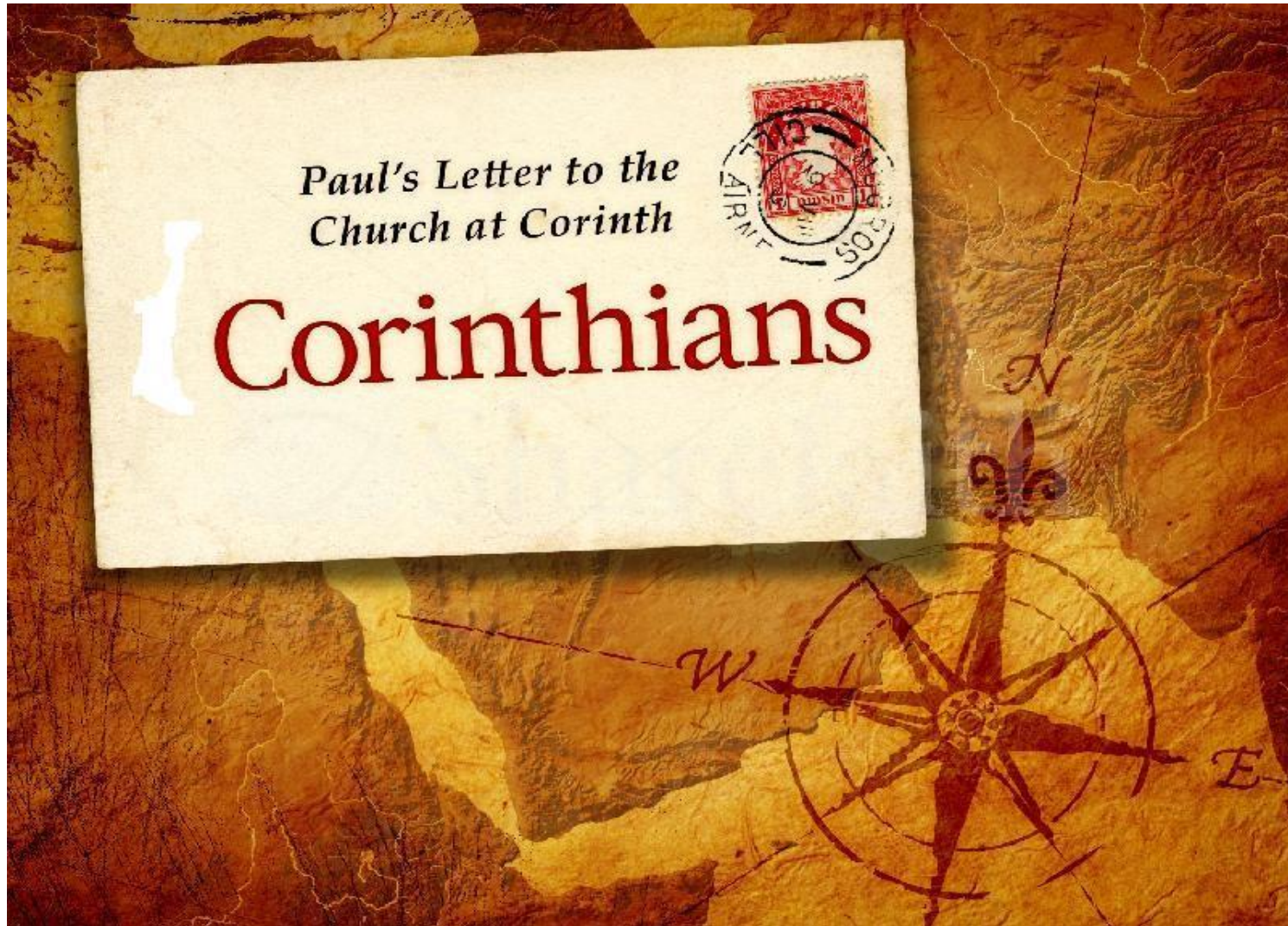


1 Cor.14:20-25 The Call to Mature Thinking

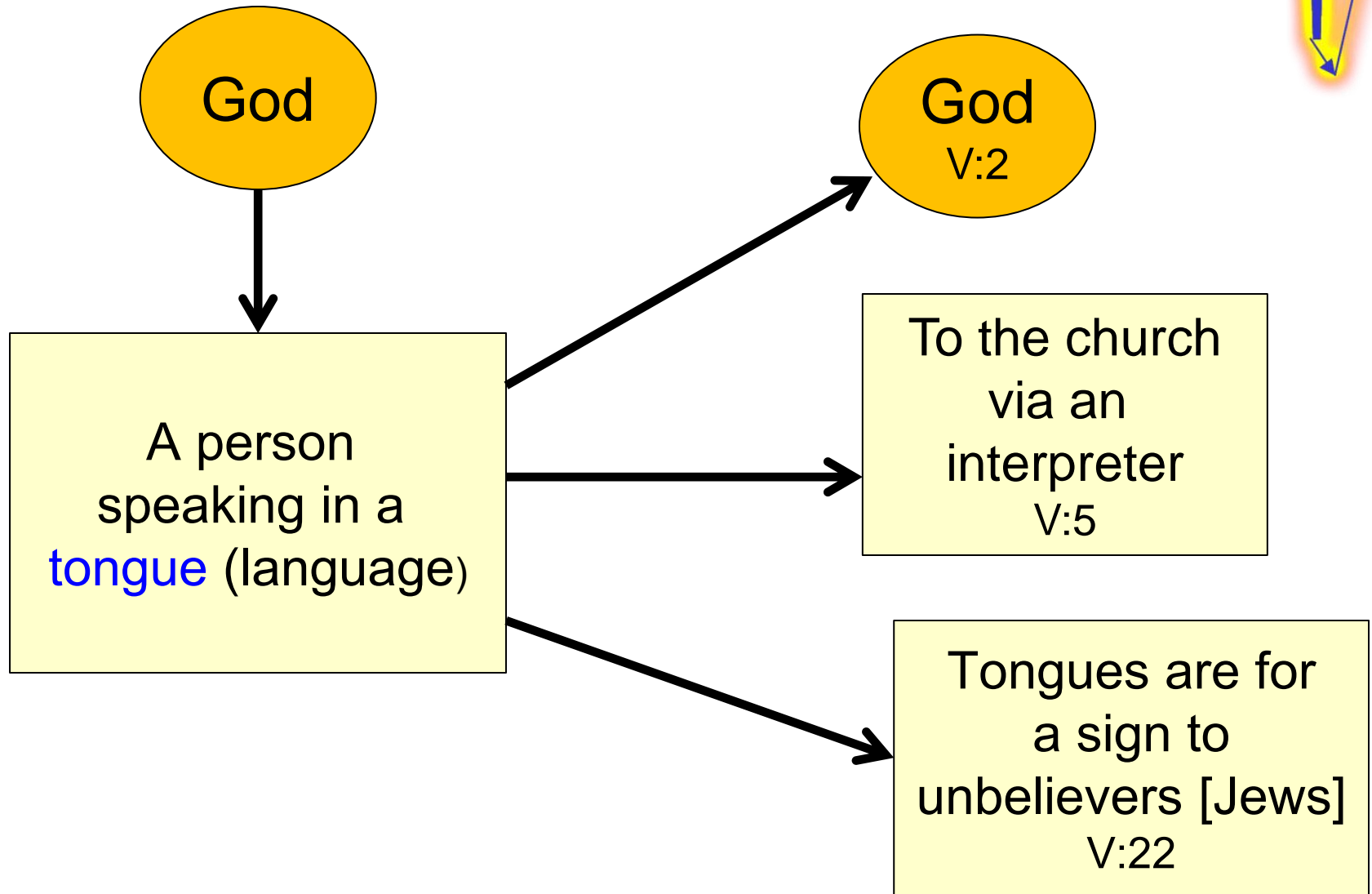


Some Key Points in Chapter 14*

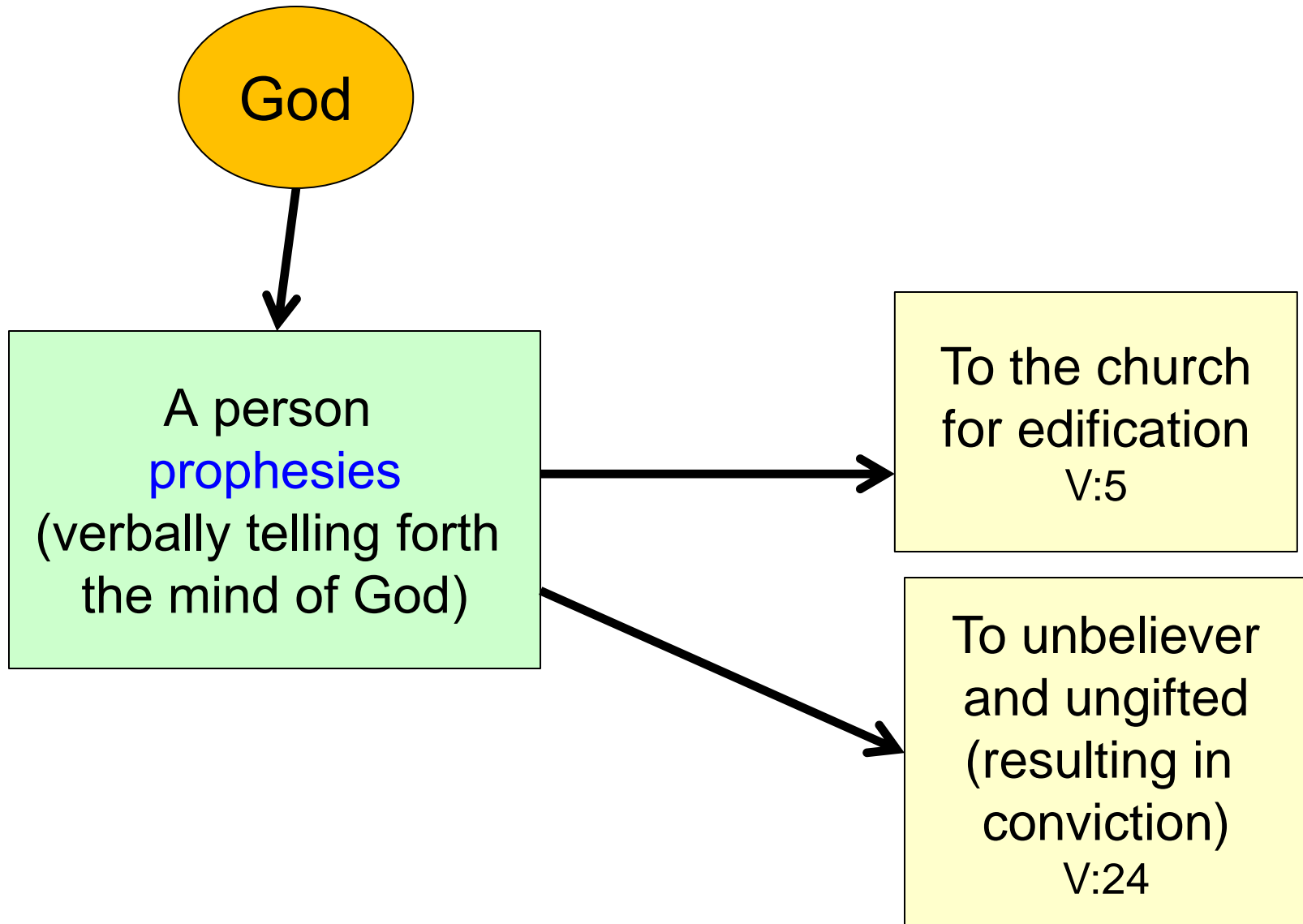


- There must be the priority of edification in the local church.
- The misuse of tongues was getting in the way of edification.
- This chapter tells why prophecy is superior to tongues.
- Prophecy is the verbal telling forth of the mind of God before the New Testament was completed.

Chp 14 Comparison of Tongues and Prophecy*



Chp 14 Comparison of Tongues and Prophecy*



Outline*



The Inferiority of Tongues 14:1-5

The Deficiency of Tongues 14:6-19

The Reiteration of Deficiency of Tongues 14:13-19

The Purpose of Tongues 14:20-25

1. The Call to Mature Thinking 14:20

2. The Basis for Mature Thinking 14:21-22

3. The Application of Mature Thinking 14:23-25

a. Relative to Tongues 14:23

b. Relative to Prophecy 14:24-25

Today's Verses



²⁰ Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.

²¹ In the Law it is written, "By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people, and even so they will not listen to me," says the Lord.

²² So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy *is for a sign*, not to unbelievers but to those who believe.

²³ Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?

²⁴ But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all;

²⁵ the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.

²⁰ Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.



Brethren – fellow believers [*adelphos*] in Corinth
both men and women

Subject: *you* (implied)

Verb – [**do not**] **be** – *ginomai* – to come into a new state
of being (present, imperative)

Lit: Stop becoming

Subj Comp: **children** (a noun that identifies the subject)

The brethren at Corinth had come into a childlike state.

in your thinking (or mind)

mind - *phrén* - Figuratively, the supposed seat of all mental
and emotional activity.

²⁰ Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.



yet in evil be infants

yet (or but) – in contrast to being children

Subject: *you* (implied)

Verb: be infants - *nēpiazō* - to be a babe

Modifier: in evil - *kakia* - wickedness, depravity

- Rom 16:19b therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.
- Flee immorality, idolatry, and every other sin ---
- There is a sense in which it is good for Christians to be childlike, namely in our innocence regarding evil.

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²⁰ Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.



but in your thinking be mature

Subject: *you* (implied)

Verb: *be* (become) - *ginomai* – to come into a new state of being (present, imperative)

Subj Comp: *mature* (an adj. that describes the subject)

- *téleios* - of persons, meaning full-grown in mind and understanding
- Paul's desire is for the brethren to come into a state of being mature.

in your thinking (or understanding)

in the sphere of the reasoning process

Wuest

²¹ In the Law it is written, "By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people, and even so they will not listen to me," says the Lord.



Subject: "In the Law it is written," says the Lord

- The Law refers to the Old Testament here since the passage Paul cited is Isaiah 28:11-12. Constable

Isa 28:11 Indeed, He will speak to this people [Israel] through stammering lips and a foreign tongue, ¹² He who said to them, "Here is rest, give rest to the weary," and, "Here is repose," but they would not listen.

- Because the nation would not listen to God's word in their native language of Hebrew, God announced that he would send a message in a language they would not understand.

McCalley



21 In the Law it is written, "By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people, and even so they will not listen to me," says the Lord.

- Note the compound verb in this verse!

1st verb: I will speak (to this people [Israel])

laléōis is the word used for speak

two modifiers:

by men of strange tongues (languages)

- What were the strange languages?
- The people in Isaiah's time spoke Hebrew.
- The New Testament was written in the Greek language.

by the lips of strangers

- God brought his message by prophets like Isaiah
- Now it will come from ones who are not Israelites.

²¹ In the Law it is written, "By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people, and even so they will not listen to me," says the Lord.



2nd verb: will not listen (to me, God)

- Tongues [in the Corinthian church] were intended to call the Jews' attention to Isaiah 28:11-12.
- It would remind the nation [of Israel] that God's word spoken by Isaiah was being fulfilled.
- Verse 22 will elaborate on how tongues fulfill Isaiah 28:11-12.

²² So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe.



Now a contrast between tongues and prophecy

First – one of the purpose of tongues:

So then tongues are for a sign (an attesting miracle)

- The fact that a believer could speak in a language that he did not know was a miracle.

Second - who is the sign of tongues for:

not to those who believe but to unbelievers

- The unbelievers were Jewish which fulfilled Isa 28:11.
- 1 Cor 1:22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom.

22 So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe.



First – one of the purposes of prophecy:

but prophecy is for a sign

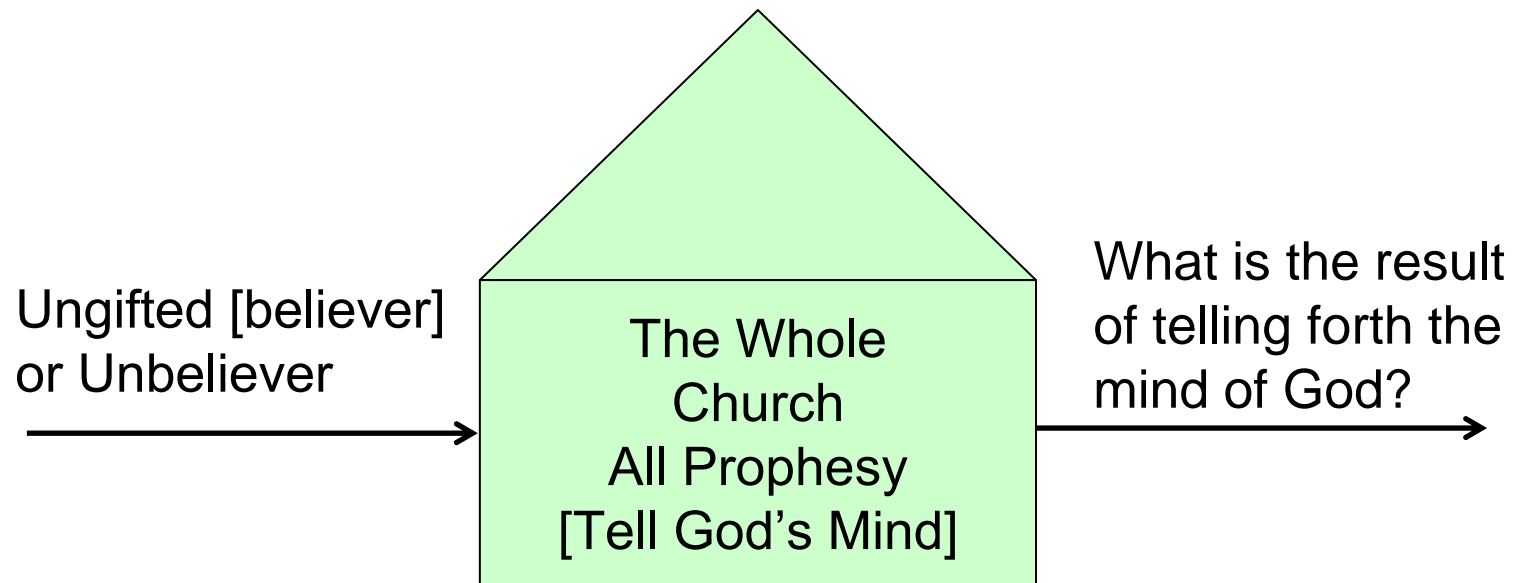
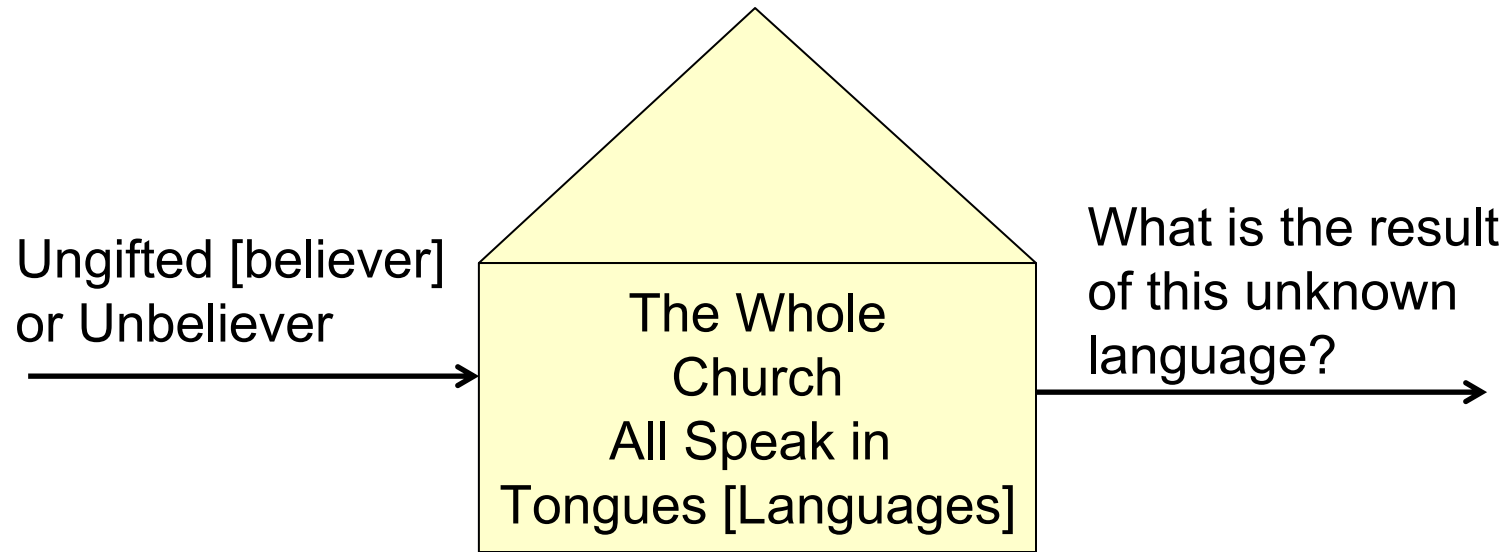
- A believer that spoke forth the mind of God (before the New Testament was completed) was a miracle.

Second - who is the sign of prophecy for:

not to unbelievers but to those who believe

- The believers in Corinth were being edified by this miraculous communication from God via the gift of prophecy.

The Results of Tongues and Prophecy



23 Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?



Therefore – based on the previous verses

1. Assumed situation:

if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues [of the ones who spoke]

2. Two categories of men enter the church:
ungifted men [believers] or unbelievers enter

3. What will these men conclude
will they not say that you are mad [out of your minds]

- Paul painted a picture of the Corinthian church assembled and engaged in a frenzy of unintelligible tongues-speaking.

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24 But if all prophecy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all;

But- now in contrast to the whole church speaking in tongues (unknown languages) in verse 23

if all prophecy (telling forth of the mind of God)

- again it is all of the ones who prophesy

an unbeliever or an ungifted man [believer] **enters**

- now the same two categories of men enter the church

Three things will occur:

1. **he** (the two types) **is convicted** [passive voice] or he is being convicted [middle voice] – inward action *elenchō* – convince, it is used of "convicting" of sin
by all – all the ones telling the mind of God

The Holly Spirit's Convincing Ministry



John 16:7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

⁸ "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;

¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

- more about convicting or convincing ministry of the Holy Spirit



The producing of conviction is linked to three entities in the New Testament. McCalley

1. The “Holy Spirit” is the **source** of conviction (John 16:8)
2. The “word of God” is the **means** of conviction
 - 2 Tim 3:16a All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, ---
3. Man, the “human messenger” is the **agent** of conviction
 - In 2 Tim 4:2, Timothy is exhorted to “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove....”



24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all;

2. He (two kinds of men) is called to account by all.

he is judged [passive voice] Interlinear

he is being judged [middle voice] – inward action

anakrinō - to examine, investigate, question

- Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

by all - all the ones telling the mind of God

²⁵ the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.



the secrets of his heart are disclosed [become evident]

- this is the result of the conviction and judging process

3a. so he (two kinds of men) will fall on his face and worship God,

- John 20:27 Then He said to Thomas, --- reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing. ²⁸ Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

3b. declaring that God is certainly among you

- Isa 45:14b --- They will make supplication to you: "Surely, God is with you, and there is none else, No other God."

Final Thoughts*



Prophecy [telling forth God's mind] would result in the repentance of visiting unbelievers, but tongues-speaking would not. These verses summarize the effects of good Christian preaching on unbelievers.

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