

1 Tongues

In Chapter 12, I want to start with verse 10. Just before it he is speaking of the gift which the Spirit gives to every and he says, in verse 8, to one is given the word of wisdom, to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another the gift of healing, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. Well, that doesn't sound as if anybody

2 Tongues

Well, verse 11 continues the same idea. The Spirit divides to every man severally as He will. The Spirit may lead one to tongues, but you can't expect Him to lead everyone to tongues, seems to be the definite teaching right here. Now in verse 28 of this same chapter he is speaking of the different gifts. God has sent apostles, prophets, first apostles, secondarily prophets, third teachers, and then after that come miracles, gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. He puts it right at the end and as one of the various gifts which may be given to different individuals. In verse 30 there is a very strong statement. He says, "Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?" Now the fact is that this is a rhetorical question. The fact is that it is a question which seems to imply a negative answer, and so I think it is a reasonable interpretation from the fact that Paul is saying that in his day comparatively few were able to speak in tongues. Then the next chapter goes right on from it, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And so verse 13 is dealing with the importance of love as over against all such gifts and then 14 comes back to tongues again. In verses 2-4 prophecy is exalted over/tongues, on through verses 5 and 6. In verse 19 Paul says, "In the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. In verse 23 he says if the church is assembled in one place and all speak with tongues