

引言 INTRODUCTION

We live in a purpose-driven society. Success is often measured by whether we achieve the goals we set. We ask questions like: Why are we doing this? How should we do it? When should we act? There is nothing wrong with those questions. But Paul reminds us not to forget who we are serving. When it comes to spiritual gifts, the focus should not be on ourselves but on others. That is why 1 Corinthians 13, the chapter on love, is placed between two chapters about spiritual gifts. Love is the key when we use our spiritual gifts. This reminds me of a personal experience from elementary school. Whenever I asked my older brother for help with math, I often ended up in tears. Why? Because he explained things in a way that made sense to him, without understanding where I was struggling. I felt as though he was looking down on me, thinking that I was too dumb to handle those simple calculations. That attitude of “I’m better than you” was also a problem in the Corinthian church. Some believers became proud because of the spiritual gifts they had. In today’s passage, Paul focuses on two gifts used in public worship: tongues and prophecy. Both gifts involve communication. The gift of tongues enables people to speak in a language they have never learned. However, unless someone interprets the message, no one can understand it. Prophecy, on the other hand, is teaching God’s Word. That is why the Chinese Bible translates this gift as “prophetic preaching.” God gives this gift to Bible teachers to explain God’s Word so that the whole church can be strengthened. Therefore, Paul encourages believers to earnestly desire the gift of prophecy over the gift of tongues. He gives us a few reasons.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 聽眾 Audience

The first reason Paul prefers prophecy than tongues has to do with the audience. Look at verses 2-3: **2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. 3 On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people...** The difference is clear. Tongues are directed to God, while prophecy is directed to people. A tongue is a form of personal communication with God. The problem is that neither the listeners nor even the speakers understand what is being said. Later in this chapter, Paul mentions that he prays privately in tongues too. That suggests that tongues are mainly for personal devotion rather than public worship. If a spiritual gift is meant only for private use, there is no reason to show it off. There is no room for boasting. It is like owning a large mansion. Nobody needs to know about it unless you are willing to open your home to entertain others. Prophecy is different. Its audience is the whole church. God gives a message to the speaker, and he shares it with God’s people. A Bible study or a sermon is not a book report or a religious lecture. The authority does not rest in the teacher but it comes from God’s Word. Therefore, a teacher’s attitude should not be, “Let me tell you what I know.” Instead, it should be, “Let us listen to what God is telling us.” In that sense, the teacher is also a student. Before teaching others, he must first allow God’s Word to speak to him. The Holy Spirit helps him understand the passage and gives him the wisdom to explain it clearly. Of course, that does not eliminate the need for

preparation. A faithful teacher reads the passage carefully and repeatedly, and seeks God's guidance in prayer. Then he may use study guides, commentaries, and other resources to deepen his understanding. As church members, we should often pray for those who teach. Ask God to help them explain His truth accurately and effectively. Some people can write many books or speak for hours on a subject. Yet they struggle to explain it in an easy way. Albert Einstein once said that if you cannot teach something to a child, then you do not really know your stuff. I always admire people who can explain deep truths in straightforward ways. Powerful messages can be both simple, yet profound. They are easy to learn, easy to remember, and hard to forget.

2. 益處 Benefits

Besides having a different audience, tongues and prophecy also bring different benefits. Look at verses 3-4: **3 On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. 4 The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.** The contrast is obvious. Prophecy benefits the whole church, while tongues only benefit the individual. To prophesy is to teach God's Word publicly. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, teachers explain the Bible and help people understand its meaning. But understanding is only the first step. God's truth must also be applied. Paul mentions three results of application: upbuilding, encouragement, and consolation. God's Word builds us up by strengthening our faith and deepening our relationships with God and with one another. It encourages us when we are discouraged, confused or tempted to give up. It comforts us when we face sorrow, disappointment or loss. That is why Bible teaching should not end with information alone. It should lead to transformation. Teachers should help people think about how to put God's truth into practice. For example, if God is loving, gracious and patient, how should those attributes shape my life? If God commands us to love one another and welcome strangers, how should that change my priorities and actions? God's Word is meant for everyday life. Jesus does not call us to be Bible experts. He calls us to be disciples. They learn the truth and they live the truth. In comparison, tongues serve a different purpose. They are for private communication with God. They are deeply personal. Think of it like a coded language between lovers or close friends, or military intelligence. Outsiders cannot understand the messages if they are not translated. Through tongues, a believer may grow closer to God. However, God does not give that gift to every Christian. As a result, its benefit is limited to certain individuals rather than the whole church. That is why Paul urges believers to desire the gift of prophecy because it strengthens the entire congregation. The church is a community of faith. Therefore, when we use the gifts and talents God has given us, we should not only ask, "How does this help me?" We should also ask, "How does this benefit God's people?"

3. 內容 Content

So far, we have compared tongues and prophecy in terms of their audience and their benefits. Now Paul turns to the content of these gifts. Look at verses 6-7: **6 Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? 7 If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played?** Paul's point is simple: communication is only helpful when people can understand its content. Tongues are languages that the speaker has never learned. Unless someone interprets them, no one knows what is being said. As a result, the

message cannot benefit others. Paul illustrates this with musical instruments. Anyone can make sounds with them. But it is considered as music only when there is a melody and rhythm. Otherwise, they are just noise, like a baby banging on toys. Similarly, tongues can sound like meaningless words when no one can understand them. Prophecy is different. Through prophecy, God's truth is communicated clearly. People with this gift present revelation, knowledge, prophecy and teaching from God. The content is clear when there is no language barrier. It can build people up. Many people are fascinated by tongues because they seem supernatural. However, it can lead to unforeseeable outcomes if its meaning is unknown. I once heard a true story about a man who visited a church where tongues were commonly used during worship. As expected, several people spoke in tongues throughout the service. Afterward, he immediately talked to the friend who had invited him. He said, "You may want to think carefully about staying in this church. Most people here have no idea what is being said. One of the speakers was actually speaking German. I understand the language. Everyone assumed he was praising God, but he was in fact cursing God." That story is shocking, but it illustrates an important point. God is certainly able to give the gift of tongues today. Yet when words are spoken without interpretation, people have no way to evaluate what is being said. It may even leave a loophole for the devil to snare us and blaspheme God! The Bible calls us to exercise discernment. In that regard, it is more profitable to understand God's revealed Word, and to share it with fellow believers than to aspire after a mysterious experience.

4. 渠道 Device

The audience, benefits and content of tongues and prophecy differ. Another feature that separates the two gifts is the device that is used to communicate. You will see what I mean from verses 14-15: **14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. 15 What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.** When Paul prayed in tongues, he was praying with his spirit. Even if we do not have that gift, we can still relate to part of his experience. Prayer is more than working through a list of requests. It is personal fellowship with God. For example, when you praise God, you may picture a star-filled sky, a beautiful sunset, colorful flowers or the vast ocean. As you reflect on His creation, your heart echoes: "Lord, You are wonderful, powerful and wise." Or perhaps you come to God carrying a heavy burden. You may picture yourself placing that load into His hands. As you quietly rest in His presence, you experience His love, grace and peace. The problem may still be there when you finish praying, but you trust that God will guide you through it. The point is that we can feel that God is close to us, much like the relationship between lovers or best friends. Sometimes, they have an intuition about what you have in mind even before you speaks. Compared to praying in tongues, prophesying employs a totally different device. Teachers use understandable words to explain God's truth. Listeners use their minds to process what they hear and to make sense of the message. In summary, we use our spirits to commune with God, and we use our minds to learn God's Word. Both are essential for spiritual growth. But prayer is often personal. Through prayer, God may remind you the sins that no one else knows, give direction for an important decision or call you into ministry. Prophecy, on the other hand, strengthens the church through the clear teaching of God's Word. Ultimately, the difference comes down to whether the goal is to edify the individual believer or to build up the whole church body.

5. 影響 Effects

The final difference between tongues and prophecy is the effects they have on those who hear them. Let us read verses 23-25: **23 If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, 25 the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.** Paul describes a situation in which a non-believer visits a church service. If everyone is speaking in tongues, the visitor cannot understand what is being said. Instead of being drawn to God, he may conclude that Christians have lost their minds. The gathering may seem confusing, strange or even frightening. We see a similar reaction in Acts 2. On the Day of Pentecost, Jews from many regions came to Jerusalem. They heard believers speaking in languages they had never learned. Although some people recognized those dialects and heard believers praising God, they mocked them and accused them of being drunk. It is hard to imagine that drunken people can talk things that make any sense, even declaring God's wonders! In both Jerusalem and Corinth, non-believers were puzzled by what they saw and heard. The response is very different when God's Word is clearly taught. A non-believer may come to church with no intention of seeking God. Yet as he listens to the message, the Holy Spirit begins to work in his heart. He realizes that God's Word is speaking directly to him. After all, the Bible is more than a moral guide or a collection of good advice. It is the living Word of God. Its truths are not mere suggestions; they reveal God's standard of right and wrong. As God's Word is preached, the Holy Spirit convicts people of sin, convinces them that Jesus is the only way to salvation, until they are converted to become Christians. He opens their eyes to the truth until they are moved to repentance and faith. Those who surrender themselves to the Lord can feel that the invisible God is present in the gathering.

結論 CONCLUSION

When we use our spiritual gifts, the focus should be on others, not ourselves. The church is God's house. We gather here to worship Him, learn His Word and grow together. Our goal is to build one another up in faith. Therefore, when we teach the Bible, we should explain God's truth clearly. When we share testimonies, God should be the hero of the story, not us. When we sing, our songs should exalt God's character, not merely express human feelings. When we pray publicly, we should lead people into God's presence, not draw attention to ourselves with beautiful words. As a result, both believers and unbelievers can experience God's presence among us. When they leave, they should not merely feel better, but knowing God better. Believers should be encouraged and equipped to live for the Lord throughout the coming week. If we glorify God and edify His people in everything we do, then our worship has accomplished its purpose.

引言 INTRODUCTION

我們生活在一個追求結果的社會裡。成功往往是以是否達到目標來衡量。我們常常會問：「為什麼要做這件事？」「應該怎麼做？」「什麼時候採取行動？」這些問題本身並沒有錯。然而，保羅提醒我們，不要忘記另一個更重要的問題：我們是在服事誰？當談到屬靈恩賜時，焦點不應該放在自己身上，而應該放在別人身上。因此他在第十三章談到愛。而那一章夾在兩段關於屬靈恩賜的經文中間。愛是運用恩賜的關鍵。這讓我想起小學時的親身經歷。每當我請哥哥教我數學時，我常常以眼淚收場。為什麼呢？因為他總是用他自己的思路來解釋，卻沒有試著了解我究竟哪裡不懂。我覺得他看不起我，覺得我太笨，連那麼簡單的數學都不會。這種「我比你利害」的心態，也是哥林多教會中的問題。有些信徒因著自己擁有某些恩賜而驕傲。在今天的經文中，保羅討論兩種在崇拜中使用的恩賜：說方言和作先知講道。這兩種恩賜都與溝通有關。說方言的恩賜使人能夠講自己從未學過的語言。然而，若沒有人翻譯，就沒有人能明白其中的內容。至於作先知講道，則是教導神的話語。神把這項恩賜賜給聖經老師，使他們能夠解釋神的話語，幫助信徒明白真理，使整個教會都得到造就。因此，保羅鼓勵信徒要追求作先知講道的恩賜，過於追求說方言的恩賜。他告訴我們幾個理由。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 聽眾 Audience

保羅認為作先知講道勝於方言的第一個原因，是與聽眾有關。請看第 2 至 3 節：**2 那說方言的，原不是對人說，乃是對神說，因為沒有人聽出來。然而，他在心靈裡卻是講說各樣的奧秘。3 但作先知講道的，是對人說...**。兩者之間的差別很明顯。方言是對神說的，而作先知講道是對人講的。說方言是一種個人與神交流的方式。問題在於，不但聽的人聽不懂，連說的人自己也不明白所說的是什麼。在本章後面，保羅也提到他自己私下用方言禱告。這顯示方言主要是為個人的靈修生活，而不是用在公開崇拜中的。如果某種恩賜只供個人使用，就沒有必要拿來炫耀，也沒有任何誇口的理由。這好比一個人擁有一棟豪宅。除非他願意開放自己的家來招待別人，否則他不需要告訴別人他擁有大房子。作先知講道則不同。它的對象是整個教會。神把信息賜給講道的人，而他再把內容傳達給信徒。帶查經或講道不是讀書報告，也不是宗教演講。權柄不在老師身上，而是在神的話語裡。因此，老師的態度不應該是：「讓我告訴你我知道什麼。」而應該是：「讓我們一起來聆聽神對我們說什麼。」從這個角度來看，老師同時也是學生。在教導別人之前，他必須先讓神的話對他說話。聖靈幫助他明白經文的意思，也賜給他智慧，使他清楚地解釋真理。當然，這並不表示老師不

需要準備。忠心的老師會仔細並反覆地閱讀經文，在禱告中尋求神的引導。之後，他也可以利用教材、解經書以及其他參考資料，來加深自己對經文的理解。作為教會的成員，我們應當常常為聖經老師禱告，求神幫助他們能夠準確而有效地傳講真理。有些人可以寫書，也能夠演講好幾個小時；然而，他們卻不一定能夠用簡單易懂的方式把道理說明白。愛因斯坦曾經說過：如果你無法教導小孩子，那表示你自己可能還沒有弄懂你的學問。我很欣賞那些能夠把深奧的真理講得淺顯易懂的人。有能力的信息可以是簡單；既容易明白，又容易記住，但是卻印象深刻。

2. 益處 Benefits

除了聽眾不同之外，方言和作先知講道也帶來不同的益處。請看第 3 至 4 節：**3 但作先知講道的，是對人說，要造就、安慰、勸勉人。4 說方言的，是造就自己；作先知講道的，乃是造就教會。**兩者的分別很明顯。作先知講道使整個教會得益處，而方言主要造就個人。作先知講道就是在公開場合教導神的話語。藉著聖靈的引導，老師解釋聖經，幫助人明白其中的真理。然而，明白真理只是第一步，更重要的是實踐真理。保羅提到應用真理帶來三方面的益處：造就、安慰和勸勉。神的話語堅固我們的信心，藉此加強我們與神及彼此之間的關係。當我們面對憂傷、失望或損失時，神的話也能安慰我們。當我們灰心、困惑或想要放棄的時候，神的話能夠鼓勵我們。因此，聖經教導不能只停留在知識的傳遞，更應該帶來生命的改變。老師應該幫助學生思考，如何把真理應用在生活中。例如，神是慈愛、有恩典和忍耐的，這些屬性如何塑造我的生命？如果神吩咐我們要彼此相愛並接待陌生人，這又應當如何改變我的價值觀和生活方式？神的話語是要用在日常生活的。耶穌呼召我們，不是要我們成為聖經專家，而是要我們成為祂的門徒。門徒不僅學習真理，也活出真理。相比之下，方言有不同的目的。它是人與神之間私人的交流方式，是非常個人的經歷。你可以把它想像為情侶或好朋友之間的暗語，或是軍事情報。如果沒有翻譯，外人無法明白信息的意思。藉著方言，信徒可以與神建立更密切的關係。然而，神並沒有把這項恩賜賜給每一位基督徒。它所帶來的益處主要限於個人，而不是整個教會。因此保羅勸勉信徒要切切追求先知講道的恩賜，因為它能造就全體會眾。教會是一個信徒的群體。因此，當我們使用神所賜的恩賜和才幹時，不應只問：「這對我有什麼益處？」更應該問：「這如何建立弟兄姐妹？」

3. 內容 Content

到目前為止，我們從聽眾和益處兩方面比較方言和作先知講道。現在，保羅要進一步談論這兩種恩賜所傳達的內容。請看第 6 至 7 節：**6 弟兄們，我到你們那裡去，若只說方言，不用啟示，或知識，或預言，或教訓，給你們講解，我與你們有什麼益處呢？7 就是那有聲無氣的物，或簫，或琴，若發出來的聲音沒有分別，怎能知道所吹所彈的是什麼呢？**保羅的重點很簡單：只有當人能明白信息的內容時，溝通才能帶來益處。方言是說話的人講自己從未學過的語言。除非有人翻譯，否則沒有人知道所說的內容。那些信息也無法造就別人。保羅用樂器來說明這個道理。任何人都可以吹簫

或彈琴，發出一些聲音；但只有當那些聲音配上旋律和節奏時，才真正是音樂。否則，它們不過是雜亂的噪音，就像嬰孩敲打玩具一樣。同樣地，當沒有人能明白方言時，它聽起來也像一連串毫無意義的聲音。作先知講道則不同。藉著講道，神的真理能夠清楚地傳達出來。有這項恩賜的人傳講來自神的啟示、知識、預言和教訓。當沒有語言障礙時，人們便能明白信息的內容，並從中得到益處。許多人對方言感到著迷，因為它帶有超自然的色彩。然而，當人無法明白其中的意思時，可能會帶來意想不到的結果。我曾經聽過一個真實的故事。有一位弟兄去參加一間使用方言的教會。正如他所預料的，聚會進行期間，有好幾個人說方言。聚會結束後，他立刻跟邀請他的朋友說：「我勸你要慎重考慮是否繼續留在這間教會。這裡大部分的人根本聽不懂那些人在講什麼。其中有一個人其實是在說德語，而我正好懂德語。大家都以為他是在讚美神，但事實上，他是在咒詛神。」這個故事令人震驚，但也說明了一個重要的原則。神今天當然仍然能夠把方言的恩賜賜給信徒。然而，如果沒有人翻譯，其他人根本無法判斷所說的內容是否合乎真理。甚至可能給魔鬼有機可乘，絆倒人，甚至褻瀆神。聖經一再教導我們要有分辨的能力。因此，與其追求神秘的屬靈經歷，不如努力明白神已經啟示的話語，並且與弟兄姐妹分享。

4. 渠道 Device

方言和作先知講道在聽眾、益處和內容上都有所不同。另一個區別這兩種恩賜的特點，是它們所使用的溝通渠道。請看第 14 至 15 節：**14 我若用方言禱告，是我的靈禱告，但我的悟性沒有果效。15 這卻怎麼樣呢？我要用靈禱告，也要用悟性禱告；我要用靈歌唱，也要用悟性歌唱。**當保羅用方言禱告時，他是在用自己的靈禱告。雖然我們沒有這項恩賜，我們也能夠稍為體會他的經歷。禱告不只是把代禱事項逐一向神提出。禱告乃是與神建立密切的交流。例如，當你讚美神時，你可以想到浩瀚的星空、燦爛的晚霞、繽紛的花朵，或遼闊的海洋。當你思想神的創造時，內心自然會發出讚嘆：「主啊，祢是何等奇妙、全能、充滿智慧！」又或者，當你帶著沉重的心情來到神面前時，你可以想像把那些重擔交在祂的手中。當你安靜在神面前之時，你會經歷祂的慈愛、恩典和平安。縱然禱告結束後，問題依然存在，但你深信神必定會帶領你走過難關。重點是，我們能夠真實地感受到神就在身邊。這種關係就像戀人或好朋友之間的默契。有時候，他們甚至在你開口之前，就已經猜到你心裡所想的事。相比之下，作先知講道採用完全不同的溝通渠道。老師用人能夠明白的語言來解釋神的真理，而聽眾則運用自己的理智去分析、思考和領受信息。總而言之，我們用心靈與神交流，也用理智來學習神的話語。這兩方面對屬靈成長都非常重要。然而，禱告往往是個人的。透過禱告，神可能提醒你那些只有你自己知道的罪；祂可能指引你人生中的重要決定；祂甚至可能呼召你投入某項事奉。另一方面，作先知講道則藉著清楚傳講神的話來造就整個教會。歸根究柢，兩者最大的差別在於它們的目的：究竟是為了造就個別信徒，還是為了建立整個教會。

5. 影響 Effects

方言和作先知講道最後一個不同之處，在於它們對聽眾所產生的影響。讓我們來看第 23 至 25 節：23 所以，全教會聚在一處的時候，若都說方言，偶然有不通方言的，或是不信的人進來，豈不說你們癡狂了嗎？24 若都作先知講道，偶然有不信的，或是不通方言的人進來，就被眾人勸醒，被眾人審明，25 他心裡的隱情顯露出來，就必將臉伏地，敬拜神，說：「神真是在你們中間了。」保羅描述了一個情景：有一位非信徒來參加教會的崇拜。如果聚會中每個人都在說方言，這位來賓根本不知道大家在說什麼。他不但不會被吸引來認識神，反而可能認為基督徒都失去了理智。在他看來，整個聚會可能是混亂的、奇怪的，甚至令人害怕的。我們在使徒行傳第二章也看到類似的反應。在五旬節那天，來自各地的猶太人聚集在耶路撒冷。他們聽到信徒說著自己從未學過的語言。雖然有些人明白那些鄉談，知道那些信徒是在讚美神，但仍有人譏笑他們，指責他們喝醉了。其實很難想像，一群喝醉酒的人還能夠有條理地訴說神奇妙的作為！無論是在耶路撒冷教會，還是在哥林多教會，許多非信徒對自己所看見、所聽見的事情感到困惑。然而，如果神的話語被清楚地教導時，結果就完全不同了。一位非信徒也許只是抱著好奇心走進教會，並沒有打算認識神。但當他聆聽講道時，聖靈便開始在他的心裡工作。他逐漸意識到，神藉著講台上的信息直接對他說話。畢竟，聖經不只是一本道德指南，也不只是一本提供人生建議的書。聖經乃是永活的神之話語。其中的真理不是可有可無的建議，而是神關於是非對錯的絕對標準。當神的話語被傳講時，聖靈使人知罪，讓人看見自己的過犯；祂也使人確信，耶穌基督是唯一救恩之路，並引導人悔改相信主，使他們成為基督徒。聖靈開啟人的眼睛，使他們明白真理，並帶領他們悔改並接受主。當一個人願意降服於主時，他就能感受到那位看不見的神正在聚會當中。

結論 CONCLUSION

當我們使用屬靈恩賜時，焦點應該放在別人身上，而不是自己身上。教會是神的家。我們聚集在這裡，為的是敬拜神、學習祂的話語，並且一起成長。我們的目標是在信心上彼此建造。因此，當我們教導聖經時，應當清楚地講解神的真理。當我們分享見證時，故事的主角應該是神，而不是我們自己。當我們唱詩歌時，應該高舉神的屬性，而不只是表達人的情感。當我們公開禱告時，應當帶領人進入神的同在，而不是用優美的言詞吸引人的注意。如此，無論是信徒還是福音朋友，都能在其中經歷神的同在。當他們離開教會時，不應只是感覺好一些，而是更加認識神。信徒不單得到鼓勵，也被裝備好，在接下來的一週裡為主而活。如果我們在所做的一切事上都榮耀神、造就人，那麼我們的敬拜就達到了該有的目的。