



**“FIRST
THINGS
FIRST #22”**

**BIBLICAL TRUTH
ABOUT TONGUES**

“FIRST THINGS FIRST #22”

Text: 1 Corinthians 14

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**1. The Church - Not the
Individual - Must Win!**

(vv 1-5, 12)

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**1 Cor. 14:1 Pursue love,
and earnestly desire the
spiritual gifts, especially that
you may prophesy.**

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² For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

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³ On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

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4 The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.

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⁵ Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

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¹² So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

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2. True Worship and Teaching Must Be Clearly Comprehended by the Congregation (and Visiting Sinners and Saints) (*vv 6-11*)

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⁶ Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

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⁷ If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played?

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8 And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle?

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⁹ So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.

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10 There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning,

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11 but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me.

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3. Emotionalism and ‘The Show’ Must Not Rule the Church - Our Intellect Plays a Huge Role (*vv 13-19*)

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13 Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret.

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**14 For if I pray in a tongue,
my spirit prays but my
mind is unfruitful.**

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15 What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

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¹⁶ Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?

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17 For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

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**18 I thank God that I
speak in tongues more
than all of you.**

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19 Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

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4. Tongues were Given to a Few for Unbelievers - But It's the Word Which Grows Christians! (vv 20-24)

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20 Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

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²¹ In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.”

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22 Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.

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23 If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?

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24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all,

The First Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the
CORINTHIANS

PAUL, ^acalled to be an apostle
of Jesus Christ ^bthrough the
will of God, and ^cSos'the-nēs our
brother,

To the church of God which is
in Corinth, to those who ^aare
sanctified in Christ Jesus, ^bcalled
to be saints, with all who in every
place call on the name of Jesus
Christ ^cour Lord, ^dboth theirs and

and peace from

CHAPTER 1

1 ^aRom. 1:1
^b2 Cor. 1:1
^cActs 18:17

2 ^a[Acts 15:9]
^bRom. 1:7
^c[1 Cor. 8:6]
^d[Rom. 3:22]
¹set apart

3 ^aRom. 1:7

4 ^aRom. 1:8

5 ^a[1 Cor. 12:8]
¹speech

6 ^a2 Tim. 1:8
¹Or among

7 ^aPhil. 3:20

same mind and in the same judg-
ment.

11 For it has been declared to
concerning you, my brethren
those of Chlō'ē's household
there are ¹contentions among

12 Now I say this, that
you says, "I am of Paul
of ^bA-pol'los," or "I
phas," or "I am of Chlō-
ē's household."

13 ^aIs Christ divid-
ed? Was he crucified for you
and baptized in the name of
the Father and of the Lord Jesus
Christ and of the Holy Spirit?

14 I thank God
^anone of you
^cCā'i-us,