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Now, to the nuts and bolts teachings on tongues. It appears that the church in Corinth was having a problem with this very issue. Paul wrote a section in his first letter to Corinth to deal specifically with this problem. This is chapters 12, 13 and 14. In this part of the book Paul discusses Spiritual gifts in general and the gift of tongues in particular. He even lays down the rules for their use.

Paul states that he did not want his readers to be ignorant about Spiritual gifts, that is, gifts given by the Holy Spirit. So, there is no reason for us not to know the truth about tongues.

In Chapter 12, Paul first points out in verse 4 that the Holy Spirit gave a diversity of gifts. Different gifts were given, not to profit the individual, but to be a benefit to all. To use a Spiritual gift for personal edification is not the intention of the Holy Spirit.

Paul then lists the gifts in verses 8 - 10:

1. Word of wisdom
2. Word of knowledge
3. Faith
4. Gifts of healing
5. Working of miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of spirits

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8. Different kinds of languages

9. Interpretation of languages

Word of Wisdom. This gift was a spoken word that gave God's wisdom to the hearers. It was not for the benefit of the speaker, but the hearer.

Word of Knowledge. This was also a spoken word but instead of sharing God's wisdom, it shared knowledge.

Faith. This gift was a supernatural, God given faith. It was beyond saving faith and a trusting faith. It was a faith that could achieve spectacular things.

Gifts of Healing. The gifts of healing enabled a person to become a healer. He had the ability to lay hands on the sick so that they would recover.

Working of Miracles. This gift seemed to include those miracles that were not healings. Paul striking Elymas with blindness in Acts 13 was a miracle but was certainly not a healing.

Prophecy. Prophecy was speaking with Divine guidance. A prophet was a man who took a message from God and delivered it to men. So, the gift of prophecy was the ability to get a message from God and deliver it to men.

Discerning of Spirits. This gift was needed to discern whether a gift was really of the Holy Spirit. A gift may not have been supernatural but only a natural occurrence. It may even have been diabolical. I John 4:1 says "Beloved, believe not every

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spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." I Timothy 4:1 says, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." This was a much needed gift.

Different kinds of Languages. The gift of tongues was the ability to speak in a language one did not know. It will be seen that this gift was causing a problem in the church.

Interpretation of Languages. This gift was the ability to understand and interpret a language he did not know.

Paul says that to one is given a particular gift, to another is given a different gift and to another still a different gift. Not everyone had the same gift. But, to each was given a different gift, that, working together they might benefit the whole church. Paul uses a lengthy section, verses 12 - 27 to stress this point. He compares the church at Corinth to a physical body, the people with different Spiritual gifts being the different body parts. Just as a body is not one organ, but many, so the members of the church at Corinth did not all have the same Spiritual gift. Just as one part of a physical body is not jealous of another part, so the people at Corinth were not to be jealous of a person with a different Spiritual gift. But, just as every part of a body works together for the benefit of the

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whole, so every member at Corinth was to use his gift for the benefit of the whole church.

In verses 29 and 30, Paul asks a series of questions that expect negative answers. "Are all apostles?" Of course not. "Are all prophets?" No. "Are all teachers?" No. "Are all workers of miracles?" No. "Have all the gifts of healing?" No. "Do all speak with tongues?" No! Everyone in the church at Corinth did not speak in tongues. That was not everyone's gift. There was a diversity of gifts.

Then Paul says that the Corinthians should earnestly covet the best gifts. And, as Paul will show later, speaking in tongues was not one of the best gifts.

In this chapter it has been seen that "tongues" is just one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and not everyone spoke in "tongues." If the gift of tongues were still with us, then we should also be seeing people who have the gift of prophecy. They should be receiving revelations from God and either speaking them to us, or writing them down, like Paul, so we can have more knowledge of Him.

If the gift of tongues were still in effect, then we should be seeing people with the gifts of healing. They could be going into the children's hospitals and healing all sorts horrible maladies.

If the gift of tongues were still in use, then we should be hearing people with the word of wisdom. It would be refreshing to hear someone speak with the wisdom of God.

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If the gift of tongues were still for today, then we should be hearing people with the word of knowledge. There are a lot of questions that could be answered.

If the gift of tongues were still meant for today, then we would see people with the gift of faith. Men who could move mountains.

It has to be all or none. Either all of the Spiritual gifts are in use today or none of them is. If people have the gift of tongues they should also have all of the other Spiritual gifts. Since we do not see all of the Spiritual gifts being manifested today, we must conclude that, for some reason, God has determined we no longer need these gifts.