

1 Corinthians 14:1-5 (NASB)

¹ Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

We are to pursue love like the Jews pursued Paul.

Love will keep our motives clear.

Love thinks not of self but of the good of others.

Prophesy applies the Word of God to the conscience and heart for edification.

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

List of spiritual gifts mentioned in scripture.

³ But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.

Prophesy is evidence that God is amongst His people.

Prophesy is direct communication from God to us.

⁴ One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.

Edification: the act of building up.

Exhortation: embodies encouragement, comfort, admonishment.

Consolation: combines encouragement with alleviation of grief.

⁵ Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

Tongues had their place but what profit would there be to speak in tongues without an interpreter.

