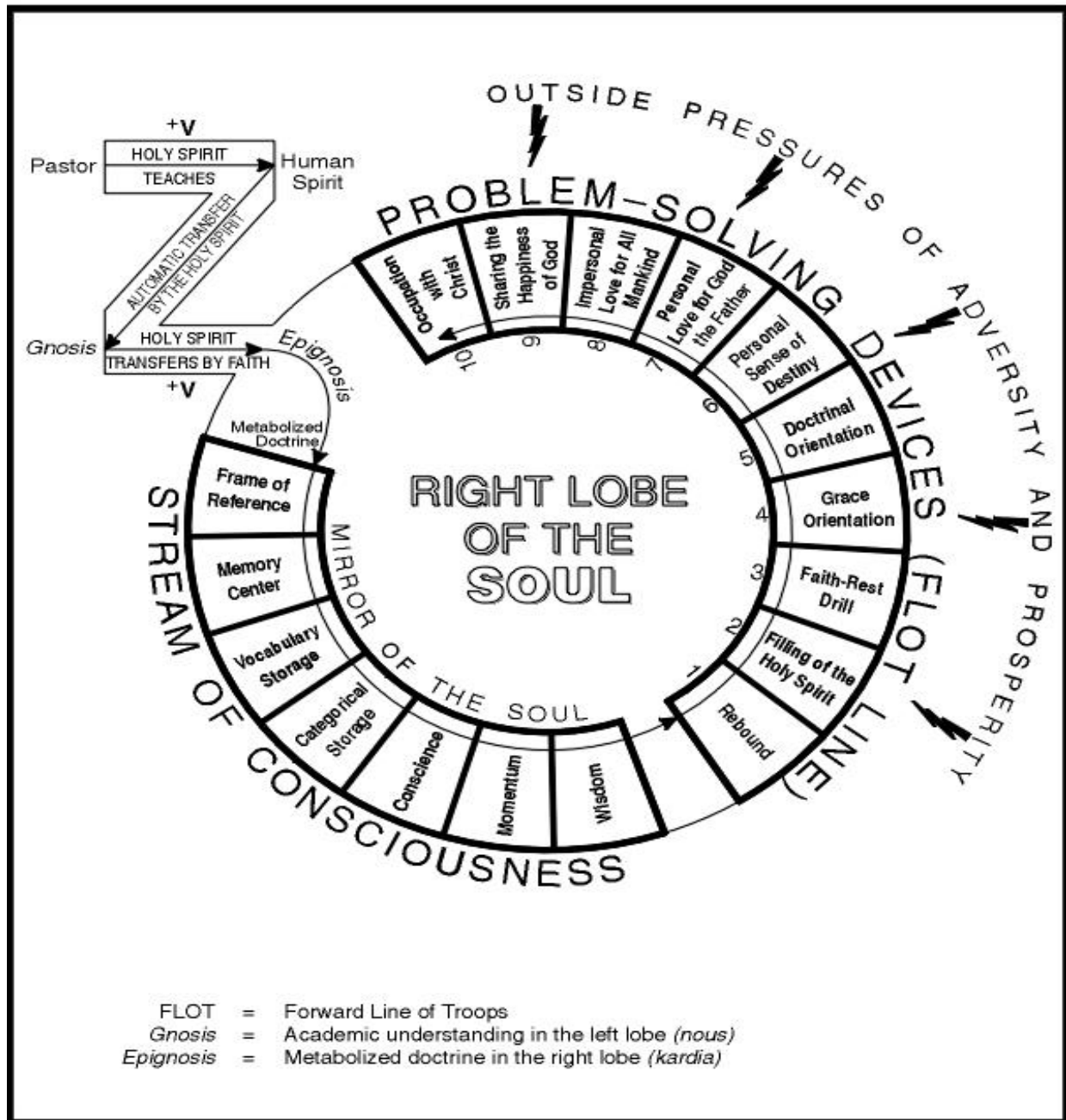
Διώκετε τὴν ἀγάπην, ζηλοῦτε δὲ τὰ πνευματικά, μᾶλλον δὲ ἵνα προφητεύητε.

In the spiritual life one must advance with two columns. The first is a doctrinal column and the second is the love-column: “But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. . .” (2 Peter 3:18a) The doctrinal column (subjects in Scripture) must be maintained by daily perception of doctrine via a prepared pastor. (There are hundreds of doctrinal subjects the believer must learn.) The second column must be maintained by our daily application of doctrine which increases our grace understanding and results in love for God the Father, God the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus Christ and unconditional love for all mankind. If the

Christian reciprocates God's love (1 John 4:19), he will receive the fullness of blessing from God (Ephesians 3:19; Romans 15:29).

How do we "pursue love"? The diagram below will help to answer that question.

CREATION OF PROBLEM-SOLVING DEVICES



Paul is addressing the Corinthian Church and not the individual believer. This explains why the two verbs in the imperative are all in the plural. Furthermore, one cannot command an individual believer to seek a spiritual gift as per the second command. (Spiritual gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit at salvation according to His will.) As a church, they are told to seek men with teaching gifts which edify the saints i.e. the gift of prophecy or pastor-teacher rather than other gifts [which do not edify the Christian believers].

Teaching gifts are important since without the communication of God's word the Christian cannot be edified spiritually. The essential teaching gifts for communicating doctrine to believers were prophecy, apostleship and pastor-teacher in the pre-canon period of the church. In the post-canon period only the teaching gift of pastor-teacher remains. (The Greek word '*mallon*' (more) is a comparative and implies that Paul is comparing non-communicative type of sensational gifts with the sensational gift of prophecy.) One can never develop a love for God through the gifts of healing, miracles or tongues, but through some type of communicative gift.

The gift of prophecy in the early church was not only used to warn Christians of personal and collective disasters about to take place, but also was used to communicate Church Age information. If the prophet understood church age-doctrine, he could communicate under the filling of the Spirit. The subjunctive mood indicates that the prophet had the potential of communicating to Christians as long as the prophet had sufficient spiritual growth and a clear understanding of the spiritual life.

The spiritual gift of communication like pastor-teacher requires more than just the spiritual gift itself in order to be prepared. He needs not only knowledge of the spiritual life, but also spiritual growth. These two generally go hand to hand that is the more he grows spiritually, the more he understands about the spiritual life. If the pastor is not an advanced believer, he will easily become arrogant. Furthermore, an immature pastor spiritually cannot understand well the advanced doctrines. So, a

congregation seeking a pastor, must not only consider the gift itself, but also the knowledge and spiritual growth of the person in question, and of course the languages.

Why didn't Paul command the Corinthians to become active in Christian service? Well, Paul understood that bona fide Christian service is the result of spiritual growth, not vice versa. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 makes this point very clear for verse 16 reveals the method of spiritual growth all the way to maturity. After obtaining much spiritual growth, verse 17 declares the believer ready for Christian service.

2 Timothy 3:16. All Scripture is God-breathed and is profitable for teaching, for rebuke [refutation of error], for correction, for training in righteousness [passing all the undeserved tests which develops great humility and virtue],

πᾶσα γραφὴ θεόπνευστος καὶ ὠφέλιμος πρὸς διδασκαλίαν, πρὸς ἐλεγμόν, πρὸς ἐπανόρθωσιν, πρὸς παιδείαν τὴν ἐν δικαιοσύνῃ,

“All Scripture” refers to the entire canon both the New and the Old Testament. The Greek word “theopneustos” means “God-breathed.” Breathing includes both inhale and exhale. The expression “God-breathed” tells us how God has revealed his plan through human writers. The inhale was God the Holy Spirit revealing to the writers of Scripture the message which he wanted written in the Bible. The exhale was the writing of the canon under the control of the Holy Spirit.

God the Holy Spirit so supernaturally directed the writers of Scripture that without waving [changing] their human intelligence, their individuality, their personal feeling or any other factor of human expression, his complete and coherent message was recorded with perfect accuracy in the original languages of Scripture; the very words [each word] bearing [having] the authority of divine authorship.

All Scripture is profitable for teaching. The Greek word for teaching is “didaskalia”. Teaching (didaskalia) is done by the one with the gift of teaching. After the departure of the apostles who possessed the gift of teaching, only pastors (ministers) are authorized to teach the Word of God. Only those with the gift of pastor-teacher (poimen- didaskalos) (Ephesians 4:11) are approved by God to teach adult Christians. This teaching is always to a group, never one person teaching another person individually.

Teaching to a group rather than to individuals helps to maintain privacy among believers. Actually, three things must occur in a local church in order to provide for maximum privacy. First, Christians in a local church should never tell other believers their sins. Second, gossiping must be prohibited and third the pastor must teach his congregation as a group.

The pastor has a spiritual gift to teach a group. He teaches all the adults in the church while the children are being taught elsewhere. It is the pastor’s responsibility to provide sufficient food each week for his adult members that they might grow spiritually. We mention this because today there is a false concept called “discipleship.” Under this concept, certain “so called mature believers” are assigned to teach new Christians. This is a violation of the spiritual gift of “Pastor-Teacher” for only this spiritual gift is authorized to teach adults. God never authorized a believer without the spiritual gift of communication to teach other adults. A new Christian needs to learn the spiritual life from a qualified pastor. A qualified pastor must possess several assets (qualifications). He must of course possess the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher. Second, he must be an adult-believer or even better a mature believer which implies that he will have a good understanding of the spiritual life and sufficient humility to handle his responsibility correctly. Finally, he must either know the original languages well or get the information from another pastor who is an expert in the original languages.

In discipleship, there is always some unqualified Christian attempting to teach another the spiritual life. This is the blind (unauthorized and

unqualified) leading the blind. Even a pastor is not authorized to teach Christians individually; yet, these people have the audacity not only to circumvent the authority of the pastor, but also to violate the privacy of the believer-priest by teaching to individuals.

Bible doctrine taught to the congregation is profitable for *reproof*. The Christian's motivation, thinking, decisions and actions may be incorrect. As he hears the word of God being taught by his pastor, the Word rebukes him. If the Christian recognizes his error, he has the chance to make the necessary *corrections*. You see, as the believer learns the Word of God, a mirror is formed in his soul. To the extent that this mirror is formed to that extent the believer can see himself as he really is. This helps him to see the errors (arrogance) in his thinking, motivation, decisions and actions. At that point he has the opportunity to make changes and to advance spiritually.

Step by step the Christian goes from false thinking, motivation, decisions, and actions to correct thinking etc. When the Christian fails to make the needed corrections, God administers punishment. If the Christian receives this punishment in humility, he will benefit from the punishment and correct his sinful thoughts and behavior. In this way, his experience becomes more righteous; he is *trained in righteousness* by God. The righteous Christian eagerly desires to learn more and more about God. The righteous Christian obeys God and all of his mandates. Thus, the righteous believer is both humble and mature.

Training in righteousness also includes advancing to Spiritual Self-Esteem, and from there to Spiritual Autonomy and then unto spiritual maturity and passing all of the underserved suffering tests related to these 3 stages of spiritual growth.

2 Timothy 3:17. that the man of God might be proficient [capable], **having been well equipped** [prepared by his advance to spiritual adulthood as found in the previous verse] **for every good work** [Christian service].

ἵνα ἄρτιος ᾖ ὁ τοῦ θεοῦ ἄνθρωπος, πρὸς πᾶν ἔργον ἀγαθὸν ἐξηρτισμένος.

The only Christian who is qualified (equipped) for Christian service is the virtuous believer, the one who loves God. In this passage verse sixteen precedes verse seventeen, spiritual preparation precedes service. Verse 17 is a result of verse 16!

Verses 2-6: The contrast between the gift of tongues and prophesy:

14:2. For the one [Christian] who communicates in a language [a foreign language through the gift of tongues; Acts 2:5-11] does not communicate to mankind in general [to the members of his own congregation who do not understand that particular foreign language], but to God [only God understood what the Corinthians were communicating in Tongues to their fellow believers] for no one [in the Corinthian Church] hears [with understanding for they did not know that language], but he [a Corinthian believer with the gift of languages] communicates mysteries [unknown by the majority] by means of his [human] spirit.

ὁ γὰρ λαλῶν γλώσση οὐκ ἀνθρώποις λαλεῖ ἀλλὰ θεῷ, οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀκούει, πνεύματι δὲ λαλεῖ μυστήρια·

The Greek word μυστήριον (*musterion*) is different from the English word mystery. In English when we think of a mystery, we think in terms of a murder mystery, but the Greek word was used in a much different way. It was used by the fraternities and sororities for their secret doctrines. Thus, the Greek word ‘*musterion*’ related to knowledge understood by a few, the members of the fraternity or sorority, but not by the general public. So, the phrase “communicates mysteries” means that only a few understood the gospel message communicated through the ‘Gift of Tongues’ (only the ones with the ‘Gift of Interpretation of Tongues’ and the ones who knew that foreign language).

The Holy Spirit would provide gospel information directly to the human spirit (“by means of his spirit”) of the one with the Gift of Languages

(Tongues) in whatever language was pertinent at the time of gospel presentation. From the human spirit this gospel information went directly to the vocal cords bypassing the soul of the individual with the gift. (This explains why even the one possessing the Gift of Tongues did not understand what he was communicating.) Therefore, God the Holy Spirit had to provide another spiritual gift namely, the Gift of Interpretation. The person with this gift had the supernatural ability to understand what was presented by the one with the Gift of Languages (Tongues), and as such could explain to others who did not understand what was taking place.

The Corinthian believers were using their spiritual gift of ‘languages’ incorrectly. For the most part, they were using it to impress their fellow believers in the Corinthian Church. In those situations, the only one who did understand was God. Occasionally, Jewish unbelievers did attend, and they of course did benefit from hearing the gospel through this miraculous Gift of Tongues.

Though communicating in an unknown languages falls under the Greek definition of a mystery, it is not one of the mystery doctrines as found in the New Testament epistles.

14:3. But one who prophesies [a communicator in the early Church] **speaks to men** [Christians in the church] **for edification and exhortation and consolation.**

ὁ δὲ προφητεύων ἀνθρώποις λαλεῖ οἰκοδομὴν καὶ παράκλησιν καὶ παραμυθίαν.

These are the three objectives in communicating the Word to the members of a congregation namely edification, exhortation and consolation. Edification is the teaching which builds the structure of the spiritual life in the souls of believers. Exhortation is the teaching which rebukes believers when they are in error. Consolation is the teaching which

comforts believers in suffering or difficulty. God's Word when taught correctly by the communicator edifies, exhorts and comforts.

The timing of the edification, exhortation and consolation of a communicator (presently pastors only) may not be in harmony with the desires of the particular members of the congregation. When the pastor's message edifies, it will apply to all; when his message exhorts, it will have an immediate impact upon those who are in need of a particular exhortation which will benefit them if they do not react subjectively to the exhortation. Consolation is pleasant for all especially to those who are in some type of suffering or difficulty. The bottom line is that the pastor cannot coordinate his teaching ministry with the individual desire of a particular member. Thus, a member may want to be consoled when the pastor is exhorting the congregation etc. In such a case, the individual member must be patient. (If, however the pastor has a recorded ministry, the member who is seeking answers to his problems may order the pertinent recorded message or messages).

14:4. He who speaks in tongues [in the church] edifies himself [arrogance], but he who prophesies [communicates God's Word], edifies the church.

ὁ λαλῶν γλώσση ἑαυτὸν οἰκοδομεῖ· ὁ δὲ προφητεύων ἐκκλησίαν οἰκοδομεῖ.

The gift of tongues (languages) was never designed for the edification of the members of a local church, rather it was designed to evangelize unbelievers (primarily Jewish) who functioned outside of the local church.

Explained briefly the gift of Languages (Tongues).

14:5. Now, I wish [Paul's strong desire to reach his fellow Jewish unbelievers] that you all spoke in tongues [for the purpose of evangelization], but even more that you would prophesy. And greater

is the one who prophesies than the one who speaks in tongues unless he interprets [through a person with the Gift of Interpretation; in this case interpreting the message from some foreign language into Greek] **so that the** [Greek speaking] **church may receive edifying** [the church could receive some edification if the message delivered via the Gift of Tongues was properly interpreted via the Gift of Interpretation].

θέλω δὲ πάντας ὑμᾶς λαλεῖν γλώσσαις, μᾶλλον δὲ ἵνα προφητεύητε·
μείζων δὲ ὁ προφητεύων ἢ ὁ λαλῶν γλώσσαις, ἐκτὸς εἰ μὴ διερμηνεύῃ,
ἵνα ἡ ἐκκλησία οἰκοδομὴν λάβῃ.

Assuming there was only one spiritual gift available. Under those circumstances, which one would be preferable in the local church? In the church, a communicative gift is essential whereas other gifts such as Tongues, miracles, healing are not. However, if all the Corinthians possessed the Gift of Tongues, it would be helpful in evangelizing the Jewish unbelievers coming into Corinth from all parts of the Roman Empire. This evangelism of course for the most part would be done outside of the local church.



14:6. But now brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what [how] will I profit you unless I speak to you [with a communicative gift] either by way of revelation [information made known to one by the gift of prophecy as to John on the Isle of Patmos] or of knowledge [what would be in the epistles] or of prophesy [near or far prophecy: Agabus prophesied Paul's imprisonment] or of doctrine [from the gift of teaching or apostleship]?

Νῦν δέ, ἀδελφοί, ἐὰν ἔλθω πρὸς ὑμᾶς γλώσσαις λαλῶν, τί ὑμᾶς ὠφελήσω, ἐὰν μὴ ὑμῖν λαλήσω ἢ ἐν ἀποκαλύψει ἢ ἐν γνώσει ἢ ἐν προφητείᾳ ἢ ἐν διδαχῇ;

The main purpose of the Gift of Languages was to evangelize Jewish unbelievers of the diaspora outside of the local church. Whereas a gift of communication was to communicate to believers usually assembled in a local church the following: revelation, knowledge, prophesy and doctrine.

14:7. Yet even lifeless things, whether flute or harp produce a meaningful sound, if it [the flute or harp] does not produce a distinction in tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp?

ὅμως τὰ ἄψυχα φωνὴν διδόντα, εἴτε αὐλὸς εἴτε κιθάρα, ἐὰν διαστολὴν τοῖς φθόγγοις μὴ δῶ, πῶς γνωσθήσεται τὸ αὐλούμενον ἢ τὸ κιθαριζόμενον;

In the church in Corinth, many spoke in Tongues which had no meaning to the Greek Christians in the church. As musical tones must have meaning to communicate so must languages. If the audience does not understand what the communicator is saying, what is the purpose?

14:8. For if the trumpet does not give a clear call who will prepare himself for battle?

καὶ γὰρ ἐὰν ἄδηλον σάλπιγξ φωνὴν δῶ, τίς παρασκευάζεται εἰς πόλεμον;

In the ancient world all battle commands were given by trumpet sounds. It had to be heard above the din of battle. Furthermore, these trumpet sounds had to communicate battle commands and had to be understood by the officers and soldiers otherwise there would be defeat in battle.

14:9: So also you, unless you utter by a language a speech that is clear [intelligible], how will it be known what is spoken for you will be speaking into the air.

οὕτως καὶ ὑμεῖς διὰ τῆς γλώσσης ἐὰν μὴ εὗσημον λόγον δῶτε, πῶς γνωσθήσεται τὸ λαλούμενον; ἔσεσθε γὰρ εἰς ἀέρα λαλοῦντες.

When the Corinthian believers spoke in Tongues in their church, it was unintelligible to the Greek believers. They were speaking to the air. It was meaningless and a total waste of time. Furthermore, it was indicative of a total lack of common sense.

14:10: There are perhaps a great many kinds of languages in the world and none without meaning.

τοσαῦτα εἰ τύχοι γένη φωνῶν εἰσιν ἐν κόσμῳ, καὶ οὐδὲν ἄφωνον·

The Lord created many languages at the Tower of Babel to discourage internationalism. Today, there are around 7000 languages and all have meaning. In every language, one must learn words, grammar and syntax.

14:11: If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me.

ἐὰν οὖν μὴ εἰδῶ τὴν δύναμιν τῆς φωνῆς, ἔσομαι τῷ λαλοῦντι βάρβαρος καὶ ὁ λαλῶν ἐν ἐμοὶ βάρβαρος.

The Greek word for barbarian has a different meaning than the English word barbarian. To the Greeks all foreign languages sounded like *bar bar bar* and so they called anyone who spoke a foreign language a *barbarous* from which we get the English word barbarian.

14:12: So also you, as long as you are enthusiastic about spiritual gifts seek that you may abound [in the gifts] to the edifying of the church.

οὕτως καὶ ὑμεῖς, ἐπεὶ ζηλωταὶ ἐστε πνευμάτων, πρὸς τὴν οἰκοδομὴν τῆς ἐκκλησίας ζητεῖτε ἵνα περισσεύητε.

In a worship service, the congregation must emphasize gifts which communicate since the members are edified through the teaching of doctrine.

14:13: Therefore, let the one who speaks in a tongue [the super natural gift of giving the gospel in a foreign language] pray [private prayer in his

own language] **that he may interpret** [through someone with the gift of interpretation].

διὸ ὁ λαλῶν γλώσση προσευχέσθω ἵνα διερμηνεύῃ.

In this way, he and others will understand what is being said. Remember that even the person with the Gift of Tongues did not understand what he himself was saying since his soul was not involved.

14:14: For if I pray [a hypothetical 3rd class conditional clause] **in a foreign language, my spirit** [human spirit] **prays, but my mind is unproductive** [The mind does not understand, and so it cannot benefit the individual].

ἐὰν [γὰρ] προσεύχωμαι γλώσση, τὸ πνεῦμά μου προσεύχεται, ὁ δὲ νοῦς μου ἄκαρπός ἐστιν.

Now that Paul has mentioned prayer in verse 13, he decides to use it as an illustration. If a person were to pray or sing in Tongues (a hypothetical situation) there would be no benefit to him since the soul would not be involved.

We know that this is a hypothetical 3rd class conditional sentence, since no one properly used the spiritual gift of languages to pray, sing hymns or to bless. Praying, singing etc. are functions for Christians, but the gift of Tongues (languages) was for a miraculous sign directed toward unbelievers for 1 Corinthians 14:22a states, “So then Tongues are for a sign [a miraculous sign] not to those who believe, but to [Jewish] unbelievers,”

14:15: What then is the conclusion? I will pray with my spirit, and I will pray with my mind. I will sing [hymns in worship] by means of my spirit; I will sing by means of my mind.

τί οὖν ἐστίν; προσεύξομαι τῷ πνεύματι, προσεύξομαι δὲ καὶ τῷ νοί· ψαλῶ τῷ πνεύματι, ψαλῶ δὲ καὶ τῷ νοί.

Hypothetically, if a person could pray via the gift of tongues, it would be of no benefit to the person since his mentality that is his mind would not be involved. However, if Paul were to pray or sing a hymn in the normal way through the use of his mind that is in his native language, then both his mind and human spirit would be involved.

14:16: Otherwise if [introducing a 3rd class conditional sentence] **you bless** [an expression by teaching, singing or praying] **by means of the human spirit** [via the gift of tongues], **how shall he** [the believer who is listening to a language he doesn't understand] **who occupies the room of the ungifted** [there is no one present with the Gift of Interpretation] **say** [future for logical progression] **“Amen” at your giving of thanks** [via the gift of languages] **since he** [the believer listening] **does not know what you** [the believer blessing via the gift of languages] **are saying** [because he doesn't know the language].

ἐπεὶ ἐὰν εὐλογῇς ἐν πνεύματι, ὁ ἀναπληρῶν τὸν τόπον τοῦ ιδιώτου πῶς ἐρεῖ τὸ Ἀμήν ἐπὶ τῇ σῇ εὐχαριστίᾳ, ἐπειδὴ τί λέγεις οὐκ οἶδεν;

14:17: For you are giving thanks well [hypothetically], **but the other person is not edified** [since the language is not understood].

σὺ μὲν γὰρ καλῶς εὐχαριστεῖς, ἀλλ' ὁ ἕτερος οὐκ οἰκοδομεῖται.

In verses 14 and 15, Paul uses himself as an illustration with a hypothetical 3rd class conditional sentence. In other words, verses 14 & 15 are not true, but only assumed to be true for sake of an argument. However, in verses 16 and 17, he addresses an individual member of the Corinthian Church. In these verses, Paul no longer uses a hypothetical 3rd class conditional sentence, but an actual one. Now he is addressing certain Christians in the Corinthian Church who are in fact distorting the use of the Gift of

Tongues. Some are applying their gift toward believers in the church at Corinth. They are using this gift in blessing, and in thanks- giving. This is a distortion and the false use of this wonderful gift which should be directed toward unbelievers only.

Other distortions of a spiritual gift:

A person with the gift of a pastor-teacher evangelizing a group of unbelievers or a person with the gift of evangelism teaching adult Christians is not going to work well. However, this may be required for a short time or on a particular occasion, but it will not suffice over a long period of time. For example, Billy Graham was first a pastor of a local church, until he realized that he had the gift of evangelism, not the gift of pastor-teacher. So, he made a correct decision by quitting his position of pastor and went on to become a great evangelist.

14:18: I thank my God that I speak with Tongues more than all of you.

εὐχαριστῶ τῷ θεῷ, πάντων ὑμῶν μᾶλλον γλώσσαις λαλῶ.

Since Paul was so desperately concerned for the salvation of the Jews, he was very thankful for his Gift of Tongues which he used outside of the church to evangelize his ethnic brethren. “My prayer and heart’s desire is that Israel might be saved.” Furthermore, Paul used this wonderful gift without ever abusing it (never tried to impress Christians with this gift).

If Paul had not possessed the spiritual gift of Tongues himself, the Corinthians would have said that Paul’s criticism of their use of Tongues came by way of jealousy. However, since Paul had the gift and had opportunity to use it in evangelizing Jewish unbelievers in his travels more than anyone else in the Corinthian Church, they could not use this subjective argument against him.

14:19: However, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind [using his native languages] **so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a foreign language** [via the Gift of Tongues].

ἀλλὰ ἐν ἐκκλησίᾳ θέλω πέντε λόγους τῷ νοῦ μου λαλῆσαι, ἵνα καὶ ἄλλους κατηχήσω, ἢ μυρίους λόγους ἐν γλώσσῃ.

In the church where the members spoke Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek or Latin, Paul used his gift of apostleship to communicate doctrine to those Christians. He never used his Gift of Tongues in a church where he himself knew the spoken language. To the members of a Jewish synagogue, he would usually communicate in Aramaic. To certain Jews who understood Hebrew, he would speak that language. To those in the Eastern Roman Empire, he would communicate in Greek; to those in the Western Roman Empire, he would communicate in Latin.

14:20: Brethren, stop becoming children in your thinking [with emphasis on sensational things such as on sensational spiritual gifts], **yet with reference to malice** [and other mental sins] **be like infants** [infants are free of mental sins since they lack the brain development and vocabulary], **but in your thinking become mature** [Take responsibility for your decisions and establish correct values through correct thinking from truth.].

Ἀδελφοί, μὴ παιδία γίνεσθε ταῖς φρεσίν, ἀλλὰ τῇ κακίᾳ νηπιάζετε, ταῖς δὲ φρεσίν τέλειοι γίνεσθε.

The distortion of the Gift of Tongues and the emphasis on the sensational spiritual gifts caused the Corinthians to act like children with emphasis on irrationality, false priorities, emotion and stimulation for emotion in itself is an empty physiological response which contains no doctrinal content, no thinking, no norms and standards, and no common sense. A person will never grow spiritually if he centers his life on emotional stimulation. As a person develops into adulthood, he should become an expert in his

native language that is he should accumulate a large vocabulary, understand the grammar and syntax of his language.

When Christians emphasize sensational things, it implies that they are also emotional. Sure enough, for both in 1 Corinthians and in 2 Corinthians, Paul makes it clear that the Corinthians were hindered in their spiritual lives because of emotion.

"And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual persons [believers filled with the Spirit], but as unto carnal [fleshly, belonging to the sin nature], as childish ones in Christ. I gave you milk [basic doctrine] to drink, not solid food [no advanced doctrines], for you were not able to receive it, and you are still not able [to perceive it]. For you are still carnal, belonging to the sin nature [self-fragmented], for since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not carnal and keep walking in conformity with men [unbelievers]?" (1 Corinthians 3:1-3)

"O you Corinthians, our mouths [means of communication by Paul, Apollos, and Timothy] have been opened face to face with you; our right lobes have been enlarged [we were prepared]. Therefore, you have not been hindered by us [Paul, Apollos, Timothy], but you have been hindered by your own emotions." (2 Corinthians 6:11-12).

Many Christians fail by substituting emotion for the spiritual life which incorporates God's thinking and plan for our lives.

"For many keep on walking [living out of fellowship] whom many times I kept on telling you and now even weeping I say that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ whose end is destruction [die the sin unto death] whose god is their emotions and their glory is their shame." (Philippians 3:18, 19)

14:21: In the Torah [the entire Old Testament was called the Torah by the Jews] **it is written, "With foreign languages** [gentile languages, not Hebrew] **and by the lips of foreigners** [Christians whether Jew or gentile

communicating the gospel in a gentile language to Jews living in other regions and countries. Paul for example surely used this gift in his travels through Galatia.] **I will speak to this people [Jews] and even so they will not listen to me** [for the purpose of obeying: most will reject the gospel message delivered via the Gift of Tongues],” **says the Lord** [quoted from Isaiah 28:11, 12].

ἐν τῷ νόμῳ γέγραπται ὅτι Ἐν ἑτερογλώσσοις καὶ ἐν χεῖλεσιν ἑτέρων λαλήσω τῷ λαῷ τούτῳ, καὶ οὐδ’ οὕτως εἰσακούσονται μου, λέγει κύριος.

14:22: So, then Tongues are for a sign [a miraculous sign] **not to those who believe, but to [Jewish] unbelievers, but prophecy is not to unbelievers but to those who believe** [the gift of prophecy in the early church was designed to communicate information to Christians].

ὥστε αἱ γλῶσσαι εἰς σημεῖόν εἰσιν οὐ τοῖς πιστεύουσιν ἀλλὰ τοῖς ἀπίστοις, ἡ δὲ προφητεία οὐ τοῖς ἀπίστοις ἀλλὰ τοῖς πιστεύουσιν.

Some other signs the Lord provided for the Jews were as follows: the virgin birth as prophesied in Isaiah 7:14 and quoted in Matthew 1:23; and the two signs regarding the birth of Christ as per Isaiah 1:3 and Luke 2:12.

Isaiah 28:11, 12 prophesied that Jews would be evangelized in gentile languages as warning of the approach to the 5th Cycle of Discipline. This warning began on the Day of Pentecost in 30 AD. Since this 40-year warning was not heeded, the 5th Cycle of Discipline was administered in August of 70 AD according to Luke 21:20-24.

Luke 21:20, “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies [four Roman legions under the command of Titus], then know that her desolation is near.”

Luke 21:21, “Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains [mountains north, south and east], and those who are in

the midst of the city must leave, furthermore those who are in the country [those outside of Jerusalem] must not enter her [the city];”

Luke 21:22, “Because these are days of judgment, in order that all things which are written may be fulfilled [Leviticus 26:27-33; Deuteronomy 28:49-67].”

Luke 21:23, “Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people;”

Luke 21:24, “And they will fall by the edge of the sword [1.9 million], and will be led captive [97 thousand] into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled [70 AD to the 2nd Advent].”

14:23: Therefore, if [hypothetical situation] the whole church assembles together in the same place, and all speak in tongues and persons [believers] who mind their own business [ἰδιῶται] or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad? Yes, they will. [A Greek clause beginning with the Greek negative *ouk* expects a yes answer.]

Ἐὰν οὖν συνέλθῃ ἡ ἐκκλησία ὅλη ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτὸ καὶ πάντες λαλῶσιν
γλώσσαις, εἰσέλθωσιν δὲ ἰδιῶται ἢ ἄπιστοι, οὐκ ἐροῦσιν ὅτι μαίνεσθε;

If a person were to enter a church and all were speaking different languages at the same time, would that person not assume that he had just entered an insane asylum? Once I was invited to a public prayer meeting in Seoul, and when it came time to begin, I assumed that one person at a time would pray for all to hear, but to my amazement all began to pray out loud at the same time. I found it impossible to even think in such a raucous environment much less pray effectively.

14:24: But if all prophesy [one at a time], and an unbeliever or a person who minds his own business [a believer with common sense]

enters, he is convinced [that this teaching is true] **by all** [which he hears]; **he receives discernment by all** [which he hears].

ἐὰν δὲ πάντες προφητεύωσιν, εἰσέλθῃ δέ τις ἄπιστος ἢ ιδιώτης, ἐλέγχεται ὑπὸ πάντων, ἀνακρίνεται ὑπὸ πάντων,

14:25: The secrets of his frontal lobe are disclosed [he is challenged in his frontal lobe], **and so he will fall on his face** [he will get into an attitude of worship because he is impressed by this particular gift] **and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you** [Corinthians].

τὰ κρυπτὰ τῆς καρδίας αὐτοῦ φανερά γίνεται, καὶ οὕτως πεσὼν ἐπὶ πρόσωπον προσκυνήσῃ τῷ θεῷ, ἀπαγγέλλων ὅτι Ὡντως ὁ θεὸς ἐν ὑμῖν ἐστίν.

The gifts of prophecy was used to communicate spiritual truths to Church Age believers. When done properly and in proper order, these teachings were very effective.

14:26: Therefore, what is *the outcome*, brethren, that when you assemble, each one has a psalm [of doctrinal lyrics accompanied by a 10 string instrument and sung by the congregation: like congregational singing today accompanied by an organ or piano], **has a doctrine** [teaching categorically presented], **has a revelation** [the use of prophesy which orients the believer to the plan of God], **has a tongue** [the use of foreign languages in a service to evangelize unbelievers who were not native to Corinth], **has an interpretation** [the interpretation of what was communicated through the gift of foreign languages: Tongues]. **Let all things be done for edification** [one of the purposes of communication is to edify, to build up Biblical teachings in the believer's soul].

Τί οὖν ἐστίν, ἀδελφοί; ὅταν συνέρχησθε, ἕκαστος ψαλμὸν ἔχει, διδαχὴν ἔχει, ἀποκάλυψιν ἔχει, γλῶσσαν ἔχει, ἐρμηνείαν ἔχει· πάντα πρὸς οἰκοδομὴν γινέσθω.

14:27: If anyone speaks in a tongue [a foreign language], **it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn** [only one person communicates at a time that is in rotation], **and one must interpret** [A person with the Gift of Interpretation must be present when the Gift of Tongues is functioning],

εἴτε γλώσση τις λαλεῖ, κατὰ δύο ἢ τὸ πλεῖστον τρεῖς, καὶ ἀνὰ μέρος, καὶ εἷς διερμηνεύτω·

The church service is designed to communicate doctrine to the believers assembled, and to communicate the gospel message to those unbelievers who may have entered into the assembly. Thus, all spiritual gifts utilized in a worship service must be for the purpose of communication. If it doesn't communicate, it doesn't belong in the worship service.

14:28: but if there is no interpreter, he [the person with the gift of Tongues] **must keep silent in the church, and let him speak to himself** [an idiom for thinking] **and to God** [appreciating God in his thoughts].

ἐὰν δὲ μὴ ᾖ διερμηνευτής, σιγάτω ἐν ἐκκλησίᾳ, ἑαυτῷ δὲ λαλεῖτω καὶ τῷ θεῷ.

All spiritual gifts were designed to be controlled by one's volition. If a believer has the Gift of Knowledge, he should communicate God's Word in a proper way at the proper time. In the same manner, if a person had the Gift of Languages (Tongues), he should use his volition to communicate the gospel in a proper way at the proper time. God designed all spiritual gifts to function in a rational and polite manner.

Under the concept of pseudo-Tongues, Christians work themselves up emotionally to the point of being ecstatic. In this state the vocal cords can make strange sounds with the proper amount of air movement. When utterances come from an ecstatic believer forcing air over his vocal cords, it never produces any meaningful utterance, only meaningless noises.

14:29: Let two or three prophets speak, [but not at the same time] **and let the others** [believers] **discern** [listen with discernment].

προφηται δὲ δύο ἢ τρεῖς λαλείτωσαν, καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι διακρινέτωσαν·

In the first three centuries, Christians usually met in homes to hear the Word of God taught. (During times of persecution they would meet in fields or catacombs.) Since homes were not large enough to hold a large congregation, they would conduct two or three services and rotate the audiences. So, for the 1st service one prophet (representing a communicator) would communicate to his audience. Then a 2nd prophet would communicate to those attending the second service etc. In other words, one group would attend the first service; a second group of believers would consistently attend the 2nd service. Thus, each audience consistently listened to the same communicator.

There were probably times however, when two or three prophets communicated to a single audience. In that case, only one speaker was permitted to speak at a time.

14:30: But if something is revealed to another [prophet] **who is seated** [one of the prophets of verse 29], **the first one must keep quiet** [Only one prophet was allowed to speak at a time.]

ἐὰν δὲ ἄλλω ἀποκαλυφθῇ καθημένῳ, ὁ πρῶτος σιγάτω.

Apparently, in Corinth, they would have 2 or 3 prophets communicating simultaneously to the same audience. Thus, no one in the audience could listen intelligently through this noisy milieu. So, Paul put an end to this nonsense.

14:31: For you may all prophecy one by one [in rotation] **in order that all** [in the congregation] **may learn and all may be encouraged** [exhorted from the teaching of the word].

δύνασθε γὰρ καθ' ἓνα πάντες προφητεύειν, ἵνα πάντες μανθάνωσιν καὶ πάντες παρακαλῶνται,

14:32: and the spirits [God the Holy Spirit communicated revelation to the human spirits of the prophets.] **of the prophets are subject** [under authority] **to the prophets** [the responsibilities and regulations of the ministry].

καὶ πνεύματα προφητῶν προφήταις ὑποτάσσεται·

The prophets had the responsibility to learn God's word and plan. Then, he had to communicate God's message in rational manner. This means that the prophet (any communicator) had to have good control over his emotion. (A crying communicator (today an evangelist or pastor) is out of control!

14:33: for God is not [the author] **of confusion, but of order** [as opposed to disorder] **as in all the churches of the saints.**

οὐ γάρ ἐστιν ἀκαταστασίας ὁ θεὸς ἀλλὰ εἰρήνης. Ὡς ἐν πάσαις ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις τῶν ἁγίων,

In communication, one speaks while the others listen. Otherwise, there will be confusion. If certain members of the congregation have poor manners and are speaking or moving around while the communicator is speaking, it makes it very difficult for the communicator to teach and for all in the audience to listen.

14:34: Women must keep silent in the churches for it is not permitted for them to speak, but let them subject themselves [be under authority] **just as the Law says** [Genesis 3:16b “and he (the husband) will rule over you”].

αἱ γυναῖκες ἐν ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις σιγάτωσαν, οὐ γὰρ ἐπιτρέπεται αὐταῖς λαλεῖν· ἀλλὰ ὑποτασσέσθωσαν, καθὼς καὶ ὁ νόμος λέγει.

Women have never been given communicative gifts which would give them authority over men such as the gifts of Tongues, prophecy, apostleship which gifts functioned in the pre-canon period of the Church Age. (There were prophetesses in the pre-canon period, but their gift only functioned toward other women). In the post-canon period of the Church Age no woman has ever been given the gift of Pastor-Teacher and so, no woman should ever communicate to adults in a church.

Furthermore, women have a tendency to talk in a Bible class situation when they disagree with the communicator and so react to his message or when they do not to understand some point (They are curious and want an immediate answer from the person seated next to them).

14:35: And if they [married Christian women] **desire to learn anything** [about the Word] **and** [let's assume] **they do, let them ask their husband at home** [need to discuss in privacy under the husband's authority] **for it is improper** [disgraceful] **for a woman to speak in church** [either to communicate doctrine to adults as a pastor or to speak while another is communicating God's Word].

εἰ δέ τι μαθεῖν θέλουσιν, ἐν οἴκῳ τοὺς ἰδίους ἄνδρας ἐπερωτάτωσαν, αἰσχρὸν γάρ ἐστιν γυναικὶ λαλεῖν ἐν ἐκκλησίᾳ.

14:36: Did the word of God come from the ultimate source of you? Has it [the word of God] **come to you only** [are you special]?

ἢ ἀφ' ὑμῶν ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἐξῆλθεν, ἢ εἰς ὑμᾶς μόνους κατήντησεν;

Doctrine circulating in the soul of the believer does not get there magically nor does it accumulate automatically in the believer's soul. God's plan and instruction for the Christian is found only in one book namely the Bible. A prepared pastor must dig that information out of the Bible and present it to his congregation. So, the believer must accept the authority of that pastor put himself consistently under that person's teaching ministry.

God has designed a spiritual life that is the same for all believers. All grow in grace and knowledge the same way. There are no special Christians.

Though the highest authority in the early Church Age was the gift of apostleship, some Corinthians had rejected the authority of the Paul. So, Paul has to remind them that his authority and instruction came from the Lord.

14:37: If anyone thinks [subjective thinking related to arrogance] **he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you, are the Lord's commandments.**

Εἴ τις δοκεῖ προφήτης εἶναι ἢ πνευματικός, ἐπιγινώσκέτω ὃ γράφω ὑμῖν ὅτι κυρίου ἐστὶν ἐντολή·

There were those who had the gift of prophecy in the Corinthian Church. However, many who claimed to have this gift or thought themselves to be spiritual giants, weren't. In any case, no one can function properly in a position of authority or be spiritual unless he recognizes and accepts all legitimate authorities.

14:38: But if anyone is ignorant, he continues to be ignorant [unless he changes his mind about learning].

εἰ δέ τις ἀγνοεῖ, ἀγνοεῖται.

Some believers in Corinth were ignorant and proud of it. Arrogant believers are unteachable. A person in a state of ignorance must get back into fellowship, and under God's authority come to realize the need to learn under a knowledgeable person with a communicative spiritual gift. If not, those believers will remain ignorant of God's plan for their entire life (2 Peter 3:18).

14:39: Therefore, my brethren [those in the Corinthian Church should seek out those with communicative gifts], **desire earnestly to prophesy** [in order to receive some teaching] **and do not forbid to speak in Tongues** [under its proper function and regulation],

ὥστε, ἀδελφοί [μου], ζηλοῦτε τὸ προφητεύειν, καὶ τὸ λαλεῖν μὴ κωλύετε γλώσσαις·

The gift of Language (Tongues) had a purpose until August of 70 AD. So, Paul gave the command not to forbid the communication of the gospel in the local church via the gift of Tongues. However, after the fall of Jerusalem, the Gift of Tongues no longer existed. (You may read the booklet on Tongues by R. B. Thieme Jr.)

Since Corinth was a port city, many merchants and travelers would have to come through Corinth. Many of these unbelievers having nothing to do while waiting for a ship, would enter the church in Corinth. At some point during service, a Corinthian Christian with the Gift of Tongues might communicate the gospel to these visitors.

14:40: But all things [in the church] **must be done properly and in an orderly manner** [under proper authority].

πάντα δὲ εὐσχημόνως καὶ κατὰ τάξιν γινέσθω.

Since Paul quoted from Isaiah 28, let's provide some background information. Isaiah's warned the Northern Kingdom regarding the 5th Cycle of Discipline (Isaiah 28:7-10) and prophesied concerning the Gift of Tongues (Isaiah 28:11, 12b).

Isaiah 28:7-10, “And these [the drunkards of Ephraim: the Northern Kingdom] also reel with wine and stagger from strong drink. The priests and the prophets reel with strong drink. They are confused by wine; they stagger from strong drink. They reel while having visions; they stagger when rendering judgment. (8) For all the tables

are full of vomit, not a single clean place. (9) To whom shall he teach knowledge [of God's Word]? To whom shall he cause to interpret the message? Shall he explain the message to those *just weaned from their mother's milk or those taken from their mother's breast?* (10) For principle is added to principle, principle is added to principle, line upon line, line upon line, a little *doctrinal teaching* here and a little *doctrinal teaching* there. [In other words, it takes time to learn the spiritual life.]”

כִּי צוֹ לְצוֹ צוֹ לְצוֹ, קוֹ לְקוֹ קוֹ לְקוֹ--זַעִיר נָשָׁם, זַעִיר נָשָׁם.

In 721 BC, the Lord needed a pivot of mature believers in order to preserve the Northern Kingdom. The teenagers and adults were all intoxicated in their pursuit for pleasure; they were self-indulged and preoccupied with themselves. Thus, there was no pivot of mature believers and the little children and infants were too young to form a pivot. Since there was no mature believers in the Northern Kingdom at that time, there was no hope of deliverance, and so the nation was destroyed in 721 B.C.

Prophecy of the Gift of Tongues which would be fulfilled in 30 AD:

Isaiah 28:11, “For with alien articulation, and by means of a foreign language, He will speak to this people [The Jews would hear the gospel in gentile languages on the Day of Pentecost 30 AD. This gift would continue until August of 70 AD.] **12b. but they would not listen.”**

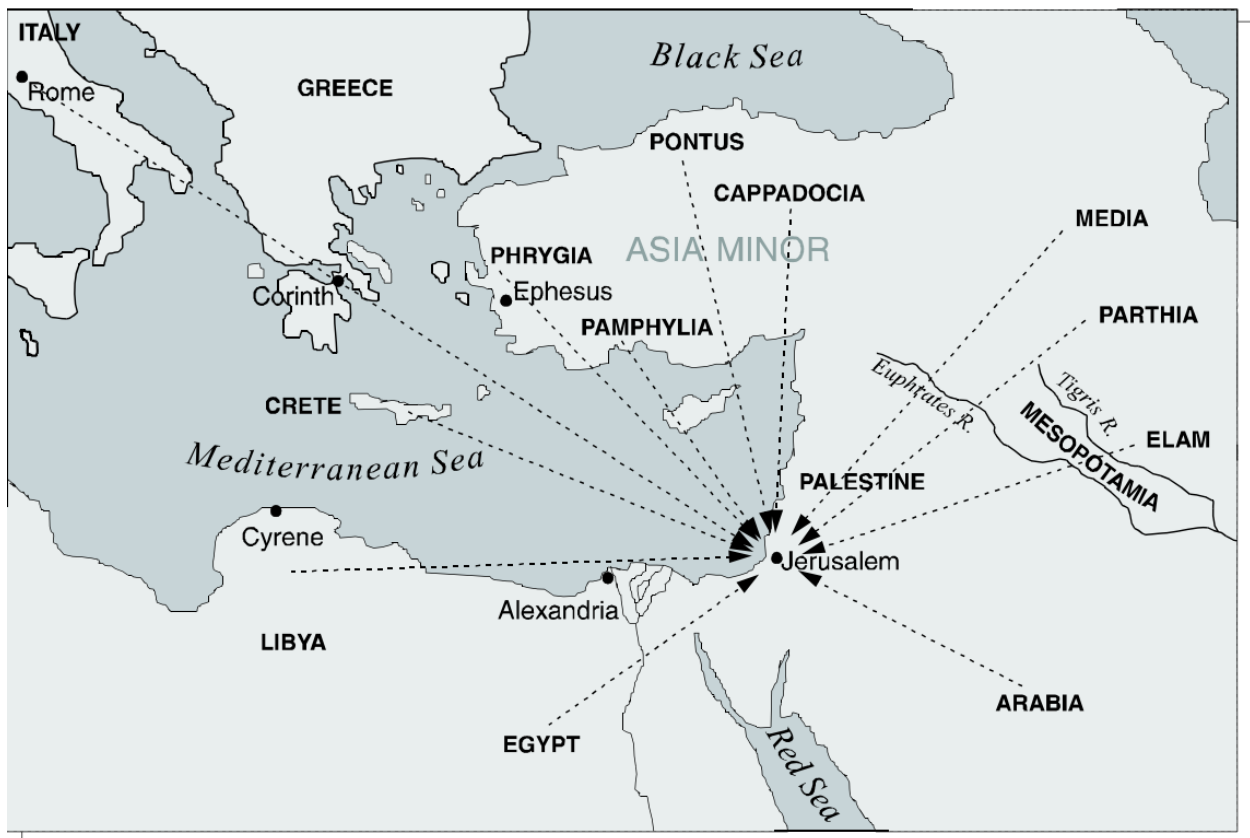
This was quoted in 1 Corinthians 14:21 and applied to the gift of Tongues in 1 Corinthians 14:22. In Acts 2:1-13, 37, 38, we have the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

Acts 2:1-13, “When the day of Pentecost was being fulfilled [being observed as a holy day], **they** [pilgrims from all over the world] **were all together in one place. (2) And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind** [a tornado], **and it filled the whole**

house where they [the disciples] were sitting. (3) And there appeared to them languages being distributed like a fire storm [denoting a comparison], and it [a temporary spiritual gift] rested on each one of them. (4) And they were all [the eleven disciples who were now apostles] filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak-out [the gospel message]. (5) Now there were Jews residing in Jerusalem, devout [Jewish religious unbelievers who followed the Mosaic Law well] men, from every [gentile] nation under heaven. (6) And when this loud sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were surprised because they [Jewish pilgrims] were each one hearing them [the apostles] speak in his own [gentile] language [*dialektos*: a language of a nation]. (7) And they were amazed and marveled, saying, “Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans [Galileans spoke a poor Aramaic]? (8) And how is it that we each hear them in our own language [*dialektos*: a language of a nation] to which we were born?” (9) “Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia [now Iraq and Iran], Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia [the west coast of Asia Minor what is now called Turkey], (10) Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, (11) Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own languages [glossa] speaking of the magnificent works of God.” (12) And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” (13) But others [religious Jews of Judea] were mocking and saying, “They are full of sweet new wine [new wine caused a quick inebriation].”

Ἦσαν δὲ ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ κατοικοῦντες Ἰουδαῖοι, ἄνδρες εὐλαβεῖς ἀπὸ παντὸς ἔθνους τῶν ὑπὸ τὸν οὐρανόν· 6 γενομένης δὲ τῆς φωνῆς ταύτης συνῆλθεν τὸ πλῆθος καὶ συνεχύθη, ὅτι ἤκουον εἷς ἕκαστος τῇ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ λαλούντων αὐτῶν. 7 ἐξίσταντο δὲ καὶ ἐθαύμαζον λέγοντες, Οὐχ ἰδοὺ ἅπαντες οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ λαλοῦντες Γαλιλαῖοι; 8 καὶ πῶς ἡμεῖς ἀκούομεν ἕκαστος τῇ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ ἡμῶν ἐν ᾗ ἐγεννήθημεν; 9 Πάρθοι καὶ Μηδοὶ καὶ Ἑλαμίται, καὶ οἱ κατοικοῦντες τὴν Μεσοποταμίαν,

Ἰουδαίαν τε καὶ Καππαδοκίαν, Πόντον καὶ τὴν Ἀσίαν, 10 Φρυγίαν τε καὶ Παμφυλίαν, Αἴγυπτον καὶ τὰ μέρη τῆς Λιβύης τῆς κατὰ Κυρήνην, καὶ οἱ ἐπιδημοῦντες Ῥωμαῖοι, 11 Ἰουδαῖοί τε καὶ προσήλυτοι, Κρήτες καὶ Ἄραβες, ἀκούομεν λαλούντων αὐτῶν ταῖς ἡμετέραις γλώσσαις τὰ μεγαλεῖα τοῦ θεοῦ.



THE DISPERSED JEWISH POPULATION CONVERGING ON JERUSALEM, *ca.* A.D. 30

Acts 2:37-38, “Now when they heard this [concerning the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ], they were pierced to the heart [They understood the gospel via common grace, but were still holding back.], and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Honorable, brethren, what shall we do [compare with Acts 16:31]?” (38) And Peter said to them, “Change your thinking [metanoeo: change your thinking about Christ and believe in Him], and let each of you [this is a classical Greek syntactical break: after your salvation has been completed] be baptized in the person of Jesus Christ [water baptism teaching retroactive and current positional truth] because of the forgiveness of your sins [pre-

salvation sins]; **and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit** [the Filling of the Holy Spirit].”

37 Ἀκούσαντες δὲ κατενύγησαν τὴν καρδίαν, εἰπόν τε πρὸς τὸν Πέτρον καὶ τοὺς λοιποὺς ἀποστόλους, Τί ποιήσωμεν, ἄνδρες ἀδελφοί; 38 Πέτρος δὲ πρὸς αὐτούς, Μετανοήσατε, καὶ βαπτισθήτω ἕκαστος ὑμῶν ἐπὶ τῷ ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ εἰς ἄφεσιν τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ὑμῶν, καὶ λήμψεσθε τὴν δωρεὰν τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος·

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Based on the scholarly work of R.B. Thieme Jr.

I recommend downloading 'THIEME'S BIBLE DOCTRINE DICTIONARY' from this website: rbthieme.org