



“Give Me Some Kind of Sign”

Speaking in Tongues

1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14



Spiritual Gifts

1. **Sign Gifts** - Temporary

Miracles, Healings, Tongues, Interpretation

2. **Speaking Gifts**

3. **Serving Gifts**



Keep It In Context!

#1 Rule of Hermeneutics:

**A text without a context
is a pretext for a
proof text!**

Interpretation before application.



Context of Tongues

1. Problem in Corinth was **selfishness**.

A ministry model to **AVOID!**

Not copy!

Practice of tongues was **dividing**, not uniting.



Context of Tongues

2. The setting for spiritual gifts is **corporate**, not individual.

“common good” (12:7, 12-27)

“one body, many members”

Romans 12



Context of Tongues

3. Corinthians written before Romans
4. Tongues were a legitimate language
Acts 2
5. Speaking in tongues not for all
believers. (1 Corinthians 12:30)



Tongues in 1 Corinthians 14

1. Position: **Secondary** to preaching.
(1-19)
2. Purpose: sign to **unbelievers**.
(20-25)
3. Procedure: **systematic and orderly**.
(26-28)



Secondary to Preaching

1. Preaching edifies the **whole** congregation (14:1-5)

a. They were selfish.
"edifies himself"

Private tongues-speaking was a selfish abuse of the gift.



Tongues Secondary

2. Tongues are **Unintelligible** (14:6-12)

a. They were selfish.

"How will it be known what is spoken?"

True tongues had specific **meanings** as a language.



Tongues Secondary

3. Effects of Tongues Are Emotional, Not Rational (14:13-19)

a. They were selfish.

"My mind is unfruitful."

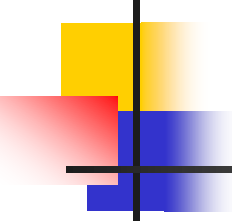
Real tongues were meant to be **understood.**



Purpose: Sign to UNBELIEVERS (14:20-25)

Speaking in tongues was a sign to unbelieving **Jews**.

1. As a curse;
2. As a blessing;
3. As an authority.



Procedure: Systematic and Orderly (14:26-28)

*"Let all things be done for edification."
= "house-building"*

Ephesians 4:11-12

Romans 14:19



Procedure for Tongues

1. Only 2 or 3 total should speak;
2. Only speak in turn;
3. Only if it is interpreted;
4. No interpreter = No speaking



Application

1. Speaking in tongues has ceased.
2. Spiritual gifts are effective only when used to serve others selflessly.
3. Any time the church gathers, it must be orderly and structured to honor God.
4. Selfishness is destructive.