



## *Service Order—Part Two*

### *1 Corinthians 14*

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*Introduction; Dr. Timothy Keller:* In most cases, the Christianity that is growing today is not the more secularized, belief-thin versions predicted by the sociologists. Rather, it is the robust supernaturalist kind of faith, with belief in miracles, Scriptural authority and personal conversion.

Now is not the time to compromise our Biblically based values or abandon our Pentecostal heritage. In fact the number two reason, according to the Preamble of our Constitution, states that WCC exists for the purpose of Christian Fellowship where the person of the Holy Spirit is honored according to our distinctive testimony. *Acts chapters 2, 8, 10, 19* and *1 Corinthians 12-14*, along with *Joel 2:28-32*, form the basis of our spiritual legacy. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are as relevant and necessary in the church today as they were 2000 years ago.

Anyone who has been in Pentecostal Church for any length of time has probably been embarrassed by the so called demonstrations of the Holy Spirit in a service? (Yea I say to you to thee ...). Why do people bring reproach on the Lord by attributing the works of their flesh to the Holy Spirit? The answer is simple—*our passions mingle with spiritual things as much as they do in fleshly things.*

*The church has adopted two extreme* reactions in dealing with the operation of Spiritual gifts in Pentecostal Churches (1) One extreme is that we turn everyone loose without any rules and attribute everything that happens in the service to the Holy Spirit. (2) The other extreme is to control and organize so there is no opportunity for the gifts of the Spirit to operate—organizing Him out of our services for the sake of order or decency. Finding a balance where the Holy Spirit is allowed to move in the church and where there is order is our challenge.

### **In Service Order we will look at three Spiritual gifts.**

- #1. Service Order** (*1 Corinthians 14:33* *God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.* <sup>40</sup> *So let all things be done decently and in order.*

A. *Read selected verses from 1 Corinthians 14* <sup>1a</sup> Pursue love [let it be your highest goal], and desire spiritual gifts [the special abilities the Holy Spirit gives], but especially the ability to prophesy. <sup>39</sup> So my dear brothers and sisters, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. <sup>5b</sup> A person who is prophesying [in a church service] is greater than a person who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he or she interprets it, that the church may receive edification. <sup>4b</sup> For [those] who speak a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church. <sup>3</sup> But one who prophesies speaks edification [strength] and exhortation [encouragement] and comfort [to those in the church].

1. **Pursue Love and Desire Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 14:1a)** *Pastor Dan:* The Gifts of the Spirit had been in operation in the New Testament Church for about 23 years from 33 AD to 56 AD. In 1 Corinthians 14 Paul narrows his address concerning spiritual gifts and focuses on three gifts—the gift of Tongues, Interpretation and the simple Gift of Prophecy. One of reasons for this detailed instruction is because tongues and prophecy are the two gifts most abused and misunderstood in a church service.

a. *Pastor Dan:* The church is to be motivated by love and empowered by spiritual gifts. It is not proper for us to pursue God’s love and ignore the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and neither is it proper for us to pursue the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and ignore God’s love.

b. **1 Corinthians 12:1, 22; 14:1, 39** Now concerning spiritual gifts [the special endowments given by the Holy Spirit] brothers and sisters, I do want you to be ignorant [and uninformed. Earnestly desire [and strive for] the best gifts. Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts ... and do not forbid speaking in tongues.

c. *Pastor Dan:* Spiritual gifts like salvation are not earned—they are gifts we receive because we love God and desire all He desires to give us.

d. *Pastor Dan:* One of the ways God expresses His love is through His power [**Galatians 5:6**]. Faith works by love—it is God’s will that we love our way to spiritual gifts.

2. **Desire Earnestly [be eager] to Prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:39 a)** *Harold Horton:* The importance of the Gift of Prophecy can be gauged from the fact that some form of the word occurs twenty-two times in 1 Corinthians 11-14. The unusual frequency of the word indicates ... the importance of the gift but ... the need of its use.)

a. *Harold Horton:* Prophecy in its simplest form is a divinely inspired and anointed utterance ... a supernatural utterance in a known tongue—a manifestation of God’s Spirit, not the human mind.

b. *Mike Bickle:* Inspirational prophecy can be a very profound revelation, or it can be (as it usually is) something very simple, such as, “I feel the Lord is saying that He really loves us. That message, if it is given at a divinely prescribed time, can be powerful and effective. If inspirational prophecy occurs too frequently, it will become too common, and people will no longer pay attention to what is being said. They will, in a sense, begin to “despise prophecy,” and not without good reason.

c. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-20** ... We can talk to people’s heads but the Holy Spirit speaks to people’s hearts. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise

prophecies. <sup>21</sup> Test all things; hold fast to what is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil.

- d. *Pastor Dan:* All prophecy should be encouraging and strengthening. We must not idolize the gifts but utilize the gifts.
- e. *Pastor Dan; 1 Corinthians 14:3* If we are operating in the simple gift of prophecy we are speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit without predicting the future. We are speaking a Word from the Lord for the purpose of **edification, exhortation and comfort**. Edification literally means to build up or strengthen. Exhortation ... signifies a calling near for encouragement; the Greek word used for exhortation is (paraklesis) and implies one called to our side to help. Comfort: the Greek word for comfort here means to console, comfort in trial or distress. Guidance is not indicated as one of the purposes of simple prophecy as used in **1 Corinthians 14:3**
- e. *Ellicotts Translation of 1 Corinthians 14:3* *Building up, Stirring up, Cheering up.*
- f. **1 Corinthians 14:1-3,31** *Harold Horton: The Prophetic Gift of the Spirit, does not qualify ... an individual to be a Prophet.*
- g. *Howard Carter:* Prophecy is not preaching. If this were actually so, preparation for preaching would be unnecessary, as one might wait for the anointing of the Holy Spirit without any premeditation.
- h. *Harold Horton:* Preaching and prophesying are totally distinct. In true preaching the natural mind (with its furnishings of the Word) is operated by the Spirit—in prophesying the Mind of the Spirit is speaking through natural speech organs by divine ... inspiration. Prophesying is supernatural.

*Closing and Invitation:* One thing is certain (Evan Roberts): We quench the Holy Spirit when we want to show ourselves and not only that but we also quench the Holy Spirit when we do not pursue God's love by seeking the spiritual gifts that He so much wants to give us.

*Howard Carter:* The gifts of the Spirit are given for signs and wonders which arrest the attention of people as happened on the Day of Pentecost, when multitudes heard the disciples speaking in other tongues ... yet not one was converted until Peter stood up and preached the Gospel! So then, the gifts of the Spirit are for the purpose of gaining the attention of people, and preaching is the vehicle by which people are saved.