Messy Grace **– wk 18 – Gifted – 3 (Tongues)**

**By the Apostle Paul to a church he planted 5 yrs earlier.**

**Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth to correct their craziness**

**A challenge for them to grow up (1 Cor 1:5-5, 3:1-2)**

**1 Corinthians 11:17 In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. (nothing good to say of them) 18 In the first place… (selfish, segregation, slush people – dishonoring the cross. Then…) 1 Cor 12:1 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. (Don’t want you to be ignorant anymore)**

**Longest passage on spiritual gifts / 3 corrective chapters**

**Possibly the most debated chaps in the entire NT.**

**Spiritual Gifts are God’s way of fulfilling His mission through His disciples. God using diff gifts in diff people, for His Glory.**

**1 Co 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. (A lot of confusion and division. Do they still happen??)**

**4 views about the Charismata (Supernatural) gifts**

**Cessationist - They ceased w/ the death of the last apostle – over**

**Charismatic – The gifts are still given and should be sought after.**

1. **Emphasis Charismata gifts, blessings, & private revelation**
2. **Take their name from Charismata / spirit-filled / non-deno**

**Pentecostal – The gifts are necessary and follow every true Christian**

1. **Emphasize tongues - pointing to Acts 2 day of Pentecost**

**I got saved and was a minister in charis. churches. I know both sides scripture has reshaped me. Let it reshape you.**

**What is Livingway? Livingway strives to have biblical balance**

**Continuation-ist – Charismata gifts are given for the ministry of the kingdom to be practiced according to the limits of scripture**

**We may not agree on this – Open handed issues - but make it a biblical reason not just opinion, preference, or background.**

**Last week looked at the Charismata of - Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, discernment Prophecy – we saw**

**Errors of embracing more than & ignoring what the Bible says.**

**\*\* One of those gifts - Discernment – Acts 8:18-23, 16:16-18**

**Spirit lead ability to determine if a message, person, or situation is of God or not. Discerns good & evil / truth & lies.**

**1 John 4:1- Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (Needed for all as there abused & battled over)**

**Where we left off - Tongues & interpretation of tongues – Acts 2, 1 Cor 14**

**(Considered the most bizarre charismata.) The unique SN ability to praise God in another language or understand a language unknown to you, that you have not learned. Each time.**

**Are they known or unknown languages? Is it a known public language or unknown personal language.**

**Have you even been in an environment where this was done?**

**Remember this is corrective - they are out of order in many ways**

**Corinth chasing tongue experiences like their former pagan days**

**\* The word tongue is Glossolalia = a language (always a real language)**

**Only found in 2 books – Acts (4X) and 1 Cor 12-13 - It was not emphasized.**

**Paul corrects their craziness - (let put modern tongues to the test) 1 Cor 14:1** **Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, (Don’t pursue gifts, pursue love and desire the work of the HS) but especially that you may prophesy. (Last wk in NT - primarily proclaiming God’s word with wisdom, insight, and revelation.)**

**There are greater and lesser gifts, the intelligible proclamation of God’s word is the primary one to desire.**

**2 For he who speaks in a tongue (ecstatic praise in another language) does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. (no one knows what is said)**

**Tongues in it’s proper use is always directed to God as praise! It testifies to every tribe, tongue, and nation to God’s glory!**

**Tongues is basically SN expressive worship! Great - but…**

**3 But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. 4 Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, (worship that lifts you up) but the one who prophesies edifies the church. (everyone) 5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, (sarcasm – he just said they won’t all do it - it’s rather, “it would be great if everyone did – but you don’t - so) but I would rather have you prophesy. (seek intelligible words from God. Remember this is corrective.) The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, (unknown praise) unless someone interprets, (why? Because it is understood) so that the church may be edified.**

**Remember the purpose of Spiritual gifts is to build up the body and testify of God’s kingdom. They are not self-serving.**

**6 Now, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? (what good is it if you don’t understand what I am saying)**

**Then he gives 3 great illustrations: 7 Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the pipe (flute) or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? (rudiments of music: rhythm (syncopation), harmony, melody – without them it’s just noise) 8 Again, if the trumpet (bugle) does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? (diff sounds relay messages – what good is it if it unintelligible?)**

**9 So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, (your language) how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. 10 Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages (tongues) in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. (they all have a purpose)**

**11 If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and the speaker is a foreigner to me. (I might as well br watching a foreign movies without sub-titles) 12 So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to (strive)excel in those that build up the church.**

**They are seeking ecstatic experiences that were not helpful to the body but more about getting goosebumps for themselves- it reminded them of their pagan life. Paul says don’t**

**13 For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say. (know what you are saying – in the bible it was never a word for people – but an understanding of the praise) 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.**

**If I am praising in tongues ultimately it doesn’t a have long lasting benefit for me – other than having an experience.**

**It is more fruitful to understand, be encouraged, and grow!**

**16 Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer, (outside guest) say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? 17 You are giving thanks well enough, (feels good to you) but no one else is edified.**

**18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. (They thought they were real spiritual, Paul is saying - I have you beat, you’re not that spiritual.) 19 But in the church (when you come together) I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.**

**10K is highest number in Gk - means infinity. I would rather you speak 5 measly understandable words that mature someone, than an infinite amount of tongues.**

**20 Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. (Babies think and talk nonsense and only think of themselves. Don’t be babies. Don’t be selfish. Think of others and how they can best hear God. Maturity is not spiritual gifts…)**

**This next part is vital - 21 In the law it is written: “With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; (Abraham’s descendants - Jewish people) And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,” says the Lord. 22 Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers;**

**I thought it was for believers?? A signs points – what does it point to? What kind of unbeliever is it a sign for?**

**The verse he quotes tells us - Isaiah 28:11-12. Tongues are a sign to unbelieving Jews that the Messiah was for the whole world. But yet they did not believe as a whole. Jesus & disciples were rejected.**

**4 authentications of Acts (30 yrs) - each time it was a new people group that told Jewish people that Jesus was for everyone!!!**

**Acts 2 – Jewish people - praise in other known languages**

**Praising God in over a dozen languages, declaring the wonders of God**

**Acts 8 (not specific) Samaritan people –confirmed God’s desire for them**

**Acts 10 – Roman Gentiles – confirmed God’s desire for the them**

**Shocked understood them possibly speaking Hebrew.**

**Acts 19 – Greek Gentiles – confirmed God’s desire for the them**

**Tongues (praising God in another language) was a gift that declared Salvation had come to all nations. A sign to the descendants of Abraham the Messiah is fort the world!**

**22 … prophecy, (intelligible preaching) however, is not for unbelievers (Jewish seekers) but for believers. (to growth) 23 So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, (unknown praise) and inquirers (outsiders, inquiring about Jesus) or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? (A crazy place – I used to give a warning to people)**

**24 But if an unbeliever or an inquirer (seeker) comes in while everyone (not at once) is prophesying, (proclaiming God’s Word) they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, 25 as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”**

**This is the kind of place you want to be in – where God is alive and working and speaking life through each other – where people are convicted and respond to the revealed gospel.**

**26 What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.**

**Whatever gifts God decides to manifest – it is always to build others up – to point to Jesus through His Body the church.**

**Church is not about what you can feel, experience (though you will) Church is about godly encouragement thru each other.**

**27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, (1- 3 at the most – not at the same time) and someone must interpret. (there must always be - Interpretation validates the tongue and causes it to be edifying) 28 If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.**

**People say, “I can’t help it!” Yes, you can if it is the Spirit. Remember God will never contradict himself. He won’t interrupt himself or draw attention away from himself**

**Control yourself in the spirit – it is a fruit of the Spirit – Gal 5**

**29 Two or three prophets should speak, (God’s revealed Word spoken - not everyone is a prophet) and the others should weigh carefully what is said. (test everything) 30 And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, (if it needs correcting) the first speaker should stop. (not talking at the same time) 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. (those who feel led to speak “spirits of the prophet” are subject to church leadership “prophets” - control the urge, ask leadership first) 33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace - as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people.**

**The scene in Corinth- Talking at once with “words from God”, trying to outdo each other,** **lots of random languages, no interpretations, just ecstatic outbursts – an arrogant circus. Outsiders were confused and weirded out. Paul is saying – this is disgraceful – get a grip.**

**34-35 Addressed 3 wks ago - this is not about women but wives talking over their husband perhaps in tongues. Women prophesied (preached) in this church, (1 Co 11:1-16) a great woman helped plant it, Pricilla.**

**(Then he gets real) 36 Or did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? (Paul responds you are not that spiritual – you think you’re only person with the H.S. – elite attitude in churches today) 37 If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, (if you think you’re spiritual) let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord’s command. 38 But if anyone ignores this, they will themselves be ignored. (if you ignore this, you are not to be taken seriously - I’m not listening to you.)**

**39 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, (desire to proclaim God’s Word) and do not forbid speaking in tongues. 40 But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. (decently and in order)**

**Some churches flip this and are eager for and desire tongues - and are okay with proper preaching. But Paul says flip it!**

**Focus on, be eager for, and desire Spirit filled preaching (words that edify) and allow experiential manifestations like tongues (in the right settings and tested to scripture).**

**The balance of freedom in the Spirit and honoring the Spirit. The Spirit will not make Jesus, or his church look foolish. You can be expressive and still have order. Nothing wrong w/ order. This is Spirit lead order.**

**The Guardrails:**

**1. Not every Christian will or should speak in tongues (12:30)**

**It is a Spiritual gift given to some – it is not the mark of a true Christian. Period. Real tongues is not as common as you think and not necessary**

**But yet for many churches it is not only emphasized, but you are looked down on if you don’t. Bottom of value list in 12 & 14**

**BTW - If it does happen it is not a sign of maturity (14:19-20)**

**2. The purpose of tongues in the Bible is to praise God as a sign that the Good News is for all people. (14:21-22)**

**It was never to make you feel close to God – that is the purpose of the Blood of Jesus. It was never a prayer language for you – but a sign to unbelieving Jewish people. Biblical Tongues point to & praise Jesus!**

**I know someone who spoke in tongues in a service with a non-believing Jewish person present and they understood it… Me**

**It has been redefined and produced revisionist theology. How?**

**The oldest copies of the Bible has “other” – till 1500’s “unknown”**

**Tongues occasionally appears in history – then 1901 Charles F. Parham's Holiness movement - Bethel Bible School in Topeka, Kansas, (Believed God talked directedly to him, denied Hell, white people are descendants of true Israel, taught tongues are the end times evidence of a true Christian. \* A student at (Agnes Ozman) said she wrote /spoke in tongues ("Chinese") for days. (later verified false). / 1905 - Parham moved to Texas and began a school for tongues for mission work (later verified as not true languages). Parham a KKK supporter segregated Black students - William Seymour, moved to LA, Cal. where he started the Apostolic Faith Gospel Mission on Azusa Street. 1906 - He ignited a national movement and interest in speaking in new uncontrollable utterance tongues. 1000’s traveled to Azusa street to experience this. It spread across the world. Denounced by Parham – they became rivals.**

**Since it was proven they were not known languages – it was redefined as an unknown new personal prayer language that everyone should have in these last days. A true sign of salvation.**

**3. Tongues in the Bible was always a known language. (Acts, 1 Cor 12-14)**

**1 Cor 13:1 – “tongues of angels” Phrase only found one. Angels always spoke intelligible words. “look at us, we even speak angel - elfin and Vulcan”**

**1 Co 13:1- even if you speak “angel” and don’t have love it’s just noise**

**4. If it happens, only one is preferred, no more than three (14:27)**

**When you see it in churches - what does it usually look like? No this.**

**5. If it happens there is to be only one person at a time (14:27)**

**Again – not usually how it is expressed in Chari. & Pent churches.**

**6. If it happens there is always to be an interpretation (14:27)**

**It must always be tested by God’s word and confirmed authentic**

**If these are not followed – it is not the gift of tongues in 1 Cor 12-14**

**Skeptical Seminary student went to a Char. church and in order to fit in started speaking Greek NT – John. A person beside him began to interpret to him something that was way off and random.**

**Activist witch and pagan friend – attended a Bethel service to see what it was like. They were stopped by three diff people who prophesied that they were loved by God – and to keep doing what they were doing.**

**7. In a church gathering if a guest or unbeliever is present – be careful (14:16,19, 24-25) It by itself does not edify the listener, guest, seeker, or body – and can bring confusion.**

**Any confusion or disorder was an indication that something was not from God. (29-33, 40 – God peace, order) And if they ignore this instruction, don’t give them a platform (36-38)**

**8. Don’t seek it - but don’t oppose it (39, 1-20, 23-25)**

**We are not to forbid the proper and authentic gift of tongues.**

**Paul is not discouraging tongues (it is God’s gift to give) There are times when God uses it at his will (not ours) BUT - it must be with-in the scriptural guardrails. What we often see today is redefined denial.**

**Don’t seek or desire tongues – Paul is clear. We are to desire gifts that’s are intelligible for the common good.**

**12:31 – earnestly desire the higher gifts**

**14:1 – earnestly desire… prophecy**

**14:12 – excel in the gifts (intelligible gifts) that build up the gathering**

**14:39 – earnestly desire prophesy**

**I want to end with 2 thoughts:**

* **The Holy Spirit is active in the people of God**

**HS is given to believers as a gift to mark us, teach us, convict us, remind us, sanctify us, and empower us – for God’s glory!**

**Don’t ignore or be afraid of the work of the HS in us and with us.**

**The Holy Spirit desires to work in your life!!!**

* **God is relational, emotional, and experiential (but test to scripture)**

**There is a reason why Chari & Pent movements are growing - Because people are tired of cold dead religion. They are very expressive.**

**I love how they encourage the active presence of Good in our life.**

**Yes, emotions and feeling can be a counterfeit for spirituality - however God does want us to experience him and sense and his presence – but those experiences are to always be subject to scripture. Not flipped.**

**Many Christians function as deists. God’s up there somewhere – not here. We can’t interact w/ Him. He gone & coming back later.**

**Through Jesus we have a relationship with God - communion with the Living God who communicates his love, direction, comfort, peace, and power in our lives. God is alive and working in our lives!!!**

**We may not smack people in the head, flop like a perch on the porch, have the words Holy Ghost, anointed, revival, dominion, rain, fire, flood, down pour, shekinah, or glory in our church name. you probably won’t pull a hammie during our worship, or have to duck from banners & flags. We don’t pass out tambourines w/ ribbons on them and have catchers on front row.**

**But we are led of the Spirit and God is transforming lives here!**