

Introduction: Verse one tells us to “pursue” NKJV or “follow” KJV love. “Pursue” is to pursue (lit. or fig.) by implication, to persecute, follow. “Desire” spiritual gifts are to be zealous not indifferent.

### **THE PURPOSE AND DIRECTION OF PROPHECY, vs. 1,3,22,23-25,**

1. Purpose: Edification, exhortation, and comfort, vs.3
2. Direction: is to the church, v.4 to edify the church.
3. Notes from New Life Bible “Paul’s endorsement of prophecy over tongues in corporate gatherings is qualified by his equating the value of tongues with prophecy, if the tongue is accompanied by interpretation. Therefore, tongues without interpretation are for personal edification. Prophecy and tongues with interpretation minister to the entire congregation, being understood by all. This understanding serves to affirm the fact of and distinguish the application of the two distinct ways ‘tongues’ may be manifested- in private or public, in personal devotion or in corporate gatherings.
4. Vs. 24, 25 secrets of heart revealed.
5. Prophecy is not like the Bible which is the very word of God.

### **THE PURPOSE AND DIRECTION OF TONGUES, vs. 2, 5**

1. Purpose: v. 4 “edifies himself”
2. It is a sign to the unbeliever, and uninformed v. 22
3. Direction: v. 2 “speaks ...to God”
  - a. Speaking mysteries. Divine secrets which have been divinely revealed.
  - b. Moses, Elijah, and Jesus
  - c. Main use of tongues is for private use.
4. Spiritual gifts purpose: revelation, knowledge, prophesying, or teaching, v.6
5. The weight of the tongue’s giver is to interpret as well, v.13
6. Pray using understanding and the spirit. Small “s” our spirit praying.
7. Back to Direction: vs. 15-17
  - a. Sing to whom?
  - b. Bless, v.16 O.T. priest sometimes would bless by singing the blessing.
  - c. Giving of thanks, v. 16

The purpose of tongues is two dimensional private and public. In public things must be explained.

The direction of tongues is to God. Here are the differences of opinion. Those who believe it should be interpreted as addressing God and those who believe the public tongue changes direction and is now addressing man. Can it be both.

Conclusion: Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts especially that you may prophecy.