

Is There an Interpreter in the House?
Finding and Following the Flow of the Spirit in Your Service
Lesson 3: We Have Some Explaining To Do

TEXT: 1 Cor 14:5-6

The Gift of Interpretation has been connected with speaking in tongues in most of our minds. There is a much broader understanding of that gift that will help us in making our services simultaneously visitor friendly and spiritually powerful and diverse.

- I. Our Pentecostal traditional understanding:
 - A. Our Howard Carter tradition: a sort of prophecy-lite.
 1. A message in tongues is followed by an inspired utterance in English which gives the sense of the message. This is a good definition and has brought us all great blessing.
 2. We hearken to 1 Cor 14:5 to argue that “tongues and interpretation (not translation) is equivalent to prophecy.”
 - B. Note 1 Corinthians 14:27-28. What does it really say, and what does that tell us?
 1. The way this was actually practiced was: “If someone gives out a tongue and no one interprets, then the tongue was not of God.” This really put a damper on the novice who was afraid to be labelled unspiritual if no one interpreted. It also made for some very uncomfortable silences.
 2. What it says is that these people were supposed to know if there was an interpreter in the house. There had to be people who were consistently used in this gift who were known to the regulars who read this letter. Otherwise this verse makes no sense.
 3. Having an Interpreter takes the pressure off people. They could speak in tongues knowing that there would be an interpretation.
 4. Lester Sumrall said every pastor needs it. I agree! I am an Interpreter. If you are in a service with me and feel you have a tongue, you are safe to give it in the flow of how that congregation handles such things. If no one else interprets, I will. There is an Interpreter present.
 - C. Giving the sense of a message in tongues, thus serving to make it the equivalent of prophecy is a wonderful manifestation of the gift of the Interpreter, but there is much more to it:
 - D. Kenneth E. Hagin said in *Learning to Flow with the Spirit of God*,

“That is what I do in a lot of our services. I interpret the way the service is going. I think there is a great deal more to ‘interpretation’ than what we have seen.”

- II. There is, indeed, a great deal more to it.
- A. *Diermeneuo* - to translate, interpret, expound, or **explain thoroughly**. The Interpreter is an explainer. The Complete Biblical Library says “taking the unintelligible and making it understandable.”
 - B. Dr. Gordon Fee says that the whole argument of 1 Corinthians 14 is the comparison of the unintelligible to the intelligible. It is a treatise on the desirability of intelligibility in our services.
 - C. This is the essence of the gift of interpretation, not just for tongues, but for the flow of the service as a whole.
 - 1. Note 1 Cor 14:23 Our interpretation, or explanation is aimed at two classes of people: the unbeliever and the uninformed. The idea is to explain what is going on in such a way that they will not think we are nuts.
 - 2. When things go on in service or the service is taking a turn in the Spirit, someone must let people know what is happening.
 - D. Note 1 Cor 14:5-6 tongues + interpretation = prophecy. Now read it with verse 6. The interpretation can be in a variety of forms. It may be anything that gives the sense of what the Spirit is saying or doing.
 - 1. Explain what we are doing when we all pray or worship in tongues.
 - 2. Give a teaching or a revelation of:
 - a. What the Spirit is doing in our midst may come by revelation.
 - b. The Pastor may bring a teaching which explains what the Spirit is saying - this happens often and we don’t even know it. The interpreter could use exhortation (a forgotten gift), prophecy, song, dance, anything which gets the message to others.
 - c. This is not an exhaustive list - interpretation could come in any way which takes the unintelligible and makes it understandable. This includes discerning the flow of the Spirit in a service and moving the service in that direction. The Explainer is set in the church by God to make sense of what is happening in a service for the benefit of any who might be uninformed or non-believers.

- III. The gift of the Explainer is the key to an ongoing flow of the supernatural in the local church which is not stale and repetitive and is not dependent on the visitation of the great evangelist. It is the lifeblood of the Church and should be our continual heritage.
- A. When people feel comfortable that there is someone who knows what is happening, a driver at the wheel, they find it easier to flow. People will flow where they are comfortable and informed.
 - B. People are at ease when they know someone will deal with insanity and excess in a loving way. This gives a sense of spiritual security.
 - C. Ministries which are having a great ongoing move of the Spirit are those which are flowing in this gift.
 - D. Churches that experience an ongoing flow of the Spirit are those where the pastor functions in this role. The Pastor is like the baton in the hand of the Conductor, the Holy Ghost. 1 Cor 14:7-8, 26 tells us that our congregation is an orchestra ready to play a symphony. Every service is a new composition.
 - E. Get real. Locate yourself
 1. Is your service as predictable as the denomination down the street?
 2. Can people plan their late arrival around “the preliminaries.”
 3. How often do things happen in your service which you feel might scare your visitors? (Are you seeker-sensitive or Holy Ghost insensitive)
 4. Do you or anyone else in your congregation have a genuine sense of anticipation before services?
 5. Have you done your absolute best, but still feel a gnawing sense that there must be something more?
 6. If you are having a “move of God,” does it seem the same people are doing the same thing at the same time?
 7. Do you get defensive when you hear these questions?
 8. Get real - you are not alone. Most pastors just don't feel equipped to handle the things of the Spirit in any great degree. Your time is coming.