

⁵ Or, I wish. The Greek verb THELO is the form of both the subjunctive and the indicative. In the present context it seems to be the subjunctive, i.e., it expresses a hypothetical statement. ⁶ Reiteration of preference stated in v. 1. ⁷ Paul is dealing with young converts, many of whom were former pagans. Some faults of their pre-Christian experience were re-appearing or, more probably, had not yet been overcome. The Corinthians needed to understand the nature of spiritual gifts, and to escape the perils of false expressions. Pagan worship was characterized by frenzied, ecstatic utterances over which reason had no control. Paul does not approve unreasoning emotionalism. His purpose is to lead the Christian believers completely away from the old cultic behavior patterns. To this end he writes in a diplomatic manner and takes a positive approach, emphasizing the qualities and procedures which are paramount in the new life. ⁸ "If I pray" A third class condition. It expresses a hypothetical statement, not a declaration of fact. ⁹ "so as to be understood" Literally, "with the understanding also." ¹⁰ Or, I speak. The Greek verb LALO is the form of the indicative as well as the form of the subjunctive. In this context (note especially v. 19) it seems to be subjunctive. Cf. same idiom with THELO in v. 5. Paul was a versatile linguist. From his cultural background and schooling he learned Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, and, probably, Latin. As the Apostle to the Gentiles his evangelistic tours carried him into provinces where many local dialects were spoken. ¹¹ "five words which are understood" Literally, "five words with my understanding." ¹² Cf. Isa. 28:11-12. Israel heard God's word, delivered plainly by the prophets, but refused to obey. As a result, divine judgment is pronounced upon the rebellious people and God says they will be conquered by barbarous strangers whose language they cannot understand. The prediction was fulfilled by the Assyrian invasion (cf. 2 Chron. 28:16 ff.). That historical incident is analogous to the situation to which Paul applies it. He points out that just as words spoken in strange speech did not lead the Hebrews to obedience, so speaking in foreign languages will not profit the Corinthians.

- c. The Views of Some Writers on the Question of Continuance/Non-Continuance of the Gift of Tongues.

Edgar (pp. 262-263, 275-278) states:

No instance of the gift of tongues has been demonstrated from the apostolic age unto modern times. In addition, the Church as a whole has always felt that the gift of tongues ceased with