

# The Place of Tongues and Prophecy in the Church

## 1 Corinthians 14:26–40

**1 Rule 1: The guiding principle**  
**— gifts are to be used in church**  
**only to edify people**

- a. Confusion prevailed  
in the Corinthian church
- b. The guiding principle:  
All things must edify

**2 Rule 2: Tongues are to be limited**  
**and interpreted**

**3 Rule 3: Prophecy is to be limited**  
**and discerned**

**4 Rule 4: Women are to keep silent**  
**in the church**  
**— not to exercise**  
**the gift of tongues in the church**

26 What then shall we say, brothers?

When you come together,  
everyone has a hymn,  
or a word of instruction,  
a revelation, a tongue  
or an interpretation.  
All of these must be done  
for the strengthening of the church.

27 If anyone speaks in a tongue,  
two — or at the most three — should speak,  
one at a time, and someone must interpret.

28 If there is no interpreter,  
the speaker should keep quiet in the church  
and speak to himself and God.

29 Two or three prophets should speak,  
and the others should weigh carefully  
what is said.

30 And if a revelation comes to someone  
who is sitting down,  
the first speaker should stop.

31 For you can all prophesy in turn  
so that everyone may be instructed  
and encouraged.

32 The spirits of prophets  
are subject to the control of prophets.

33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.  
As in all the congregations of the saints,

34 Women should remain silent in the churches.  
They are not allowed to speak,  
but must be in submission, as the Law says.

35 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.

**5 *Rule 5: Guard against the potential abuses of the gifts***

- a. Thinking you are the only teacher
- b. Thinking that God speaks only to you
- c. Thinking that you are more spiritual than others

**6 *Conclusion: The final rule and charge***

- a. Covet the best gifts
- b. Do not forbid tongues
- c. Do all things orderly — in worship

36 Did the word of God originate with you?  
Or are you the only people it has reached?

37 If anybody thinks he is a prophet  
or spiritually gifted,  
let him acknowledge that what I am writing  
to you is the Lord's command.

38 If he ignores this,  
he himself will be ignored.

39 Therefore, my brothers,  
be eager to prophesy,  
and do not forbid speaking in tongues.

40 But everything should be done  
in a fitting and orderly way.