

What are prophesy and tongues?

Prophecy means speech that builds up the church.

Views on this can be summarised under two headings

- 1) Receiving revelation in addition to Scripture:
 - a) Authoritative predictions like Old Testament prophets e.g. about events that will happen in the future.
 - b) Direct messages to give to individuals.
- 2) Applying revelation: Being equipped by the Spirit to apply Gospel truths *already revealed in Scripture* to the church family (individual or corporate) to build them up. *Therefore, this is different to Old Testament prophets*

At Chalmers we believe it is the second view.

Tongues means languages.

There are different views on what tongues are 1 Corinthians 14 as shown below.

1. The God-given ability to speak real human languages like in Acts 2v1-11.
(Based on the word for 'tongue' being the same as in Acts, the word 'interpret' in v5 is used when speaking of translating human languages & in v21 it refers to real languages)
2. A form of personal prayer or praise to God, in either an angelic language or a mysterious sound, that builds up the believer, but can be interpreted. (Based on 13v1; 14v2 & v13-14)
3. A third view holds that it's both of the above.

Love desires the gift that benefits all

1 Corinthians 14v1-25

Paul's main point

"Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts...(v1)"

This means we must

1. **Desire Spiritual gifts (especially prophecy) that build up the church not self** (v1-5)
2. **Strive to be understood by everyone in church** (v6-19)
3. **Be mature about being understood so that people become Christians!** (v20-25)