

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH MEETINGS

GUIDELINES		COMMENTS (1 Corinthian 14: 26-40)	Page 1 of 2
INTERACTION	All the psalms, teaching, revelation, tongues, and interpretation must be done for the edification/strengthening of the church (1Co.14:26).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalms, teaching, revelation, tongues, and interpretation all involve speaking. All these must edify the church. They are not to glorify any individual. <p>THIS SPEAKING MAY INCLUDE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Speaking a positive and uplifting word (2) Speaking a challenging word that may produce sorrow and repentance (2Co.7:10). 	
TONGUES	If anyone speaks in a tongue, 2 or at the most 3 should speak, 1 at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God (1Co.14:27-28).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately, because tongues is one of the more spectacular gifts there is a tendency to put too much focus on it. • Tongues should not be done publically if there is no interpreter. • If there are many people speaking in tongues at the same time, those outside the church will think we are mentally unbalanced (1Co.14:23). • The other side of the tongues issue, are those who do not permit tongues speaking at all (see 1Co.13:10-12; 14:22), despite the fact that Paul makes allowance for it here. Plus, a little later, Paul instructs, "Do not forbid to speak in tongues" (1Co.14:39). • We should not expect the gift of tongues to be present at every assembly, but we should be open to the Holy Spirit's leading. 	
PROPHECY	"Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said" (1Co.14:29).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A "Prophecy" according to Vines <i>Expository Dictionary</i>, is "the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God." Prophecy should not be limited to "foretelling." It is more completely described as "forth telling." Vines describes a prophet as having three primary characteristics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Spirit of God rests on him (2) He converses with God (3) He is one from whom a message from God springs forth or is secretly disclosed. • This verse is not a command that two or three <i>must</i> speak. Rather, it is a command to <i>allow</i> two or three prophets to speak. Prophecy should not be forbidden, but we must "weigh carefully what is said" (1Co.14:29). Paul tells us, "Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil" (1Th.5:19-22). • Since the offices of teacher and prophet are treated as separate ministries (Ep.4:11), we should not consider teaching and prophecy to be the same thing. Teaching is based on learning and preparation, but prophecy is based on revelations or insights from the Holy Spirit. There is some overlap between the two. In fact, instruction is one of the goals of prophecy (1Co.14:31). 	
REVELATION	If a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop (1Co.14:30).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Holy Spirit may give a sudden understanding of a Bible passage or scriptural principle, who then shares it to complement a message that is being spoken. • Paul's corollary statement, "For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted" demonstrates that one person's gift cannot meet the needs of everyone. If we want to be instructed and encouraged, then everyone must be allowed to participate in his proper turn. • Speaking out of turn (i.e., speaking when the Spirit has not led) should be controlled by the spiritually mature by asking him to be quiet, and to restore order as quickly and discreetly as possible. Speaking out of turn includes, domineering, long winded, or teaching falsehoods. God does not give an uncontrollable urge to speak, for "the spirits of the prophets are subject to prophets" (1Co.14:32). Plus, "God is not a God of confusion but of peace" (1Co.14:33). 	