

## 46-1Corinthians14a

0:52 Well, greetings, brethren, and welcome to another Wednesday night Bible study where we study the scriptures line upon line.

0:58 This evening, God willing, what I would like to do is cover the first part of chapter 14 of 1 Corinthians.

1:08 I am on the road, so I've pre-recorded this message for you, and so I won't be able to check just to make sure I'm coming through loudly and clearly, but I, I should be, so I'm just recording.

1:19 And I will look forward to being live with you, God willing, next week, and hopefully Pastor Murray is in the chat with you, and we did get word that he and his family made it safely out east.

1:31 So, Godspeed, Pastor Murray.

1:34 Our heavenly Father, we pause as we always do, to acknowledge you, to thank you, to praise you, and to ask Father that you will continue to bless our studies, continue to bless our understanding.

1:47 And deepen our faith.

1:49 We praise you, Father, for this letter from the apostle Paul, to our brethren that were in Corinth, and we ask Father that you'll bless our study now.

2:00 We pray in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.

2:02 Amen.

2:03 So, as I mentioned, brethren, we want to get into 1 Corinthians chapter 14.

2:09 I should have checked that I can share my screen.

2:12 Let me go ahead and see that I can do that now.

2:17 Yes, I can.

2:20 Very good.

2:21 So you should see my screen now, 1 Corinthians 14.

2:25 But before I get into chapter 14, What I'd like to do is just pick up a couple of verses, just to give us a bit of context as to what we're looking at in chapter 14.

2:38 I want to start in chapter one, just to remind us with respect to spiritual gifts, that in verse 3, he says to them, grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

2:55 And then notice what he says in verses 4 and 5 and 7.

2:59 I thank my God always on your behalf for the grace of God, which is given you by Jesus Christ.

3:08 So this was a very blessed congregation, and, and Paul saw that and was thanking God on their behalf always that in everything, you are enriched by Him in all utterance and in all knowledge.

3:25 So they were certainly gifted in this,, sort of ecstatic speaking or inspirational speaking, and in, in knowledge.

3:34 And, and, you know, Paul later shows them that there's a lot that they don't know.

3:38 And again, the more we know, the more we realize how much we don't know.

3:42 But they did have a lot of knowledge, and they did have this ability to speak under inspiration.

3:47Even as the testimony.

3:50Of Christ was confirmed in you.

3:53So that you come behind in no gift.

3:57Waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4:00So it's a very, very gifted church.

4:03Unfortunately, it was a very competitive church, and they were not recognizing all of the gifts.

4:10Then, to show that level of dysfunction, In chapter 11, just breaking in for a couple of verses, first one in verse 17.

4:20Now, in this that I declare unto you, so he, there were some things that were doing well, but he says in this, I praise you not.

4:28That you come together, not for the better, but for the worse.

4:34So, although this was a very blessed congregation, when they actually congregated, they were bringing curses and damnation upon themselves.

4:43So Paul was like, this is a tragedy.

4:47That you're such a gifted church, and yet when you come together, you're bringing damnation upon yourselves.

4:54And then he goes on to explain why.

4:56In verse 31, he tells them, listen, if we will judge ourselves, we will not be judged.

5:03And so he explains to them that you're not discerning the Lord's body, and you're abusing each other because of that, you're not regarding each other because of that.

5:11And so when you're coming together to abuse the Lord's body, is to bring damnation and condemnation upon yourself.

5:20And so he says to them in verse 34, if any man hunger, let him eat at home, that you come not together unto condemnation, which is what they were doing.

5:33And the fact that they were putting themselves ahead of others in the body and not esteeming others better than themselves, not honoring the body of Christ, this is why they were bringing condemnation upon themselves, even though they were very gifted.

5:47And so he says, and the rest, I'll set in order when I come.

5:51So there's a lot of issues.

5:53He's gonna help them deal with these issues, but this is the big one.

5:57This is the one that they have to fix immediately.

6:00There's no time to waste, that when they come together, they don't bring condemnation upon themselves.

6:06On the heels of that.

6:09Not discerning the Lord's body.

6:11We come into chapter 12, where he explains to them how the Lord's body works.

6:19And, and helps them discern the Lord's body.

6:23So it begins in verse 1 of chapter 12, concerning the spiritual or the spiritual ones among you.

6:32Brethren, I can't have you be ignorant.

6:35You're not discerning the Lord's body, you're not honoring who's right in front of you, so concerning the spiritual.

6:42I would not have you, ignorant brethren.

6:45 So he begins to explain that they helped him understand how to discern the Lord's body, but in verse 3, he says, listen.

6:55 Wherefore, I want, I give you to understand, only need to be ignorant.

6:59 I want you to understand that no man speaking by the spirit of God calls Jesus a curse.

7:07 And no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

7:12 I want you to be able to discern the spiritual ones.

7:15 Here you are coming together to keep the Lord's Passover, to acknowledge that the Lord is Jesus Christ.

7:23 To, to, to honor his death.

7:26 Well, that's not possible without the Holy Spirit.

7:31 You're surrounded by those who are perishing.

7:34 Who called Jesus a cursed.

7:38 They have no acknowledgement of Christ.

7:41 And so this is the discernment that you have to have, those in the body and those that are perishing.

7:47 And those that you've kept the Passover with, it is not possible for them to acknowledge Jesus as Lord, except that they have the Holy Spirit.

7:58 And then he ends this chapter as he begins to expound to them how the spirit works, how the Lord's body works, how to discern the Lord's body.

8:08 He says to them in verse 31, He he's explaining the different gifts, and they're not all given to one person.

8:18 And then he says to them, covet earnestly the best gifts.

8:24 So, the Holy Spirit distributes the gifts.

8:30 To different people.

8:32 But Paul is saying you can actually influence how you are gifted by earnestly coveting the best gift.

8:41 You know, James says if you lack wisdom, to pray to God for it, and he'll grant it.

8:48 But wisdom is a gift.

8:50 And so, so there's a way that we can actually implore God through the Holy Spirit to empower us in specific ways.

8:58 And he's saying to the Corinthians who have a an upside down understanding.

9:05 Of which of the prioritization of gifts, prioritizing and privileging that gift, which is spectacular, and, and when he's presenting it, he, he always presents tongues last.

9:16, except in chapter 13, where he negates it first.

9:22 But between 12 and 13, and, and now into 14, it's very, becomes very clear that this gift that they were prioritizing is the least important.

9:35 To the apostle Paul.

9:37 So, he tells them to make an effort to pursue the best gifts, and then he interrupts himself, and he says, but let me show you a more excellent way, and then we have chapter 13, where he explains to them that the way is the way of agape, and that becomes the foundation for the gifts.

9:57 And this way of agape, in verse 8, he says, agape never fails.

10:05 But the gifts will fail.

10:07 He says, but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail.

10:10 Whether they be tongues, they shall cease.

10:13 Whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.  
10:16 So, the gifts are sort of this temporary phenomenon.  
10:21 But agape is eternal.  
10:24 And so this, this is the foundation of our life in Christ.  
10:27 This is the way.  
10:29 Now, with that, he comes into chapter 14.  
10:34 In chapter 14, he begins and says, follow after agape.  
10:39 So, he summarizes chapter 13.  
10:41 This is the more excellent way.  
10:42 So pursue the more excellent way.  
10:44 Now, let me resume where I was at the end of chapter 12 when I was telling you to covet earnestly.  
10:51 The best gifts, so desire the best gifts.  
10:54 Desire spiritual desire to be these spiritually empowered humans.  
11:03 But of these different gifts that I've outlined to you, The one that I prefer for you to pursue, the best gift, is that you may prophesy.  
11:14 And that is given to you by the Holy Spirit on Sabbath.  
11:17 I quoted Numbers 11.  
11:19 I just want to go back through it here, but, but just a longer quote of the passage.  
11:25 In Numbers 11, we see the same phenomenon of the Holy Spirit being distributed among the body.  
11:35 In this case, the leadership.  
11:37 So let's let's just read it together.  
11:38 Numbers 11 verse 23, and the Lord said unto Moses, Because Moses was complaining and just was really burdened by the people of Israel, and just couldn't see how he could continue to lead them.  
11:53 They were complaining bitterly that they needed protein, they needed meat, and they were just reminiscing of how wonderful life was in Egypt and the meat that they had.  
12:03 And, Moses was just beyond frustrated.  
12:07 He was exasperated, and he was bitterly complaining to God.  
12:11 And how can he possibly lead these people?  
12:14 And it's not his fault.  
12:15 Why is this burden all on him?  
12:17 And how is he gonna feed millions of people, meat, not just for a day or two, but for, you know, weeks on end.  
12:26 Yeah, maybe a whole month.  
12:29 How do you feed millions of people meat in the desert?  
12:32 So, Moses was in bitterness of heart.  
12:35 And the Lord said unto Moses, is, is my hand wax short?  
12:40 Do you think this is not possible for me to do?  
12:43 You shall see now whether my word shall come to pass unto you or not.  
12:50 So I told you I'm gonna lead the people through you, and I'll look after their needs.  
12:56 And now you're complaining to me.  
12:58 Watch.

12:59 You're going to see whether my word, when I speak, it'll come to pass through you or not.  
13:05 And Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord.  
13:10 And gathered the 70 men, so God had told him to gather the elders, 70 elders.  
13:15 He gathered the 70 men of the elders of the people, and they'll come from the different tribes, and set them round about the tabernacle.  
13:24 And the Lord came down in a cloud and spoke unto him.  
13:29 And took of the spirit that was upon him.  
13:32 This is the Holy Spirit that was upon Moses, and he distributed it.  
13:37 Similar to what we see in Corinth, and he distributed it, he gave it unto the 70 elders.  
13:44 And here today, we, we are all elders in training.  
13:48 So the church today is the future leadership, and so this is very analogous to what God has done for us today.  
13:56 Going back to this pattern that was set in numbers, and he gave it to the 70 elders, and it came to pass.  
14:04 That when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied and did not cease.  
14:11 So, so here you can see, there was a crisis in the body.  
14:16 There was a crisis in the church in the wilderness.  
14:20 And the Holy Spirit edified the people.  
14:23 It educated them.  
14:25 These, these men were able to prophesy in support of Moses's leadership, and they were able to exhort the people and get them to see clearly and understand what the Lord was doing, and, and how to be in the will of God.  
14:40 And this was done miraculously through the Holy Spirit.  
14:45 And, and, and here you sort of see the best gift for these people was the exhortation and the comfort of the prophesying, that was only possible because of the spirit.  
14:58 Now, I didn't cover this on Sabbath, but let's just read on a bit more.  
15:02 I thought I'd leave it for the study today.  
15:04, verse 26.  
15:08 So, they are gathered around the tabernacle, so they're out of the camp and they're around the tabernacle, and this, this phenomenon happened.  
15:17 But there remained two of the men in the camp, so they didn't come, they weren't of the 70 elders that surrounded the camp.  
15:25 They remained in the camp, they probably not even elders.  
15:28 The name of the one was Eldad.  
15:32 And the name of the other Midad.  
15:35 And the spirit rested upon them.  
15:39 And they were of them that were written.  
15:44 But went not out onto the tabernacle.  
15:47 So in this case, perhaps they were elders, but so they were supposed to be included, but they didn't go to the tabernacle.  
15:53 And they prophesied, instead of around the tabernacle, they prophesied in the camp.  
16:00 So this is miraculous.  
16:03 And But it's strange.  
16:07 They didn't come, and yet they received of the spirit, and they're also prophesying.

16:16And there ran a young man and told Moses.

16:19And said, Eldad and my dad do prophesy in the camp.

16:25And Joshua will be the future leader, the son of none, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them.

16:38So you can see Joshua has this orientation towards order.

16:42He doesn't want chaos.

16:44He doesn't want competition.

16:46He wants Moses's leadership to be deeply established.

16:51So, stop them from doing this, and you can also get a sense of the authority that Moses had.

16:58And Moses said unto him, Do you envy for my sake?

17:04Are you envious for my sake?

17:07Don't be.

17:09I wish that God, would God, that all the peoples, all the Lord's people were prophets.

17:16So this almost sounds like Paul.

17:18I want all of you to prophesy.

17:22And Moses is not threatened by this.

17:26Because he understands the Lord's will.

17:29The Paul will say later, I don't think we'll get to it today, but he'll say in chapter 14, the spirit of the prophets is subject to the prophets.

17:40So you'll never have a situation where somebody is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

17:46In, in contradiction to or in subversion of someone else who is inspired by The spirit, somebody in authority who's inspired by the spirit is not going to be undermined.

18:00By someone who's also inspired by the spirit.

18:03The, the spirit of the prophets is subject to the prophets, and then even just going beyond that, we're not gonna have any prophet who contradicts Moses.

18:14And so you're going to see, you know, in, in, in the UK they have Speaker's Corner, where every week, Christians and Muslims are doing this rhetorical battle.

18:27Over whether or not Muhammad is the true prophet.

18:32Well, the spirit of the prophets is subject to the prophets, and Muhammad contradicts everything in Moses.

18:40He tries to leverage Moses, but then negate Moses.

18:44And I can remember talking to one of these Muslims in In the UK in London, they were on the street corner and so I just engaged them.

18:54And he was trying to convince me that the law of Moses was from Moses' time, and that every prophet comes with a different set of laws, and that's how he was trying to convince me that even though the laws of Muhammad contradict Moses, it's because it was a different time.

19:12And so that's, that's what Muslims can believe and then have no regard for the Bible, but the scriptures falls very clear.

19:19The spirit of the prophets is subject to the prophets, and for this reason, Moses was not threatened.

19:26If they are part of this miraculous manifestation of the spirit, then we're all subject to God's will.

19:34And so Moses was was a great leader, not at all threatened.

19:37He's happy to see God's spirit working.

19:41Through other men.

19:43And, and, you know, to Joshua's credit as well, he wants to see order.

19:47So he says, are you envious for my sake?

19:49I wish.

19:51To God that all of the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them.

19:58And Moses got him into the camp.

20:02He and the elders of Israel.

20:04So they all now are in the camp, and Moses is happy that the Lord's Spirit is working in all of them, but also this is part of the relief to Moses.

20:15That instead of all of this being on you, I'm gonna distribute the leadership now through the distribution of the Holy Spirit, and this is now in preparation for the receipt of the protein, of the, the quail.

20:29And, and when they're receiving the quail, they're gonna have context now as to what God is doing, and they're gonna have exhortation.

20:37So that is parallels beautifully with what we see here in 1 Corinthians 14.

20:44And why Paul is trying to get them to understand that the spirit of prophesying is far more important.

20:53Then the gift of speaking in tongues.

20:58And so he begins to explain to them why.

21:02They've been really prioritizing, speaking in tongues, and he's saying no.

21:08Prioritize prophesying.

21:10And prophesying does not necessarily mean that you're a prophet.

21:14These men, with Moses were not prophets, they were elders, but they were able to prophesy nonstop in this period of time.

21:24, that, that exhortation was required.

21:28So we must think of prophesying really as inspirational speaking.

21:33And that can happen.

21:34Yes, it will happen at the podium through education and and Christianity is about education.

21:39We must be educated in the word of God, but it can also happen beyond the podium.

21:46It can happen when two brethren are speaking to one another and one needs exhortation and comfort.

21:53And and edification.

21:55It can happen and the way we do it in Burlington is we meet and discuss before we have our formal service, and we meet and discuss after we have our formal service.

22:08So, with our pre-sermon discussion, we're exploring a particular doctrine or teaching or passage where we have a question collectively, and we might explore that topic for weeks, and then after the sermon, or after the service, we discuss the sermon.

22:24What did we hear?

22:25How did it impact us?

22:27What might we add?

22:29what, what, what, what else did we think of?

22:31 What questions do we have?

22:33 And, and so this is an opportunity for everybody in the congregation to develop the gift of prophesying, of speaking under divine inspiration.

22:45 And if we covet earnestly to do this, Paul is saying, you can influence.

22:51 The gifting that God gives you, if you covered earnestly for it.

22:56 And so now he's beginning to explain.

23:01 Why this gift of prophesying is superior.

23:06 To the gift of speaking in tongues, it's a spectacular that that was.

23:11 So notwithstanding how spectacular that was, prophesying is more important.

23:16 For he that speaks in a, in a language that's not known, he that speaks in an unknown language speaks not unto men.

23:27 But unto God.

23:29 For no man understands him.

23:31 How be it the spirit.

23:33 In the spirit he speaks, mysteries.

23:36 So Paul is acknowledging this gift.

23:38 It is an absolutely miraculous gift to just be able to speak in a language that you were never trained in.

23:46 So the way the brain works, we get oriented to a language or at an early age, maybe a couple of languages.

23:52 But you have to be taught these languages and the grammar and the syntax is to just suddenly as an adult, miraculously begin to speak in these languages.

24:00 Well, if nobody is there that understands the language that you're speaking, yes, it's a gift.

24:06 Yes, there's some divine relationship between you and God, but it's not benefiting anybody except yourself.

24:13 However, he that prophesies, he that can speak under divine inspiration, speaks unto men to edification.

24:24 And exhortation and comfort, and that's what we saw in Numbers 11.

24:31 That the, the, the, the, the church in the wilderness was in this crisis.

24:37 And the ability for these 72 men, in addition to Moses, to speak under inspiration, to exhort them, to edify them and to comfort them.

24:50 He that speaks in an unknown language in a tongue.

24:55 edifies himself.

24:56 He can definitely feel assured that he has the spirit of God, that God is with him, that he has been handpicked by God, the Father.

25:06 He's very edifying.

25:07 But just to himself.

25:10 However, he that prophesies edifies the church.

25:15 And this is why you, you see in chapter 11, they're they're, they're pursuing this pursuing and prioritizing this spectacular gift, and the church is a disaster.

25:26 It's a tragedy.

25:28 And Paul says, yeah, you're pursuing this gift, but when you come together, you're bringing condemnation on yourselves.

25:35 So, there's no edification of the body.

25:39There's no, there's no teaching.

25:42And so that situation could have been averted, had you prioritized the gift of prophecy, and you were able to edify each other through divine inspiration.

25:54He that speaks in a, in a tongue edifies himself, but he that prophesies edifies the church, and this is now just bringing in mind what Paul taught the Philippian brethren.

26:08Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory.

26:12So they were pursuing these gifts, and the gift of tongues in particular, through strife and vainglory.

26:21Well, I say through vainglory, which caused strife.

26:24A very, very competitive situation.

26:26Paul says let nothing be done that way, but in lowliness of mind, let each esteem the other better than themselves.

26:36And that's why pursuing this gift of prophesying is actually esteeming others better than yourself if it's done in the spirit of agape.

26:46So develop that fruit of the spirit first.

26:49Use that as the foundation, and then with that as your foundation, you will then pursue the gifts that will esteem others better than yourself, that will edify others.

27:00Look, not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

27:05So Paul was acknowledging this gift of speaking in tongues.

27:10It was a gift of the spirit.

27:12It was miraculous, but they were pursuing their own things.

27:16They were edifying themselves and feeling good about themselves, and Paul, Paul was saying to them, as he's saying here to the Philippians, don't do that.

27:24Don't do that.

27:26Really have a high regard, a covenant love for your brethren, and seek what's best for them.

27:34Back to chapter 14.

27:36Just as, just exactly almost word for word, what Moses said.

27:41I wish that you all spoke with tongues, right?

27:46But rather that you prophesied.

27:49I wish that you could all prophesy, more, more than I wish you could all speak in tongues.

27:54Yeah, it would be great if you all spoke in tongues, and if that's what you're pursuing.

27:57I want that too.

27:59But when I look at the state of the congregation, what would be most beneficial?

28:07Is your ability to prophesy and to edify each other.

28:12For greater, now he's telling them, which is the better gift.

28:16For greater is he that prophesies.

28:19Then he that speaks with tongues.

28:21That must have been just mind blowing.

28:23You know, I thought I was the greatest one in the congregation because of how this gift is just manifesting itself in me all the time, spectacularly.

28:32And so I must be the the best one here, and then Paul just flips it on its head, and says that's actually the gift I'll put at the bottom.

28:40And the one that can prophesy and edify and exhort and comfort others, that's the greater.

28:47In fact, that's it, that's the one that I put at the top.

28:50He, yeah, so I want you all to speak in tongues, but really what I really want more than that is that you could all can, can speak under inspiration.

28:59For greater is he that prophesies, speaks under divine inspiration than he that speaks with tongues.

29:05Except that he interpret that the church may receive edifying.

29:11And we see that when he's educating the Ephesians, that these gifts are given for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

29:26So, I'll, I'll pause there, we, so we got to verse 5 of chapter 14.

29:31I think I will stop there just so I've got another appointment before I get on the road here.

29:35So this is just beginning 1 Corinthians chapter 14, I think I'm gonna need 3.

29:42, studies to get through the chapter.

29:44There's quite a lot here and we just have to take it a bit at a time.

29:49But that's just beginning then with chapter 14.

29:52I pray that you were edified.

29:54I sorry, I apologize, this is a shorter message this evening, but God willing we'll be live next week.

30:00God bless.

30:01Jesus is Lord and God willing, you'll be able to join us this Sabbath at 1:30 p.m. And God willing, I'll be bringing the sermon, the Sabbath.

30:13God bless you, Jesus is Lord.