* **Series Slide**
* Several years ago, the radio show “This American Life” aired an episode about “superpowers”.
  + https://www.thisamericanlife.org/178/transcript
* One of their contributors, John Hodgman, conducted this unscientific survey where he gave people a very simple choice-
* “Would you rather have the superpower of FLIGHT or INVISIBILITY?”
* Here’s his description of what he learned in his survey.
* **“What surprised me [the most] was how quickly everyone would choose, as though they'd been thinking about it for a long time. Everyone knew exactly which superpower they wanted and what they would do with it. Their plans weren't always flashy or heroic. In fact, they almost never were.”**
* One lady he talked to chose invisibility. Here’s what she said she would do with her power.
* **“I'd go into Barney's [Department Store]. I'd pick out the cashmere sweaters that I like. I'd go to the dressing room. The woman says, how many items? I'd say, five. I'd go into the dressing room. I'd put those five sweaters on. And I'd summon my powers of invisibility in the dressing room. I'd turn invisible. I'd walk out, leaving her to wonder why there's a tag hanging from the door that says five, and no person inside.”**
* **Typically, this is how it goes. People who turn invisible will sneak into the movies or onto airplanes. People who fly stop taking the bus. Here's one thing that pretty much no one ever says-- I would use my power to fight crime. No one seems to care about crime.**
* **“And I have to say this drove me crazy a little bit. We are, after all, talking about superpowers. Why not take down organized crime, bring hope to the hopeless, swear vengeance on the underworld, if only a little bit?”**
* So John proposed a variety of sample scenarios along these lines, such as, how would you handle a mad genius taking over the Empire State Building, or a group of terrorists hijacking an overseas flight? And what he learned is, some people should simply not be fighting crime.

Here’s another woman answering how she might use her powers of invisibility to stop a evil genius.

* **“Well, first thing that occurs to me is, like, I would sneak up behind them very low with a knife that they didn't see and slice their Achilles tendon. Oh, no. I'd somehow shove a sock in their mouth or something like that, and wrap some tape around their mouth, so that they can't yell out. It might not be a sock. It might just be some napkins or something. I can't keep all of this in my head. I'd have to keep a bag full of stuff with me. Knives. Socks. Tape.”**
* That’s some disturbing stuff right there.

This is what John Hodgman said about the superpowers.

* **“One superpower [flight] is about something that's obvious, and the other [invisibility] is about something that is hidden. I think it indicates your level of shame.**
* **Flight is the hero-- selfless and confident and unashamed. And invisibility, the villain. Almost everyone I talked to called invisibility the sneakier power.”**
* **In the end, it's not a question of what kind of person flies and what kind of person fades. We all do both. Perhaps that's why, when I put the choice to myself, I'm hopelessly, completely stuck. At the heart of this decision, the question I really don't want to face, is this- “Who do you want to be, the person you hope to be, or the person you fear you actually are?”**

That’s an interesting question.

Who do you want to be? The person you hope to be…or the one you fear you actually are?

Do you choose the sneakier, more self-edifying power…do you pile up a collection of sweaters for yourself?

Or do you choose the power that allows you to be selfless, confident, and unashamed?

**Title Slide “Flight or Invisibility: Why Ears are Crucial, Tongues are Confusing, and Prophecy is Cruciform” 1 Cor 14:1-26**

The church in first century Corinth, in a sort of way, was trying to decide between 2 Super powers (at least that’s the way they looked at it.)

And they kept choosing the one that benefitted them the most…at the expense of costing other people in their city. Everybody was out to get a stack of sweaters.

So Paul the Apostle wrote them a letter.

In the letter he says the equivalent of, “Sure, I guess it’s kind of cool to be invisible, but you should want a better superpower. One that you can use to fight crime, and give hope to the hopeless. You need something better than a power that lets you sneak into movies and hoard sweaters.”

More of you need to be selfless, confident, and unashamed.

**[Pause]** More of you need to fly.

**1 Cor 14:1-26**

* **Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, and especially that you may prophesy. 2 For the person who speaks in another tongue**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn1)[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf1)**is not speaking to people but to God, since no one understands him; he speaks mysteries in the Spirit.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn2)**3 On the other hand, the person who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn3)**encouragement, and consolation. 4 The person who speaks in another tongue builds himself up, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. 5 I wish all of you spoke in other tongues,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn4)**but even more that you prophesied. The person who prophesies is greater than the person who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets so that the church may be built up.**
* **6 So now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you speaking in other tongues, how will I benefit you unless I speak to you with a revelation**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf2)**or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? 7 Even lifeless instruments that produce sounds ​— ​whether flute or harp**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf3)**​— ​if they don’t make a distinction in the notes, how will what is played on the flute or harp be recognized? 8 In fact, if the bugle makes an unclear sound, who will prepare for battle?**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf4)**9 In the same way, unless you use your tongue for intelligible speech, how will what is spoken be known? For you will be speaking into the air. 10 There are doubtless many different kinds of languages in the world, none is without meaning. 11 Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn5)**to the speaker, and the speaker will be a foreigner to me. 12 So also you ​— ​since you are zealous**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf5)**for spiritual gifts,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn6)[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf6)**seek to excel in building up the church.**
* **13 Therefore the person who speaks in another tongue should pray that he can interpret. 14 For if I pray in another tongue, my spirit**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf7)**prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf8)**15 What then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with my understanding. I will sing praise with the spirit, and I will also sing praise with my understanding. 16 Otherwise, if you praise with the spirit,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn7)**how will the outsider**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn8)**say “Amen”**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf9)**at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? 17 For you may very well be giving thanks, but the other person is not being built up. 18 I thank**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf10)**God that I speak in other tongues more than all of you; 19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf11)**with my understanding, in order to teach others also, than ten thousand words in another tongue.**
* **20 Brothers and sisters, don’t be childish in your thinking, but be infants in regard to evil and adult in your thinking.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf12)
* **21 It is written in the law,**
* **I will speak to this people**
* **by people of other tongues**
* **and by the lips of foreigners,**
* **and even then, they will not listen to me,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf13)[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf14)
* **says the Lord.**
* **22 Speaking in other tongues, then, is intended as a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is not for unbelievers but for believers. 23 If, therefore, the whole church assembles together and all are speaking in other tongues and people who are outsiders or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your minds? 24 But if all are prophesying and some unbeliever or outsider comes in, he is convicted by all and is called to account by all. 25 The secrets of his heart will be revealed, and as a result he will fall facedown and worship God, proclaiming, “God is really among you.”**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf15)
* **26 What then, brothers and sisters? Whenever you come together, each one**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn9)**has a hymn, a teaching, a revelation, another tongue, or an interpretation.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf16)**Everything is to be done for building up.**

**Transition-** Last time I preached, we worked our way through the Bible, Genesis through Pentecost in the book of Acts, so that we could better understand these 2 gifts that God gives to the church, Prophecy and Tongues.

If you missed that sermon from a couple weeks ago, I encourage you to go listen to it on our podcast or app. Because this is the second half of that sermon.

But, today our focus is going to be on these 2 gifts…and how we should and should not seek to use them in our church. To that end, there is gift that is implied in these verses…that if you miss…you miss everything. Because…

* **1) Prophecy and Tongues are nothing without ears to listen.** 
  + One of God’s fundamental characteristics is that he is a God who speaks.

* + Now, God is Trinitarian, so between Father, Son and Holy Spirit…he doesn’t need humans in order to be heard.
  + In other words God wasn’t like “Gee, I love to talk, but nobody is around to listen…I better create humans so I have somebody to talk to.”
  + No. God just within himself, could have been the speaking God he is.
  + BUT, God’s speaking (along with his love) overflowed. He didn’t keep it to himself! And with words, God created not only the world we inhabit, but he created US …with his word.
  + **[PAUSE]** Jesus had this phrase that he says in Scripture multiple times.
  + One time he told a story, about how the words of God were like seeds that a sower throws out… and we are all like soil.
  + And sometimes the soil receives the seed and all kinds of good plants come up. But for various reasons, sometimes people reject God’s words.
  + **Mark 4:23**
  + And when he got to the end of that story he said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them listen.”
  + Then after God had not spoken to Israel through a prophet for 400 years, John the Baptist shows up in the wilderness claiming to speak for God again and people doubt that.
  + **Matthew 11:13-15**
  + So Jesus tells them that John is saying the same thing that all the prophets of the past through whom God spoke said…and if they are willing to ACCEPT John’s message about who Jesus is…then they will find the fulfillment of all those prophecies.
  + Then he says, “Let anyone who has EARS let him listen.”
  + In other words, salvation comes through HEARING and understanding what God says... Judgment comes through NOT UNDERSTANDING it.
  + SO, Jesus wants everyone to have ears that listen to God’s voice.
  + **Revelation 3:22**
  + Then, there are the words the Resurrected Jesus spoke to the churches in the book of Revelation. What Brandon preached last week.
  + After each letter, that encourages them to endure through suffering and repent of their sin…
  + …Jesus says 7 times. “Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the ***Spirit*** says to the churches.”
  + And right there you get that twist.
  + That the Holy Spirit is saying something to the church.
  + I want you to keep that phrase GLUED to your mind as we look at 1 Cor 14 today.
  + Jesus wants you to have “Ears to Listen” to God words.
  + And the point of listening to God is understanding God.
  + And the point of understanding God is salvation.
  + And the consequence of not listening to God is judgment.
  + Now, knowing how important it is to listen for God’s words and understand God’s words…
  + …lets pick our superpower, shall we?
  + **1 Cor 14:1**
  + Paul starts right off the bat by saying “Pursue Love”.
  + In other words, “you want to how to pick the most important super power? Pick the one that loves most.”
  + He also says, “desire Spiritual gifts”… or things that the Spirit produces.
  + So why is Paul writing this?
  + **1 Cor 14:2**
  + Well, apparently things in Corinth had gotten a bit out of hand.
  + Their worship gatherings were insanely out of control.
  + People were saying things that no one could understand…that, to be fair, Paul attributes to the Holy Spirit.
  + And, he calls this phenomena “tongues”.
  + That word simply means “languages”.
  + And he says that when the person speaks in this language given by the Holy Spirit, no one understands him. In fact, the person speaking doesn’t even understand what’s being said. Paul calls it a mystery.
  + So, if the main point of God speaking is to be heard and understood, then speaking a language ONLY God understands is NOT optimum.
  + Now, speaking in a language only God understands is not a complete throw away.
  + **14:4a** (end at “himself up”) & **14:18**
  + Paul says that tongues build up the one who speak them.
  + In fact, he says he thanks God that he speaks them.
  + So, there is something about this that seems to be personally edifying.
  + HOWEVER, it is very important to note that this is the ONLY EXPLICIT teaching about the practice of tongues in the NT, and even those points are not Paul speaking positively about it.
  + Those are actually negative points.
  + Think of tongues in terms of the power of invisibility.
  + Sure, can invisibility come in handy- you can get into movies and steal sweaters
  + BUT, that only builds yourself up while it hurts others. (Like the guy who sits on you in the movies because he thinks the seat is empty).
  + In the context of love, gifts that only build you up tend towards selfishness…not towards love. And remember, Paul just made the point that that spiritual gifts used out of the context of love are pointless…like a noisy annoying gong just being clanged over and over.
  + Like a trumpet being blown, but not playing any discernable notes,
  + …tongues that cannot be understood by others, while they may give you some personal edification…are not a gift of love to other people.
  + **Rev 3:22** Because God wants us to understand what the Spirit says to the church.
  + Again, Paul’s point in this chapter is not to FORBID speaking in tongues…and that’s not my point either.
  + **1 Cor 14:39b (start at “do not forbid”)**
  + In fact, he says Don’t forbid speaking in other languages.
  + However, he does tell us that when the church is gathered together…that tongues do not have a place, unless there is someone who can make sense of it, interpret it and turn it into something intelligible.
* **Back to 1)**
* **Mini- Transition:** On the other hand, there is prophecy.
  + If Tongues are the invisibility power that is selfishly abused,
  + Paul makes prophecy out to be the gift of flight that is used to help others.
  + BECAUSE, he says, prophecy is able to be understood by everyone.
  + **14:3**
  + Paul says that it strengthens, encourages, and consoles others.
  + He says it builds UP the church.
  + **14:19**
  + Then he says that he would rather speak 5 words that can be heard and understood than he would 10,000 words in a language that no one understands.
  + The reason?
  + To TEACH OTHERS.
  + Prophecy is the superior gift because it can be understood. It can be used to build up others.
* Ok, so lets focus on this gift of prophecy…because that is what Paul is directing us to do.
  + What does it mean to prophesy?
  + Well, I think it can be a combination of a few things.
  + And, let me just say, that there are people who would disagree with me on this…people that I know and love…that I think are wonderful human beings.
  + BUT, when I engage the entirety of the Scripture, I come out with something like this.
  + **Prophecy is speaking God’s word through preaching, wisdom, or knowledge.**
  + The first is **preaching**. Its what I’m doing right now. Taking the word of God and applying it to a people. It’s more than just explaining the Bible; it is God giving me Spiritual insight and Spiritual timing. It’s proclaiming the Word of God with power into your lives.
  + **Wisdom**: insight into an issue where you don’t have a chapter and verse.
  + Ok. This is applications of the word of God into someone’s situation.
  + Its speaking God’s word to a person in a way that can be understood in their given situation.
  + This is when another person comes to you and says, “I’ve been dating this guy for a long time, and I’m just not sure whether its time to get married or break up.”
  + Then you sit down, listen to that person, and then, with the Holy Spirit’s help, you begin to bring Scripture to mind that might help them make that decision.
  + Your eyes aren’t rolling back in your head while you say, “JENNY, THIS IS GOD. YOU SHOULD DUMP THAT GUY!”
  + No, instead, you, in your right mind are thinking through God’s Word, the Bible, and you are thinking about the person and their situation…and you are putting the two together.
  + Then there is knowledge.
  + Sometimes, and typically in a very unsure way, God will have you speak his words to someone into a situation that you have no way of knowing about.
  + Like Jesus did with the woman at the well in John chapter 4, where he, by the power of the Spirit, he knew that she had been married 5 times. And then he took the prophecies of God and applied it.
  + Let me give you an example of this, since its probably the hardest to understand how it works.
  + A friend of mine once was impressed by the Spirit of God to walk up to another person in a worship gathering that he didn’t know and she put her arm around her and said, **“I don’t know if this is helpful to you, but I believe God wanted me to tell you that he loves you. He hasn’t left you alone, and he is keeping his promises to you. And that my arm right here, around you right now, is the physical expression of his arm, holding you close. He loves you.”**
  + The girl said back to her in reply, “I’m single. I haven’t had even a date in years…and last night I was desperately wrestling with my singleness. I felt alone. And I was reading this Scriptures of how God hasn’t left me alone and how he loves me. But I prayed, ‘Yeah, Ok, God. I get it. But these verses aren’t doing it for me. Its not like you can be a physical presence and put your arm around me.’
  + See, that person who delivered that message wasn't saying things like “You are going to get married in a year.”
  + No, instead she was making the word of God come alive in someone’s life…even though she had no way of knowing that information about that person.
  + **1 Cor 14:12**
  + Paul says, “If you are going to be zealous for the Spirit to work in your midst…make it your aim to build up the church…not yourself.”
  + Make it your aim to bless others with words that can be understood, over and above blessing yourself with words only God can understand.
* **Transition:** See, ne reason prophecy is the greater gift is because…
* **2) Prophecy is cruciform.** 
  + Remember what John Hodgman said after surveying a bunch of folks on whether they would choose to fly or be invisible as their superpower?
  + He said generally, people looked at the powers like this.
  + **Flight is the hero-- selfless and confident and unashamed. And invisibility, the villain- John Hodgman**
  + Flight is the hero because for most people, it's the power that can be most immediately related to saving others…helping others.
  + Its not hiding in order to preserve oneself, its out there, unashamed, confident…yet selfless.
  + You can catch the guy who threw himself from a bridge and save his life.
  + You can pick up the person injured in the car wreck and fly them to safely to a hospital.
  + But there’s one thing you can’t do with flight.
  + You can’t Hide.
  + You go flying around saving people, you are going to be on full display.
* **Back to 2)** 
  + The gift of prophecy is like this.
  + That’s why I say its cruciform.
  + Cruciform simply means “Cross shaped.”
  + Anything that is selfless, self-sacrficing…anything that courageously uses vulnerability to save others is “cruciform”.
  + Because it brings to mind a cross.
  + Jesus stretched out, vulnerable, exposed.
  + But courageously and selflessly giving himself up, taking on our sin and condemnation…to save us.
  + Look what Paul says when he compares tongues and prophecy
  + **1 Cor 14:21**
  + He quotes this verse from Isaiah 28 about God speaking to Israel through the lips of foreigners.
  + That verse is about judgement.
  + In that part of Isaiah, God has spoken a very clear word to Israel to repent of their sin, to stop worshipping other gods and to return to worshipping YHWH.
  + But, they didn’t. So God says, “Ok, I offered you salvation a chance to repent through words you COULD understand, now, I’m going to send in another nation, the Babylonians, and they are going to speak my words in a language you CANNOT understand. You won’t have ears to hear, so you won’t have any more chance to repent. You will be overtaken by them and because of your rebellion against me, you will live in captivity.”
  + In fact, tongues all through the book of Acts continued to be a sign of judgment. See, when the church was just starting out, all the Jewish people who were understanding Christ as Messiah wanted to keep the gospel message JUST for the Jews. They wanted to keep it to themselves.
  + But God’s salvation was always intended to be not just for ONE group of people, but for every ethnicity, every nation, people of every language.
  + So, as the good news about Jesus death for our sin and resurrection to lead us to Eternal life with him went out to new people groups, they would speak in tongues that the Jews could not understand.
  + It was a sign to those Jews that didn’t BELIEVE the gospel was for any ethnicity or race… that God had indeed saved them. BUT alas, they couldn’t understand what was being said.
  + So, unless they had clear teaching (which they got in the book of Acts from guys like Peter and Paul), it was only judgment.
  + It was a sign to those unbelieving Jews that they were dead wrong about the extent of God’s forgiveness and grace.
  + **1 Cor 14:22-23**
  + That's why NEXT, Paul says speaking in another tongue is a sign for UNBELIEVERS…
  + …and prophecy is a sign FOR BELIEVERS.
  + Paul is telling us that if unbelievers hear you speaking in these other tongues, while you are being built up…it will be judgment for them. Because they will think you are crazy and won’t stick around to actually hear the gospel.
  + And without understanding what Christ has done for them, they will be in their sin and they will be judged for it. Not only that, it will be a sign of judgment for you, because you aren’t willing to include others in God’s salvation. It will expose you as a fraud who only cares about yourself.
  + BUT, if you prophesy, that’s a sign for believers. That’s what it takes to turn a person from unbelief to belief. You have to speak to them in a way they understand. In their own language. And it will display that you have a deep faith in Christ to save ANYONE.
  + And, according to Paul, that means forsaking something that is personally edifying, in order to say something edifying to others.
  + That is cruciform.
  + Giving up what is personally edifying to you, in order to bring belief and salvation to ANYONE.
  + Remember last time I preached, in part one we said that “Prophecy and tongues were all about changing outsiders to become insiders.”
  + Well Paul says, if you speak in tongues when you are together…you are just keeping the outsiders…OUTSIDE.
  + But that’s NOT the heart of God.
  + The heart of God is to bring the prodigal home.
  + The heart of God is to welcome the sinner’s repentance.
  + The heart of God is to implore those who refuse to know him to come in and be a part of his family.
  + Tongues does not do that.
  + Prophecy does.
  + But it costs something.
  + Its cruciform.
  + Paul sums up his teaching on things the Holy Spirit does in the gathered church like this.
  + **1 Cor 14:26**
  + **What then, brothers and sisters? Whenever you come together, each one**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn9)**has a hymn, a teaching, a revelation, another tongue, or an interpretation.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf16)**Everything is to be done for building up.**
  + He says when you come together, by God’s Spirit, because God is a speaking God who speaks to his people in prophecy… you ought to come to a worship gathering ready to speak HIS words to one another…and with BIG EARS…ready to listen.
  + And that means dying to yourself.
  + Some of you don’t like to sing.
  + So, when we sing a hymn, you turn on your power of invisibility to shrink away. Because you have a personal preference that makes you feel better if you don’t.
  + But Paul says, when you come together, you should speak “hymns” or theological teachings set to music.
  + And its not a concert...where a band sings and you listen.
  + NO we all sing to one another.
  + He says some of you will have teaching.
  + And this is not just the preacher.
  + This means instead of summoning the power of disappearing when the structured gathering ends…we should be lingering, talking…and not simply talking about mundane things…no, seeking to deliver a word of prophecy…of wisdom or knowledge to encourage and build one another up.
  + To use that spiritual gift, it means dying to your own schedule. It means not being so limited to the time you will give to talk to folks about things that matter. You might be late to lunch. God forbid you miss the first half of that football game.
  + There are things to be revealed. There are words of encouragement to be spoken and heard. There are convictions and repentance that happens.
  + IN other words, its not just the preacher who is in on prophecy…it is the WHOLE BODY OF CHRIST.
  + So let me ask you this- especially for those of you who are covenant members at City- when you are preparing to come to church, are you thinking about how quickly you can get in and out…or are you thinking, “Who would the Lord have me speak a word to today.”
  + Do you ever come to church praying, “God, I’m ready to both listen and speak. When I speak, I want to speak your words. When I listen, I want to understand your words. So give me words of prophecy today to benefit the church. And make me eager and expectant to hear words of prophecy from my church family.”
  + THAT, City Church, would be a Spirit-filled church. People eager and ready hear God’s word, Speak God’s word…and then Hear God’s word again.
* **Back to 2)**
  + If we want to be a Spirit-Filled Church.
  + We’ve got have bigger ears.
  + And we’ve gotta be willing to make ourselves vulnerable.
  + We have to set aside the things that bring us comfort, and let the Spirit push us into things that are uncomfortable…like speaking and hearing the Word of God.
  + **We have to being willing to ask ourselves “Who do you want to be, the person you hope to be, or the person you fear you actually are?”**
* Selfless, Confident. Unashamed.
* **Quit trying to disappear, and use your God given gifts to fly.**
* **Lords Supper Slide**
* Jesus is not a created being. He has always and will always be one with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.
* And in that relationship he had all the love and belonging that he could ever want.
* Yet, Jesus, the Son of God, the WORD of God as John calls him…put on flesh. flesh.
* Jesus is God speaking to us in a way we could understand.
* On the night Jesus was arrested, he had supper with his disciples. And he told them he was going to die the next day. But that he would resurrect.
* And then, he went out to a garden to pray. And he asked his disciples to pray with him.
* But they fell asleep. They disappeared.
* But Jesus stayed awake all night long, alone. Well, not alone, Just him and his Father. And he had a sweet edifying time of prayer and communion.
* But he got up when they came to arrest him. And even when he could have used his power to disappear…he didn’t.
* Instead, he not let him self be arrested, but he selflessly, confidently and unashamed let himself be beaten, exposed and crucified.
* ON the cross, he was lifted up.
* In that moment of deep vulnerability and selflessness for all to see and mock…He flew.
* Meanwhile, all of his disciples deserted him. They chose to go invisible.
* Then on the third day, Jesus rose from the grave…and several days later, he flew. He ascended to heaven and he told all his disciples to go to the whole world…every, tribe, tongue and ethnicity…and preach the gospel in a way that the whole world could understand. He told them to fly!
* And he told them, it would cost them their lives. And it did.
* What Jesus had in the trinity was good. What Jesus had in the garden of Gethsemane was good. Connection with the Father. It edified him. (
* But he went to the cross anyway. He left that to fulfill the prophesies that came from his mouth and the mouths of the prophets before him.

And it is that gospel truth, that Jesus died for the ungodly, so we could be in God’s family together forever…That is what all our prophecies should point to.

* But it takes reminding to choose to be Selfless, confident, and unashamed.
* Most of the time, we just want to disappear. We want to keep our selves warm and safe…the way you feel when you are invisible…with 5 sweaters you swiped from a department store.
* The Lords Supper reminds us that Jesus didn’t go invisible on us. That he himself is the invisible God becoming visible and being lifted up…on a cross…for us.
* This bread that we’ll eat is his broken body. Selflessly broken for our sin.
* This cup is a reminder of his spilled blood. Selflessly poured out to cover us and make us righteous in God’s eyes.
* And the cup reminds of something else too.
* That Death is not the end. Jesus said that he would drink this cup with all those who trust and follow him when he returns. The dead in Christ will rise to new life in Jesus’ new creation.
* And all that we couldn’t see…all that we couldn’t understand…will be made visible. Now we see through a glass dimly…but then, when we sit down at the table with God’s family, And Jesus raises a toast…all that is invisible will be clear. All that we didn’t understand…will be understood…and the only thing that will remain is LOVE.
* Lets take it and remember
* PRAY not only in gratitude, but lets pray and remember our cruciform mission.
* Pray for VBS.
  + Cross ethinic barriers.
  + Cross socio-economic barriers.
  + **Go into this week with big ears to learn from these other churches and mouths that speak God’s words of encouragement and building up for the kids in our neighborhood and for our partners in the gospel.**