

# EDIFYING THE CHURCH - “ THE ORDER”

by  
**Henry Stanley**

We will begin in **I Corinthians 13:8**: *“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.”* Now you’ve got three things there: Tongues, Prophecy, and Knowledge. And I’ve heard a lot about those things being done away with. Especially if you go into some groups they say it’s all done away. In fact, if you would read the notes in your Bible here, he would tell you that “Tongues” are no more. But I want us to consider something. If that would’ve been true, why would Paul continue to write the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter? And he is dealing with all three of those things: Tongues, Prophecy and Knowledge. So it’s not that they are done away with. The reality of that is that all of that is in part unless there is charity. And I’ve got to tie this 13<sup>th</sup> chapter in with what we’re going to talk about, because look at **I Corinthians 13:1**: *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.”* In other words, we can have Tongues, and Angels and Tongues of Angels: but if we have not charity, it becomes a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. It has no effect whatsoever!

**I Corinthians 13:2**: *“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not*

*charity, I am nothing.*" And you can leave out the italics "gift". So it would read though I have prophecy. Look at this: that is powerful when you really look and consider what Paul is saying. You've got to understand that Paul is writing a letter to the Church at Corinth, and of course it's to us too. Because see what Paul writes, or what God gives. It's not just for that particular time. People say, "Well the Corinthian Church was a mess." And it was in this sense: it was out of Order. There was a zealouslyness: there were a lot of things that were going on there that Paul continued to write the letter to bring correction into it, and to bring Order into it. And then he says in **Verse 3**: "*And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*" So every one of these verses of Scripture: if I speak with Tongues and have not charity I'm as tinkling brass – have no sound, no meaning whatsoever, and no purpose whatsoever. And then if you can Prophecy or if we have Understanding, and we know the Mysteries of Christ and have the Knowledge of Him and all of that, and the Faith of Christ. And yet if we have all of this, and though we could remove mountains: but if we don't have charity – it's nothing! It's to no avail: to no profit!

We can go out here and feed all the poor: take care of them. And if I give my body to be burned and have not charity, it profits me nothing! **I Corinthians 13:4**: "*Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5: Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6: Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7: Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8: Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*" Certain things will fail... now

take all the Scriptures, and I saw something a while ago. See, what will make Tongues cease? What will make Prophecy and Knowledge vanish away? **Where there's no charity!** And if it's even a Spiritual Gift that God has given to us, and all the knowledge and understanding that we can come into, and yet we have not charity. And if that charity is not working IN US, it will not affect a person's life whatsoever. You can prophesy to them, you can give them all The Word of Knowledge you want, you can speak in Tongues or even Tongues of understanding. And yet if there is not that nature and that character of LOVE... why? Because you see, that was the nature that God had. God is Love. 1 John 4. God is Love. Therefore God showed Love to the world. And He didn't wait until the world "got right". He loved the world in the condition it was in, and sent His Son!

So that Love actually was reaching out to mankind and all. And no matter what the need or what mankind was in, the Love of God reached out to him. And I began to look at this and I began to see that. So when we go on and it says Prophecy shall fail: **I Corinthians 13:8:** *"Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9: For we know in part, and we prophesy in part."* This is the part where many people take it and say this is The Law and it's done away. Now Christ The Living Word, The Living Person Himself has come so there is no need for Tongues, Knowledge. Well if there is no need for Knowledge it can't be true according to what Paul said. He said after I heard of your faith and love in the Lord, and the Spirit one toward another, I cease not to pray for you. That's **Ephesians 1:15:** *"Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16: Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17: That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and*

*revelation in the knowledge of him: **18:** The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, **19:** And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,”*

Now I understand that there is a difference in the Knowledge of Him and the knowledge that man tries to bring about – the intellect of man. But at the same time, what makes it all in part is when there is not charity. That’s what makes it “in part”. My Lord! **I Corinthians 13:9:** *“For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. **10:** But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. **11:** When I was a child...”* When I was a child. Now I want you to notice this verse because when we get in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter, Paul is going to actually pick up from this 13<sup>th</sup> chapter and he’s going to bring the Order: the Order of all of this. It’s not that it is done away with or removed like some people say. But notice **Verse 10:** *“But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. **11:** When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. **12:** For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. **13:** And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”* That “man” could mean mature. That’s really what it’s talking about.

Now go to **I Corinthians 14:1:** *“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. **2:** For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue...”* I checked that word “unknown” and you can see it in italics. In the Amplified it doesn’t have it in italics. But now here’s an Order that Paul is

laying out to the Church. This is what I want us to see. **I Corinthians 14:2:** *“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.”* This is the first Order that is set forth in Tongues. Someone speaking in Tongues, or in an “unknown Tongue” is NOT speaking to man. Now we are going to see there is “Tongues” that come with a message, and it is speaking to man. But this first Order here that Paul is setting forth is someone that speaks in an unknown Tongue. He is speaking to God and not to man, and man can’t understand. What we have to understand is this is “Spiritual Gifts”. That’s what Paul established in the first verse: Charity and Spiritual Gifts. Let me put it like that. All of this that is denoted as “Spiritual” and “Charity” is going to have to work together in this next chapter. And so when we look at it: *“howbeit in the Spirit he speaketh mysteries.”* In other words there was that time alone wherein those that speak with Tongues, they can speak and they are speaking directly unto God. The Spirit is flowing out of them, and they are speaking Mysteries.

In fact, I can tell you from experience that there are times when that takes place in my life, and in that God begins to give me an interpretation – of coming and speaking in Tongues. But you see this first Order here is not just for everybody. It is the same thing that Jude said: *“That we build ourselves up in the most holy faith by the Holy Ghost.”* And it is the same Order here. This man that speaks in Tongues here is not speaking to man. He’s speaking to God. Man can’t understand him. Why? Because he’s speaking Mysteries. The Spirit speaks Mysteries. You actually take that back into Acts 2. On the day of Pentecost when all of those dialect languages were coming from those Galileans, they were actually speaking The Word of God. They were speaking Mysteries by the Spirit. Why? Because in those Galileans was

coming forth languages that they themselves did not know. They were speaking the Mystery of God: they were speaking those languages. Why? Because the utterance that was coming out of them was the Spirit. And man can't understand that.

So that first Order: someone that speaks in Tongues is speaking to God directly. Man can't understand what he's speaking: what he's saying. But what is he doing? *"Howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries."* Now you see it shows that this "unknown Tongue" is by the Spirit. It is not something that man is just speaking out of himself: but it's the unknown Tongue that is coming out of the Spirit, and he's speaking Mysteries. **I Corinthians 14:3:** *"But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort."* Unto Men – see the difference? The word "edification" means to edify, to build up, encourage, comfort, to exhort. That's just what I'm doing now – encouraging. It's pretty much the same thing. So see, prophecy is speaking unto men for the edification and exhortation and comfort. **I Corinthians 14:4:** *"He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church."* We're going to see something here in a little bit. They are both useful. They both are an Order that God set in the Church, and people want to do away with the Order. But there is an Order that God sets forth.

Now notice **I Corinthians 14:5:** *"I would that ye all spake with tongues..."* And we can see certainly right there individually you all can speak with Tongues. You all – individually, because he's coming back here. This man is not speaking to man: he's speaking to God. And by The Spirit he's speaking Mysteries. So now prophesying or prophecy that is edification, comfort, or exhortation. We see the difference in **I Corinthians 14:4:** *"He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. 5: I would that ye all spake with*

*tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying."* So he's certainly not telling people that they can't (like people say): it's done away: it's not for us today. But watch what he says in verse 5, EXCEPT. See, there is an exception. And this exception is "except the Church". **I Corinthians 14:6:** *"Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?"* Now what does prophecy do? Prophecy exhorts, edifies, comforts. It edifies the Church. We read that in verse 4 and 5. Here is the whole Order. No doubt that there was some disorder in the Church in Corinth. They were zealous of things. I was thinking as I was reading of Romans 10 when Paul was talking about his brethren there: that they had the zeal of God, but not according to Knowledge: not according to the understanding of the Spirit.

There are people who can be so zealous in something and yet miss the Reality of allowing the Spirit of God to be that which is in the midst of us: to edify and to comfort, exhort and to build up The Body of Christ. Because that's why The Body comes together. The Body doesn't come together just that one person would be exalted or magnified. But The Body comes together in order that whoever is sharing – it doesn't matter who it is. It doesn't have to be a Pastor, or what we look at so much as "Pastor this or that". Whoever: but by the Spirit of God it will bring edification to The Body of Christ. Now we go on in verse 6 about "Tongues". He's going back and forth here with "Tongues" – Tongues and Prophecy. "Prophecy" here is relating absolutely to preaching, to sharing: any truths that there is. In other words you don't need an "interpretation" to be able to speak plainly by the Spirit of God to The Body of Christ and not speak confusion. All of that will tie in later. **I Corinthians 14:6:**

*“Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?”* That’s something: how he said that. I’m telling you, I saw some things in this recently.

Paul said what good would it do me just to come to you and to speak in Tongues to you, except by those Tongues there comes a revelation: there comes a disclosure of the Reality of Christ that comes forth. And then in that by prophesying and by knowledge and by the doctrine. **I Corinthians 14:7:** *“And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?”* In other words, I’ve got a little horn at the house, and every once in a while I’ll grab it and I’ll blow that thing. But I can’t play no tune on it! I can’t do nothing with it! I can blow it but it has no distinct sound. And that’s what he’s bringing here: he’s bringing the Order of Tongues and Prophecy: that when there comes forth this, there would come an Order in which there will bring understanding to the ears of those who are in the presence of us. Not to bring confusion: but to bring understanding. Now he shows this in verse 7 with the piper or player of the harp. Unless they give a distinct sound, how is anybody going to know? Watch the next verse. **I Corinthians 14:8:** *“For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?”* I can’t tell you much about that, but I guarantee you that a soldier could tell you something about that. And I thought about the military. I don’t know much but I do know that there are certain sounds. They blow the bugle and they’ve got to get up! And boy, when that thing sounds, if it’s four o’clock in the morning, they’ve got to roll out of that bed!

But you see, they don't get up there and just blow, blow, blow. There are certain sounds so that they know what that blowing of the trumpet means. They may use it for certain things. So one time they blow that trumpet and it has a certain sound, and they are trained and they know what that means. The only one I know is when they blow it you've got to get up: you've got to hit that floor! It gives a certain sound. They aren't out there just toot-toot-toot. They are out there blowing and it gives a certain sound. That's what Paul is teaching the Church. He's teaching that there needs to be something that is sounded, something will minister Life to the people, something that will exhort, that will edify, that will comfort the hearts of the people. It is not for a gathering of just one individual to do their own thing. It is for the profiting for the entire Body of Christ!

Now so then, he won't know how to prepare himself for the battle if the trumpet gives an uncertain sound. And he's used all that he said up to this point to say this and he's talking to Believers: The Body of Christ. Paul is talking to you and I and the whole Body of Christ. **I Corinthians 14:9:** *"So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air."* It's just like speaking to the air. You know, Paul used that word: that he would not be as "one that beateth the air". In other words, what he is saying is not just words to be said, but it is something that will minister into The Body of Christ when words are given and words are sounded. And he says that with Tongues there is something that needs to be given, words that are to be understood. And I thought of something else in this verse. When we see this – now Tongues with an interpretation has an **effect**. This is the thing we have to understand. See, the Tongues (when it's really the Tongues of the Spirit) coming forth as a message even to an individual or to The Body of Christ as a whole: then we know that that Tongue should have

an interpretation. For what reason? That all: or that The Body of the Church may be edified. That's what he said in verse 5. See, Prophecy is greater than Tongues. Now people will take that, but they leave the rest of it off. They are equal because both are ministrations of the Spirit of God and they are both equally together when there is Tongues and there is any interpretation. Why? Because the interpretation is going to interpret to you, and you are going to know what the Tongues were saying through the individual.

Now I've been in those services folks. I've been in those services where people go in Tongues. I've been in services where it's been wild too, and there's so many people who will jump up speaking in Tongues: doing all kinds of things. But I've been there when God has brought the interpretation. We were down in a church many years ago, and one of the Brothers gave the message in Tongues. That was a message and a Brother came up and he said do you know what language you were speaking? And he said no I don't. The Brother said I can tell you exactly what you were saying because he could speak the language. But he knew the language in its dialect. The Brother who spoke it didn't know the language in its dialect, but it was the Spirit of God that was speaking through him.

The same thing happened on the day of Pentecost. The Mystery was being spoken, and a Revelation was being revealed. Wherein that those 13 nations of people that had gathered there for the feast: they gathered there and they began to hear The Word of God: The Wisdom of God in their own language wherein they were born. So you see the message there, the utterance there was of The Spirit. It wasn't just man. No doubt a lot of those Galileans could have never spoken that language, brothers and sisters. So we see that here is what Paul is laying. He's laying an Order here. He is speaking concerning two main

things: Prophecy and Tongues. Now let's go a little further. **I Corinthians 14:10:** *"There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification."* In other words every language that there is has a signification, a voice: people can understand it in that language. If you get me around Spanish or German – it's foreign to me. I try to read it and I just can't. So you see that's what he's saying. Every voice – and there are all kinds of voices in the world: none of them is without signification. This is what Paul is saying: what is spoken in the Church, what is happening in The Body of Christ has to have signification. **I Corinthians 14:11:** *"Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me."* And "barbarian" means a foreigner. In other words I can't understand a thing he says, and he can't understand a thing that I say. So every voice has a significance in it.

Now **I Corinthians 14:12:** *"Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church."* "... Zealous..." and here's the thing that happens sometimes. We all probably get zealous at times. We really do. That's what Israel was: they were zealous of the things of God. That's Romans 10, but they were without Knowledge. They lacked the Knowledge and the Understanding of God. And I don't think I've ever walked through this chapter with anybody in all my time in ministry, but you see what Paul is bringing here is an Order, and when things are not in Order. There is an Order of the Spirit to be able to hear the Voice of God in it, wherein it can build and strengthen and edify The Body of Christ. But when this Order is not understood then it can cause a lot of disunity. Disunity. And then what comes with disunity? Confusion! See, God isn't the author of confusion. Then he goes on in verse **12**, *"...zealous of spiritual gifts* (that goes right back to verse 1). And that's what he started with. Follow after

charity – desire it. He didn't say do away with gifts: he said desire, have a longing. Have that within you to desire Spiritual Gifts. So Paul's not doing away with anything. He's just bringing it in to the Order wherein that when The Body of Christ is gathered together, the whole Body may profit and be edified from it. And so Verse **12** continues, "... *seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.*" The Church is to be edified. **I Corinthians 14:13:** "*Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.*" So if this 13<sup>th</sup> chapter where Paul was saying "that tongues and prophecies shall fail and cease, and that knowledge shall pass away": Paul is showing you that they are not done away. But he's showing you that there is an Order in them in the Church.

Now honestly, you as an individual: and I'm telling you many days don't pass for me not speaking in Tongues. I am being built up and speaking to God, and God begins to speak inside of me through that "heavenly language" that He has given me. But Paul prays if they speak in Tongues that they may interpret the Tongue. **I Corinthians 14:14:** "*For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.*" This again is showing that this "unknown Tongue" is The Spirit praying. It isn't just going around saying some jabber-jabber-jabber. It's a Spirit. In other words, there must come forth where the Spirit gives me understanding of why I am speaking in Tongues. I want to just point out something: and it was prophecy. There came a time with David when they had burned the city and the wives had been killed and the children had been killed. And the Bible says that David wept until he couldn't weep no more. And the Word of God said that David prophesied unto himself. And in the Spirit through that prophecy it lifted him up. You see, he was crying and weeping, and then all of a sudden he began to prophesy. The Spirit of God began to rise up in him and that weeping and all of that

was taken care of because the Spirit of God ministered to him!

Oh Beloved, I'm telling you it's so marvelous to have The Spirit of God. Sometimes you feel down: sometimes different things happen and all of a sudden The Spirit of God will just begin to rise up in you. Mourning is good. David mourned for awhile, but then David was overtaken by The Spirit. So **I Corinthians 14:14**: *"For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful."* In other words he brings us to understand that the Praying in Tongues is for what? The edification: the building up – going back to **I Corinthians 14:2**: *"For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries."* But he understands just to speak in Tongues without any understanding – it's not fruitful. But now to pray in the Spirit: **I Corinthians 14:15**: *"What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."*

And that can even apply to singing songs. Sometimes songs can be just singing – without the Spirit, and without realizing the words of that song. The Spirit has to administer that unto you. That's why sometimes we preach from a song. That's happened: where God takes a song and directs the whole service differently. *"I will sing in the spirit"*. In other words when we sing we understand and have the words of understanding of Life in those songs that also ministers to us. Ministers to The Body of Christ. See, what really happens is if there are song leaders kind of paying attention as to how The Spirit is moving on the people, sometimes God would have that song just to go and go and go! The Lord is moving, God is ministering: that song is ministering to someone. And then the Lord just begins to move. And you have to learn this: we all

have to learn this! That is more than just prophesying. It's more than just speaking in Tongues. It's more than just singing. But it's singing in The Spirit: understanding that they are "Words of Life" that Minister to us. Glory to God!

So, **I Corinthians 14:15**: *"What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. 16: Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?"* Amen means it is true, it is so. Here again here is someone who could be prophesying: here's someone who could be singing, but at the same time here's someone who has no idea what's going on. That's what he's saying. And from the whole order of this chapter it is so important whether it's singing, whether it's prophesying, whether it's preaching, whether it's teaching – you can bring it into any realm. **The important thing is to be able to bring understanding.** Now we say sometimes "we" can't bring understanding to people: and in one sense that is true. In another sense that is not true and I'm going to tell you why. It is The Spirit that gives you understanding. We see this with Ezra and Nehemiah. When they found The Law Ezra stood. (**Nehemiah 8:1-8**) I guess that's where people got building a platform because he stood above the people. And I guess that's where the Church really got building a platform where whoever speaks is up above the people. But Ezra: The Word of God said that Ezra and the priests gave them understanding. Now how did they give them understanding? He took The Law that they had not been familiar with for years, and he began to read The Law to them and they began to speak The Law to them. And they came to understand what The Word, what The Law said. *"The delight of the law is perfect, delighting the soul, rejoicing the heart."*

So he did that. He gave them understanding by giving them The Word of The Law. The same thing today: the understanding is by giving people The Word of God. And The Spirit ministers that, but you see, we must understand that God does it through vessels. And we could go through maybe 100 people in the Bible to show that. But God gave them understanding. Didn't he stand from morning to night – giving The Law? That's in Nehemiah 8. They found The Law and there were Priests among the people, and they read The Law and spoke The Law among the people.

Now the reason I'm referring to these Old Testament Scriptures is because this is where these guys came from. But in **1 Corinthians 14:16**: it really should not be when we minister that even a person who comes in really doesn't understand. Now I know that people can't fully understand the Understanding of The Spirit that we can speak. But there should be a way of relating The Word so that there is no doubt in their mind that it is The Word of God. And there have been times when people come in and I've heard this. They've said, "I have no idea where that person was going. I have no idea what they were even saying." This is what Paul is saying: there must be something that is clarity. Now there's a reason I'm saying this. In Verse 17, he is establishing now that you're blessed in The Spirit. Those that occupied the room of the unlearned can't say "Amen" because they don't know what you're saying. That's what verse 16 in a nutshell is saying. **1 Corinthians 14:17**: *"For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified."* That's a person now who was caught up in what they want to do - whether it's speaking in Tongues or Prophecy, and all of this goes on and then nobody has any idea whatsoever is said or done.

So what now? Truthfully you are blessed, but the reality of it that is in this chapter is that God does not bring His Body together just to “bless me”: that I can speak in Tongues or I can Prophecy. I am well blessed by that – yes. But at the same time you all are not blessed unless there is an interpretation: unless there is a clarity that is given. And so that’s what verse 17 is really saying. They are blessed by what they do, but the rest of The Body of Christ is not edified from it. **I Corinthians 14:17:** *“For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified. 18: I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:”* So this goes right back again to show you what was said in chapter 13. This is not being done away with: he is teaching an Order. **I Corinthians 14:19:** *“Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.”* And people will use that to do away with Tongues. And that isn’t what he’s doing. He’s already said that he thanks God that he speaks in Tongues (verse 18). And we see here a difference between speaking in Tongues in private, and in the Church. It is private in your prayer life.

I’m telling you folks, I can only tell you the experience. I can be riding down the road, at the house, or in my backyard. And all of a sudden the Spirit of God moves on me. In fact there was a Brother that I know and he’s a Deputy Sheriff who pastors a Church. And he recently posted on Facebook he was coming home from work, and it was just like Rivers of Water flowing out, and he’s just speaking in Tongues all the way. He got home and said hi to his wife, and still couldn’t stop speaking in Tongues. Someone else was writing they were having that experience and how God has been moving in their lives. He didn’t post it just to brag on it, but to show that there is a reality in that. And you see, I know about that. But now we’re up to verse 20.

Over in **I Corinthians 13:11**: *“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”* I had not seen this, but this is exactly what Paul is saying here. ‘Brethren, be not children in understanding. Howbeit in malice be children. But in Understanding be men, be mature. Come to the understanding that the important part of gathering together in The Church, in The Body of Christ (and when I say Church, it is The Body of Christ) is the purpose that The Body itself can be edified and built up and strengthened. My Lord, every once in a while you’ll hear people say, “I feel like I’ve been to Church today!” And it was the way the Spirit had moved at that particular time. But Paul is saying don’t be children anymore in this. This thing is important: don’t play with gifts, don’t play with the things of God. Don’t be selfish, don’t be zealous in yourself and not try to have in mind, heart and purpose, The Body of Christ as it is gathered together. This is the Order of it. It can’t just be about “me” getting up and “doing my thing”. It must be for the sake of The Body.

There’s so much in this, and I’m just sharing a little bit of what’s here because of the lack of my understanding. Up to verse 20 here he says when people do that it’s like being a child: it’s childish. **I Corinthians 14:20**: *“Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.”* In other words children will be children, children in God will be children. That’s why he said in **Ephesians 4** that we are not to *“be children tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine.”* Coming to a Knowledge. Yes, allowing the Spirit of God to bring us to Understanding and Knowledge. Then he goes on in **I Corinthians 14:21**: *“In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me,*

*saith the Lord.” That was in **Isaiah 28:11, 12** that Paul is quoting from there. They will not hear the Lord, that the Lord is speaking. **I Corinthians 14:22:** “Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe...” See, you don’t need a sign because you believe. It comes to them and is given to them that believe. **I Corinthians 14:22:** “Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.” In other words, expounding The Word, teaching The Word, preaching The Word: however it comes about. What is profitable about that? It is to build up: it is for them that believe.*

**I Corinthians 14:23:** *“If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?”* Now can you imagine every one of us here: and someone walks in that door, and we are just going away “in Tongues”. That’s what he’s saying. Won’t they say you’re crazy? You are mad! What in the world are those people doing? I went in there and they scared me to death! Anyhow, they would come into the place and all were speaking in Tongues: *“...and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? **24:** But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:”* In other words now because The Word is given clearly and ministered to them: what does it do? It brings judgment and conviction in their heart that they need to surrender unto the Lord. I’m just putting it in my own words. **I Corinthians 14:24:** *“But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: **25:** And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a*

*truth.*" I don't know if you've ever been: but I have been, and I've heard hundreds of people in my lifetime, and especially people who had never accepted the Lord and they went somewhere and someone was preaching. And it was just like they took it as "how in the world does that man know all of that about me?" He doesn't! God does! See, God does. And therefore God comes and then The Word of God is what convinces him of his need for God: his need for Salvation.

It's the same thing that we are declaring. Faith comes by The Word of God. *"How shall they hear without a preacher? How shall he preach except he be sent. And faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* See, when The Word of God is preached it is The Word of God that activates FAITH in the ears of the hearer and convinced them that they need to be Born Again. Or there needs to be a transforming coming in their lives. Or if we are Believers and have been preaching The Word of God sometimes The Spirit of God will take that and see where we need to be changed! So you see, this is what it is saying folks. It's an Order that Paul is teaching here.

So if they come in, what will happen? **I Corinthians 14:25:** *"And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth."* Why? Because The Spirit – oh my God: The Spirit of God by declaring The Gospel of Jesus Christ can work in the hearts of unbelievers as well as in us! **I Corinthians 14:26:** *"How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying."* Again he's bringing it back to show the doctrine, to show the Tongues, to show everything that is there. He's not saying it should not be: he's just simply saying here is the proper Order in which it is to be done. So Paul is never doing

away with these, but he's not allowing God's people to be like children. Grow up! Come to an Understanding! Realize that God brings people together that they can be edified: they can be built up, and exhorted in the Lord. And it's wonderful! **I Corinthians 14:27:** *"If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret."* And you see again, I'm telling you I saw this so real in me. Paul has never done away with none of it! Look at that: it is so beautiful. In other words if it comes forth and there is a message given in Tongues – somebody interpret it. **I Corinthians 14:28:** *"But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God."* And you know you can do that anywhere. You can speak to yourself and to God anywhere. I love going down the road and just talking to God: just speaking to God, and God speaking to me, and that River flowing out of me at times.

Now **I Corinthians 14:29:** *"Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge."* In other words there is a judgment set, a discernment of what the prophet is speaking. **I Corinthians 14:30:** *"If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace."* In other words if God truly gives a Word of The Lord to another, the one that has been speaking can hold his peace and let that come forth because God wants to come forth in this Order. Now he goes on to say, **I Corinthians 14:31:** *"For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted."* We already read that all could speak in Tongues. (Verse 5) See, he's never done away with none of it. If one is prophesying or expounding The Word of God, and God gives another something then I can hold my peace and let him speak. And we're doing it in an Order: two or three. The Amplified says that all "may be stimulated and encouraged." **I Corinthians 14:32:** *"And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets."* And if it's a true Spirit of

God, it will be subject. See, The Testimony of Jesus Christ is The Spirit of Prophecy.

**I Corinthians 14:33:** *“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”* And I’m going to leave the women (Verse 34) alone for now: I’m not getting into that! *“Let the women be silent...”* Maybe someday we’ll get into that, but it isn’t like a lot of people think: that women can’t speak. You go to the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans and the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts: Paul with Priscilla and Aquila. They were ministers, and they ministered with Paul. In the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans most all of those names are women.

But I want us to go to **Numbers 4** now. I want to show you something concerning ORDER then we’ll go to Chronicles, but I just want to lay out a couple of things concerning an Order that God gave. And God has always had an Order. Order must be established in our hearts. Now in **Numbers 4:14:** *“And they shall put upon it all the vessels thereof, wherewith they minister about it, even the censers, the fleshhooks, and the shovels, and the basons, all the vessels of the altar; and they shall spread upon it a covering of badgers’ skins, and put to the staves of it. 15: And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation.”* In other words they were to come and bear it, but they could not touch it. Now we are going to The Ark. Wasn’t it the Philistines who had the Ark and David goes down to get it. There was an Order that God had, and we see it in this chapter. **I Chronicles 13:7:** *“And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drave the cart.”* The Ark in a new cart? What a mistake! See,

sometimes people have to do “new things” and it may not be the Order of God. **I Chronicles 13:8:** *“And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.”*

You know what? God really spoke something to me right there. They were singing, they were dancing, they were blowing the trumpets: they were doing all of this and it was all out of Order. **All out of Order!** Why? Because they had taken the Ark on a new cart! There’s more to this. **I Chronicles 13:9:** *“And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled. 10: And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God.”* Now I read Numbers to show you that with the Priests back there and everything they were to do: they had to carry out the Order but they could not touch the Ark. If they did, they died!

So here, see the Ark was to be carried on the shoulders of the Priests. But they built a new cart. They put the oxen to it. The Bible says “kine” – oxen. Anyhow, they hooked it up and here they all are! They are rejoicing, they are dancing, really having a time. But they’ve got the wrong thing! They have NO Priests bearing it! My God! And you see when the oxen stumbled, and the man touched it, he was killed! You say why would God do that? I don’t know all of this: only except that God said not to! God set things for us as He wants His things to be. **Everything must be done according to HIS Order.** Now **I Chronicles 15:1:** *“And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent. 2: Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever.”* The Levites were the Priests.

So you see anyone that wasn't chosen couldn't do it. Go down to **Verse 11**: *"And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab, 12: And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. 13: For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not **after the due order**."* God had prepared for this. What was the "due order"? The priests had to bear it. God would not honor "their new cart". It must all be by **HIS ORDER**.

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