

9. Tongue-speaking is not as useful or as desirable as some of the gifts, such as prophecy. Yet public tongue-speaking should not be forbidden as long as it is appropriate, orderly, interpreted, and thus edifying.

I Corinthians 14:5 -- "I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified."

I Corinthians 14:12 -- "Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church."

I Corinthians 14:18-19 -- "I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue."

I Corinthians 14:23-25 -- "So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, 'God is really among you!'"

I Corinthians 14:27 -- "If anyone speaks in a tongue, two--or at the most three--should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret."

I Corinthians 14:39 -- "Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues."