

2 Tongues

probable interpretation of the matter. I Corinthians 14: 4 and 5, he that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself, but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. I would that ye all spoke with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. I think you can find a light on that perhaps from verse 28, where it says, if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church and let him speak to himself and to God. I think he means I wish that you would have a close relationship with God in which perhaps you'd know the Lord so well that you can speak to Him in a way that nobody else can understand, but it is not a thing for the Church, and it is not a thing which in any way should be used in any way to show people you are a better Christian than they are.

(Question) Yes. Well, that, because 22 immediately follows 21 which is a quotation from Isaiah. You have to know / your context there in Isaiah. He says--you are getting in my field now you see, the Old Testament. He says, "In the law it is written, with men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people. Well, in Isaiah he says, "The people have"--Isaiah 29 where he tells how the people have refused--28--to listen to Isaiah's teaching. ~~because~~ Jot upon jot, tittle upon tittle, line upon line,--he's giving them the Word of God and they refuse to listen, and God says, "I will speak to them with men of other tongues and other lips." The Assyrians will come in talking in a heathen language which they can't understand and with will give a message. They will see God's punishment. Well now how does God's punishment by bringing in brutal speaking conquerors compare to this speaking with tongues? It is just sort of a sign to those who didn't believe of God's mighty power and there is an analogy here but you see it is getting away from, it's quite different from the general thought in this point. I think Paul is perhaps going into a rather, you might say sort of rhetorical denunciation of an extreme attitude. He very definitely said at the beginning and in the end of the matter and in this case he is comparing it with the foreign conqueror who comes in and uses brutal language, and he says, "Therefore, tongues are a sign--