

## Better to give than to receive

I Corinthians 14:26-40

<sup>26</sup> What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. <sup>27</sup> If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. <sup>28</sup> If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God. <sup>29</sup> Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. <sup>30</sup> And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. <sup>31</sup> For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. <sup>32</sup> The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. <sup>33</sup> For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.

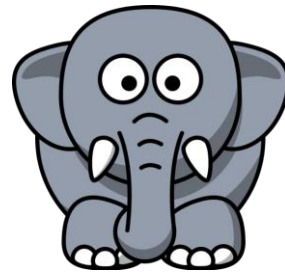
<sup>34</sup> Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. <sup>35</sup> If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.

<sup>36</sup> Or did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? <sup>37</sup> If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command. <sup>38</sup> But if anyone ignores this, they will themselves be ignored.

<sup>39</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.

<sup>40</sup> But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

## The elephant in the room

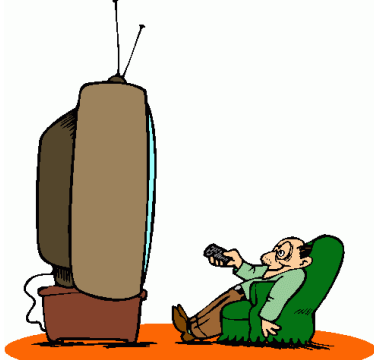


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## Possible explanations?

- Response to Corinthian error in doctrine
- Directive about a woman's role
- Interpolation
- Women disrupting worship

### The big picture



### Paul's vision

- Paul's vision for Christian worship is that the gifts of the spirit are given to all



### Key verse

*<sup>26</sup> What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.*

Love  
↓  
Order  
↓  
All contribute  
↓  
Building up

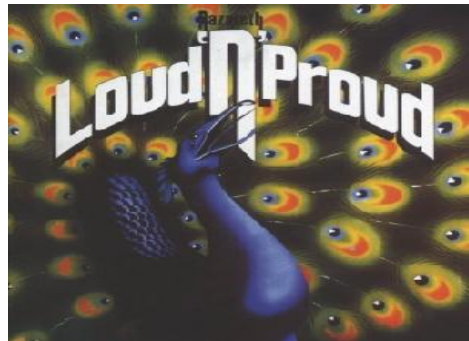
### Paul's guidelines

- one to speak at a time
- each tongue to be interpreted
- if no one is there to interpret the speaker should remain silent
- only 2 or 3 should speak in any meeting
- first speaker needs to be quiet if a new revelation is given
- test the prophetic words

### Give it a go!

- <sup>31</sup> For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.
- so that all can grow in spiritual maturity and participate in the church's ministry
- Spirit is free to flow in the corporate worship

### Puffed up Corinthians



***“Oh really?*** That’s funny; in all the other churches of the saints, it seems God is a God of order and peace. ***Or perhaps you are the only ones who really have heard the word of God?”***  
(Hayes)

## Our challenge

- Building a giving community
- How can we instruct, encourage and bring comfort (prophesy) regularly?
- How can we all wait on the moving of the Spirit together and all discern what God is saying to us as a body?

### 1. Building a giving community

*So always tell each other the wrong things you have done. Then pray for each other. Do this so that God can heal you. Anyone who lives the way God wants can pray, and great things will happen*

**James 5:16**  
(ERV)

### Building a giving community



### 2. How can we instruct, encourage and bring comfort (prophesy) regularly?

[2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

### 3. How can we all wait on the moving of the Spirit together and all discern what God is saying to us as a body?