

Holy Spirit Teaching Lesson 4
The Corinthian Church, the Best & Worst of Pentecost
Next week: Concluding our Study with Lesson 5 - Spiritual Gifts

Special Note: This Study is loosely based upon the book: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT by Hal Donaldson, Ken Horn, and Ann Floyd

TEXT: I Corinthians 1:1-8 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Introduction: This is the 4th lesson in our Holy Spirit Teaching Series: THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH, THE BEST & WORST OF PENTECOST.

I wish to focus on three areas in our Holy Spirit Study on the Church at Corinth: 1. The Best of Pentecost, 2. The Worst of the Pentecost, 3. Restricting or Substituting the Holy Spirit?

I. First, please allow me to do some background on the church at Corinth.

Corinth at the time of Paul's Letters was a major city in Greece. Although the population is not accurately known, population estimates run from 100,000 to 600,000 people. Some bible scholars teach that it was the 5th largest city in the entire Roman Empire.

Estimates on the size of the Corinthian Church range from 40 to 150 people. No one knows for sure!

The Church in Corinth was started by the Apostle Paul.

Acts 18:1-11 After these things (MARS HILL SERMON) Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome;) and came unto them. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks, And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles. And he departed thence, and entered into **a certain man's house, named Justus**, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue. And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized. Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. **And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.**

II. Let us Begin our Study Lesson with: The Best of Pentecost

The Best of Pentecost – the Pursuit of the Fullness of the Holy Spirit

Simple Question: How full is your personal Holy Spirit Reservoir? Water is seen as a critical lifeline for survival in Texas. Almost all of Texas' usable water comes from its lakes and reservoirs. Major lakes and reservoirs are monitored daily to ensure that water capacities don't reach serious levels. In the chart below, we have listed 3 of the 122 lakes/reservoirs from **May 3, 2024** daily levels. Residents of South Texas receive their water from both Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs. The other lake shown in the chart is the largest lake in Texas, Toledo Bend (65 miles max length). As seen from the chart below, although the two

reservoirs combined are less than ½ the size of Toledo Bend, they are both far from full capacity. Again, I ask, **how full is your Holy Spirit Reservoir? God isn't concerned about our total capacity because they are different in each of us. His focus is on the "Percent Full" level of the Holy Spirit in our Heart!**

Reservoir	Percent Full	Water Level (ft)	Conservation Storage (acre-ft)	Conservation Capacity (acre-ft)	Surface Area (acres)
Amistad 2	27.9	1,050.75	506,045	1,813,408	17,900
Falcon 2	11.3	259.52	177,316	1,562,367	26,124
Toledo Bend 8	100.0	172.83	2,236,450	2,236,450	186,198

The "Best of Pentecost" which the Corinthian Church desired and pursued:

- *Freedom to Worship God in a full measure of their Heart - They desired more than just religious ceremonies in an OT Temple. They desired to Worship God in "Spirit and in Truth." They rejected the temple since the temple had reject Christ! They chose to meet in simple houses rather than in grand temples in Christless ceremonies!*
- *The Holy Spirit's Complete Presence and Power –*
Mark 16:15-18 (some of Jesus' last words to his Follows) *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover*
I Corinthians 1:7 ... ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

III. The Worst of Pentecost in the Corinthian Church

The Church at Corinth had many problems that are addressed in Paul's First Letter

- **Division** over who to follow as a church leader (Paul, Apollos, or Peter)
- **Open sin and immorality** among members of the church family
- **Lawsuits** among church members – (inner conflict and warfare undercurrents)
- **Eating food offered to idols** – (a divided heart and worship of worldly things)
- **Abuse of the Lord's Supper** - (rich Christians marginalizing poor Christians)
- **Tithing issues** – (many within the Church won't commit to tithing)
- **Misuse of Spiritual Tongues in their services**

Many of the same problems are still present within the Pentecostal Churches of today

- *We are God's People and pursue a Spirit Filled Life but we still have many issues*
- *The most serious issues must be called out as Paul addressed them in his first letter*

In Paul's 2nd Letter – Many of these Issues had gone away!

II Corinthians 7:8-11 For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season. Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge!

In this Study, I want to deal with the last issue: the misuse of Spiritual Tongues within the church

I Corinthians 14 MANY THEOLOGIANS CALL THIS CHAPTER – THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL CHAPTER IN ALL OF THE NEW TESTAMENT!

In my experience, it is more ignored or misquoted than controversial!

It's quite simple, do you want to believe biblical truth or do you want to believe denominational doctrine! I Corinthians 14:37-38 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. **But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.**

1) Apostle Paul addresses - Tongues vs. Prophesying

Prophesying – translated from *Propheteuo* (Greek): means to proclaim or speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit or to foretell future events as in the office of a prophet.

I Corinthians 14:1 *Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.*

I Corinthians 14:3-5 *But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. 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.*

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.*

****Paul addressed the misuse of Spiritual Tongues used to speak in public without an Interpreter****

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.*

2) Paul never discourages the use of Tongues when used in proper order

I Corinthians 14:18-19 *I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all 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.*

I Corinthians 14:5 *I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied:*

I Corinthians 14:4 *He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself*

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? 17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.*

I Corinthians 14:39-40 *Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and **forbid not to speak with tongues.***

Let all things be done decently and in order.

3) Please allow me to address a question often asked about Spiritual Tongues:

Are Spiritual Tongues a known language? They were known languages in the Initial Outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem, are they known languages today?

Yes, Spiritual Tongues are recognizable to God as a language. *The spirit of man is communicating with the Creator- God understands but others may not! Even the one speaking may not understand what is being said!*

I Co. 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.*

I Co. 14:14 *For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.*

Please let me ask you a question: how many languages can you identify? 1,2,3, or more?

- ❖ *There are 7,139 officially known languages in the world today (ref: Ethnology Guide)*
- ❖ *There are about 31,000 languages in human history (ref: <https://lighthouseonline.com>)*
- ❖ *There are unknown language(s) in heaven*
- ❖ *Cannot God understand all spoken languages whether we recognize them or not?*

4) What is the purpose of Tongues?

I Corinthians 14:21-22 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. Wherefore **tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not**

Isaiha 28:11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

- *Speaking in Spiritual Tongues - is a sign from God unto the unbelieving*
- *Speaking in Spiritual Tongues – is a fulfillment of God’s prophecy*
- *Speaking in Spiritual Tongues – is a work of the Holy Spirit*

Therefore – take – heed – what – you - say – about – it - even – if – you – don’t – understand!

Matthew 12:31-32 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

IV. Closing: Restricting or Substituting the Holy Spirit in our services – WORSE THAN PENTECOST’S WORST

I Thessalonians 5:19-20 *Quench not the Spirit. (20) Despise not prophesyings.*

II Timothy 3:1&5 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come...having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Repeated quote from an earlier lesson -- David Yonggi Cho

The Church is like a sailboat floating on a calm sea. Unless the wind blows, the sailboat will not move. When the Holy Spirit comes, then the Church starts to move. When the wind of the Spirit does not blow, the Church cannot move. The revival for the last days is the revival of the Holy Spirit. It is not by might, nor by power but by the Spirit of God. To minister for Christ, one should be full of the Holy Spirit. That is the most important criteria. When we are born again, we have the Holy Spirit; but when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, then we receive a new dimension of power in our lives. We have new fellowship with the Holy Spirit. We should have the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to the Bible. We can change our world through his power.

John 15:4-5 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: **for without me ye can do nothing.**

WHAT ARE WE DOING WHEN WE RESTRICT THE FULNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- We are restricting the refreshing breeze of the Holy Spirit seeking to encourage and uplift us
- We are restricting the Holy Spirit’s power in assisting us
- We are substituting the Holy Spirit with something inferior (no matter what we use to fill with, any substitute is far inferior to God)
- We are Quenching and Grieving God

ISN’T RESTRICTING THE HOLY SPIRIT FAR WORSE THAN THE WORST OF PENTECOST?