

Growing Pains

1 Corinthians 14

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV)

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

³ If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 14:1-5 (NIV)

¹ Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.

² For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.

³ But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

⁴ He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

⁵ I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.

What is "prophecy"?

A public proclamation of spiritual truth.

What is "speaking in tongues"?

A heartfelt (spirit-felt) communication with God that does not involve understandable communication.

Key Verse

1 Corinthians 14:12 (NIV)

¹² So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

Excel in gifts that strengthen, encourage, and comfort people. (verses 3 and 12)

1 Corinthians 14:40 (NIV)

⁴⁰ But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.