

Charismatic Confusion

all over the world

**is leaving joyful faith that the finished work of
Christ provides all spiritual blessing**

**and is promoting all sorts of spiritual experiences
as being “more spiritual”**

vs.

**receiving Christ by faith as the apostles taught
and walking in him by faith, rejoicing in Jesus
Christ our Lord, our spiritual fullness in God.**

Stop the confusion!

If I have Jesus, I have the Spirit.

If I have Jesus, I have all of Jesus.

He is a person! I receive the person of Christ!

If I have the Spirit, I have all of the Spirit.

He is a person! I receive the person of the Spirit!

If I am filled with Jesus, I am filled with submission to the word of God, and Jesus is empowering me to do whatever he wants at that moment – walking in holiness, sharing the gospel, loving with *agape* love!

If I am filled with the Spirit, I am filled with Jesus to do whatever he wants at that moment!

Stop the confusion!

If I am in Christ in whom the whole fullness of God dwells, I am filled with spiritual fullness in God, needing nothing more to be more complete in God!

Nothing I do or experience makes me have more “fullness” or “wisdom” or be “more spiritual.”

This is the main message of Colossians.

Spiritual fullness is a gift from the cross of Christ which we receive by faith

like justification is a gift from the cross of Christ.

Don't be confused by those who believe that speaking in tongues, receiving “words from the Lord,” having dreams and visions, or other “spiritual” experience makes us “more spiritual” than being in Christ.

Part 1: Confusion about the Spirit's focus on the word of God, the sword of the Spirit.

Part 2: Confusion about tongues and God's desire for our souls to be edified with God's truth.

Part 3: Confusion about spiritual fullness in Christ.
Or in other words,
Confusion about being "more spiritual"
than those who are in Christ the fullness of God.

Part 1: Confusion about the Spirit's focus
on the word of God, the sword of the Spirit.

At Pentecost, with his new grasp of what God was doing, what did Peter say God would do from then on?

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized (immersed) every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

Have you repented and been forgiven through Christ?

What does Peter say goes together with forgiveness?

Peter says God also gives the gift of the Holy Spirit!

Does Peter believe God’s gift of the Spirit includes the baptism of the Spirit (1:5), receiving power when the Spirit comes upon us (1:8), the filling of the Spirit (2:4), and the pouring out of the Spirit (2:16-18)? Yes!

To Peter, it’s not possible to be forgiven and not also receive the Holy Spirit in all his New Covenant ministry.



**Why is there a Bible
and cross inside
the dove?**

**Because of the serious problem around
the world with many sincere Christians
who are disconnecting the Spirit
from the Bible and from Christ and
the gospel truths of his cross!**

Let's try to discuss this issue fairly.

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Which view of the Spirit do you have?

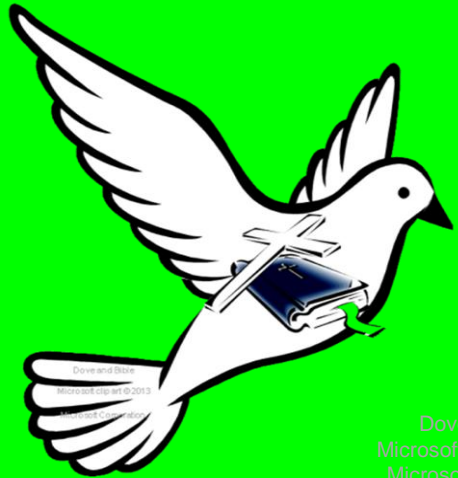


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Our view of the Spirit affects so many things in our soul.

The Spirit of truth helps and teaches us God's word

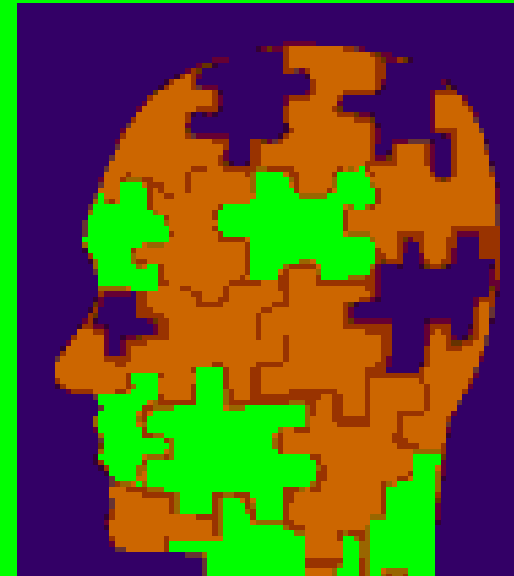


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**“Take . . . the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God, praying at all
times in the Spirit” Eph 6:17-18**

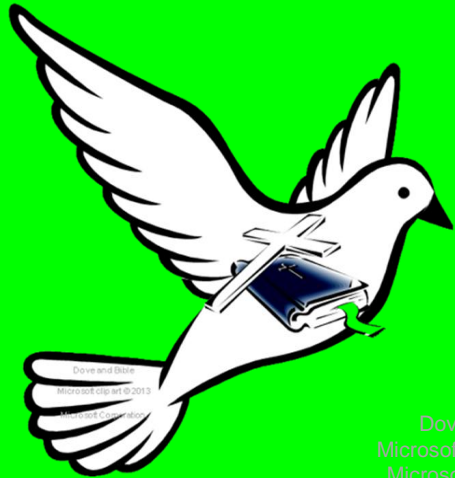


**“But when the Helper comes, . . . the Spirit
of truth . . . he will bear witness about me
. . . he will teach you all things . . .
he will guide you into all the truth”
John 15:26; 14:26;16:13**



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Thank you that Jesus died to give us the gift of the Spirit of truth, the Helper, who teaches us your truth in Christ with the sword of the Spirit, the word of God!

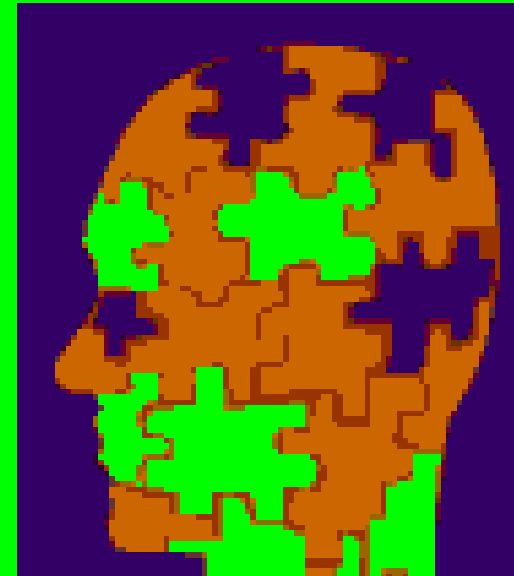


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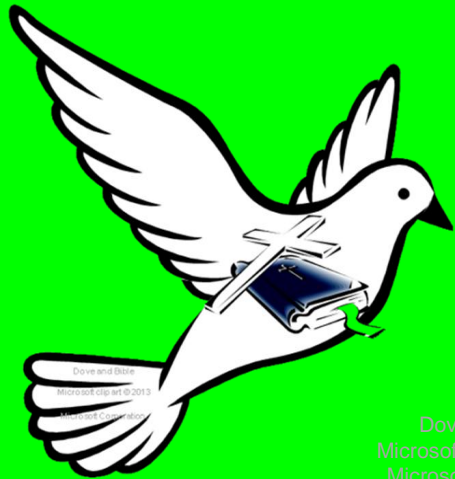
**“But when the Helper comes, . . . the Spirit of truth . . . he will bear witness about me . . . he will teach you all things . . . he will guide you into all the truth”
John 15:26; 14:26;16:13**



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The Spirit of truth helps and teaches us God's word

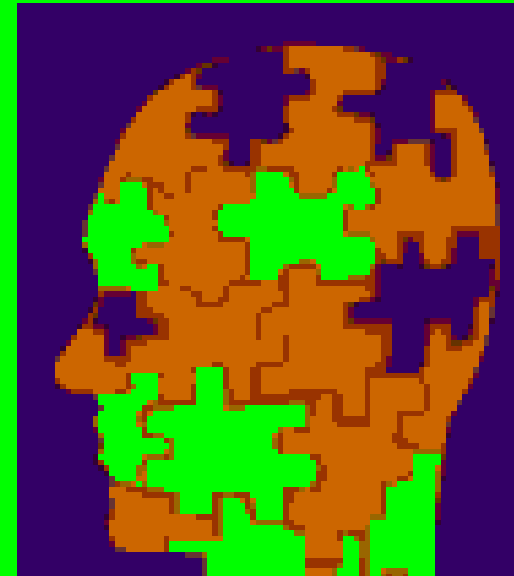
“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” 2 Tim 3:16-17



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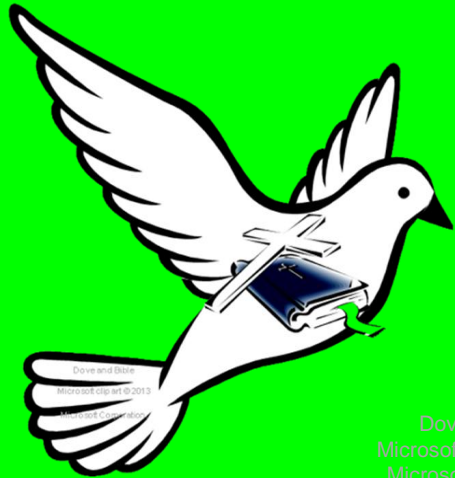
God's Spirit edifies our minds with God's truth in Christ so we think, speak, pray, love and witness more like Jesus as by faith we walk in Christ in spirit and truth.



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The Spirit of truth helps and teaches us God's word

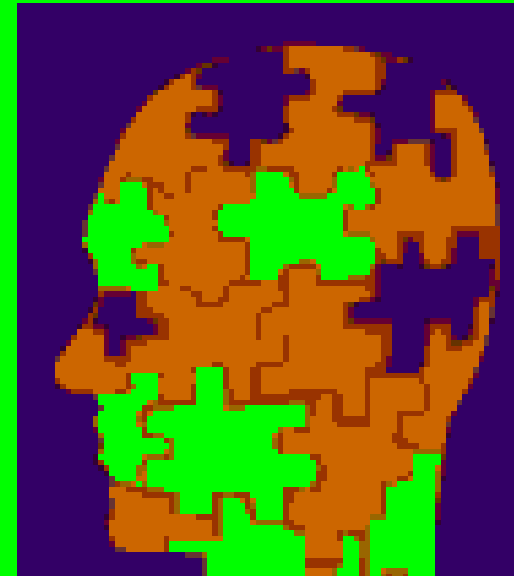
“Now we have received . . . the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.” 1 Cor 2:12



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“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Cor 2:14



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How did the Holy Spirit regularly touch Jesus as he grew up?

What is one of the most common ways the Holy Spirit touches us?

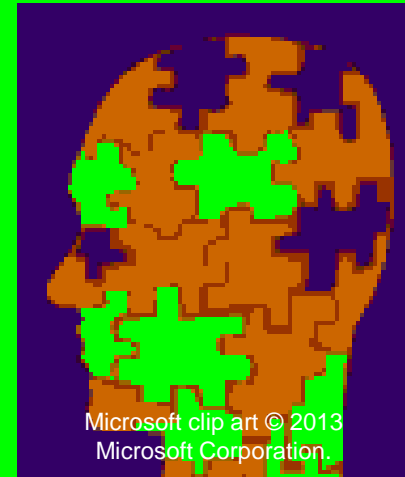
Is it super-supernatural with miracles, new words, tongues, visions and dreams?



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Revelation and inspiration of new Scripture? No! Illumination, interpretation, and application of Scripture? Yes! **The Spirit teaches us God's word.** As we reflect on God's word, the Spirit illumines our hearts to properly interpret and apply God's truth. We believe God's word. We praise God for his word. God's Spirit often touches us in ways not visibly supernatural!



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**Why is there a Bible
and cross inside
the dove?**

**The Spirit's sword is the word of God (Eph 6:17).
The Helper, the Spirit of truth, teaches us God's
Word as he bears witness to Jesus (John 14:26; 15:26)
with the word of the cross, Christ crucified (1 Cor 1:18, 23).
This word of God and Christ crucified, breathed out by God
in the Spirit, teaches, reproveth, corrects and trains us to be
complete, equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17).**

Many sincere Christians disconnect the Holy Spirit from the Scriptures and the cross of Christ!

Many regularly seek new words of revelation from God, not God's Word, and personal words focused on individuals rather than the glories of the mystery of Jesus Christ crucified.

Many regularly pray 'in the Spirit' without understanding what is said, thinking the Spirit prefers this rather than filling and edifying our minds with the truth of God's Word and the glories of Christ crucified so we worship God in spirit and truth.



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Many think these practices are more "spiritual," more of the Spirit.

The aunt of a Pastor friend died suddenly.

The next day, I asked Paul what verses he was thinking about. He said the Lord had not given him anything yet.

I felt the Lord had deeply impressed several Scriptures upon me, such as John 9:4. “We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.”

The next time I saw Paul, he was burdened that the Lord had still not given him a word. I said to him twice, “Paul! The sword of the Spirit is the word of God!” Then I shared my verses. I knew his church had prophets and prophetesses, but I was shocked to see that he was not even thinking about God’s word.

The Spirit of truth helps and teaches us

The emphasis of the 'new words' movement of the late 1900s goes against the sufficiency of the Spirit of God using the word of God to make the people of God complete and equipped for every good work of God.



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“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” 2 Tim 3:16-17



The Spirit prays for us and helps us pray in the Spirit (Day 20)

The emphasis in the 'tongues' movement of the 1900s goes against the sufficiency of the Spirit of God using the word of God for praying in the Spirit. Praying in the Spirit is made to be praying in tongues, not walking in the Spirit in prayer as the Spirit fills us with Christ's word.



Dove, Bible, praying woman
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**“Take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. . . . with perseverance . . . for all saints”
Eph 6:17-18 (Take the sword of the Spirit to pray in the Spirit!)**

17 “take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.” (Eph 6:17-18)



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**Take the sword of the Spirit to pray in the Spirit.
Do you think praying in tongues without your mind
focused on Christ in the word of God is more spiritual?
Which view of the Spirit do you have?**

**Did Jesus pray in the Spirit in a language
he did not understand, so that the Word (Logos)
did not pray with his mind connected with the Word?**



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Which view of the Spirit did Jesus have?

**In heaven, will we praise the Lord in the Spirit
in a language we don't understand, so the Spirit isn't
filling and edifying our minds with God's truth in Christ?!!**



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Which view of the Spirit do you have?

**In heaven, will not all God's people praise the Lord
in the Spirit in a language we all understand?
Won't it be wonderful to unite with all the praises
of all God's people from every language and people group?**



**The LORD is a God of TRUTH! The Spirit wants to
fill and edify our minds with God's truth in Christ!!**

If one prays ‘in the Spirit’ without understanding what they are saying, and another prays in the Spirit with the Spirit’s sword of the word of God filling and edifying their mind with the glories of the crucified and risen Christ, do you think praying without understanding what is said is more “spiritual,” more of the Spirit?



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Which view of the Spirit do you have?

**Part 2: Confusion about tongues and God's desire
for our souls to be edified with God's truth.**

Many will defend speaking in tongues they do not understand by saying, “Praying in tongues edifies oneself. 1 Corinthians 14:4 says so”

Think through the following slides.

We are still discussing how the Spirit of truth helps and teaches us God’s truth using the sword of the Spirit, the word of God, so our minds understand the truth of God and respond with worship in spirit and truth!

A Pentecostal leader accused me: “You don’t speak in tongues because you don’t *want* to speak in tongues!”

No so! If God willed, I would love to speak in Acts 2 tongues, communicating the mighty works of God in Christ in the native language of those without Christ.

I look forward to speaking a new language in heaven as I anticipate that the Lord will unite all his people in one language with all minds filled with his truth in Christ!

The Lord will remove his judgment of confusion of languages that began at Babel in Genesis 11:1-9. All will speak in “tongues,” but all will know exactly what they and others are saying of God’s glory!

For the first Jewish believers in Acts 2, the first Samaritan believers in Acts 8, and the first Gentile believers in Acts 10, God gave them tongues without their expecting tongues.

**They seek Jesus; the Spirit works as God wills. Same today.
In Acts, tongues was always a complete surprise!**

The pleading and manipulation to make tongues happen today is not at all like Acts. Beware!

If God willed today as he did in Acts 2, millions would be telling lost multitudes the mighty works of God in Christ in their language.

Those claiming that God wills Acts 2 tongues for every believer today don't speak to unbelievers! They also blame Christians for not having faith to speak in tongues! Beware!

If a believer prays in tongues, I understand their sincerity. From the earliest days of my conversion, I have had relationship with those in Christ who spoke in tongues when we prayed together.

We will all give account to our Master.

At MTI in Korea, I am surrounded with tongues when we are praying for missionaries being sent out.

Many Koreans believe tongues is ‘more spiritual,’ even though they don’t know what they are saying. If we talk about tongues, the following will come up:

**“The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church”
(1 Cor 14:4).**

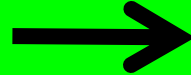
Let’s look at this. It is accepted with little study.

The Spirit of truth helps and teaches us (Day 37)

God's Spirit edifies our minds with God's truth in Christ so we think, speak, pray, love and witness more like Jesus as by faith we walk in Christ in spirit and truth.



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Ask 1 Corinthians 14 this question, **“Does Paul believe the Spirit edifies people without the mind understanding truth?”**

This is a dominant principle throughout 14:3,4,5,6,7,8, 9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,19,23,24,25,26,27,28,31.

In 1 Corinthians 14, does Paul believe the Spirit edifies people without the mind understanding God's truth?

What is clear, no matter what interpretation one may make of verses like verse 4a and 15?

Tongues that "no one understands" (2):

does not speak to people for their upbuilding, encouragement, and consolation like prophecy (3)

is not of any benefit, good or profit (6)

is like no one knows what tune is playing (7)

Tongues that “no one understands” (2):

is like no one recognizes the bugle (trumpet) call to
prepare for battle (8)

is not intelligible so no one knows what is said (9),
it is just speaking into the air (9)

is like becoming a foreigner to the speaker and the
speaker a foreigner to the hearer (11)

does not build up (edify) (12)

Tongues that “no one understands” (2):

makes the mind unfruitful (14)

means nobody can say "Amen" since they do not know what is being said (16)

means the other person is not being built up (edified) (17)

does not speak words with the mind (intelligible words) to instruct others (19);

five words that are understood are better than 10,000 words that are not understood

Tongues that “no one understands” (2):

is like being out of your mind (23)

brings no conviction (24)

**breaks the principle that everything must be done so
that the church may be built up (26)**

**Conclusion - Edification does not occur unless
the mind understands what is said!**

For over 100 years now, Pentecostalism has quite successfully spread the teaching that one of the purposes of tongues is “That we may edify ourselves. 1 Cor.14:4.”*

If we praise the Lord in tongues, the Spirit edifies us without our mind understanding what we are saying.

However, as we just saw, many clear verses in 1 Corinthians 14 argue that edification does not occur unless the mind understands what is said!

A basic rule of interpretation is to not interpret a verse in a way that makes it disagree with other verses around it.

*** Robert Chandler Dalton, Tongues Like As Of Fire (Springfield: Gospel Publishing House, 1945), 104. Dalton is quoting Harold Horton, an English Pentecostal. Dalton believed Horton had written the best piece of work on Glossolalia ever written up to that time in 1945. Horton was a prominent Pentecostal spokesman in Britain and the U.S.A., a prolific author and writer of articles in most English language Pentecostal periodicals. This quote is chosen to fairly represent the normal Pentecostal teaching in the 1920’s and 1930’s (and still today), which is now believed by many non-Pentecostals.**

To interpret 1 Cor 14:4 so the Spirit edifies without the mind understanding truth contradicts all the passages where God's Spirit of truth builds us up with God's Word of truth (such as John 14:16-18,26; 15:26; 16:7-8, 13-15, on Day 37 in *The Grace of God in Christ*) and it also contradicts the many verses in 1 Corinthians 14 arguing that edification does not occur unless the mind understands what is said!



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Which view of the Spirit do you have?

To interpret 1 Cor 14:4 so the Spirit edifies without the mind understanding truth also contradicts the meaning of the crucial words in 1 Cor 14:4!

“The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church” (1 Cor 14:4).

Paul uses the ‘himself, herself, myself’ word in 1 Cor 10:24,33, 13:5, 14:4 in a very negative way, obvious to Greek readers.

“Love seeks not the things of herself” (13:5).

“Let no one seek the things of himself, but the things of the other” (10:24).

“Not seeking the advantage of myself, but of the many, that they may be saved” (10:33).

Rather than promoting edification without the mind, 1 Cor 14:4a points to speaking what no one understands as seeking the things of himself. It is self-seeking, and selfish. 14:4b asserts that only words the mind understands edifies!



In today's English, we often use "self" in a negative way, like Paul used "herself, himself, myself" in Greek in 1 Corinthians.

Trying looking at the texts using "self."

Let no one seek the things of self,
but the things of the other (10:24).

Not seeking the advantage of self, but of
the many, that they may be saved (10:33).

Love seeks not the things of self (13:5).

The one who speaks in a tongue builds up self,
but the one who prophesies builds up others (14:4).

Paul uses the word "himself" in a very negative way
in 1 Cor 14:4!

Still not convinced? In today's English, we use "selfish" in a negative way, like Paul used "herself, himself, myself" in Greek in 1 Corinthians. Trying looking at the texts using "selfish."

Let no one seek the things that are selfish, but the things of the other (10:24).

Not seeking selfish advantage, but of the many, that they may be saved (10:33).

Love seeks not selfish things (13:5).

The one who speaks in a tongue builds up selfishly, but the one who prophesies builds up others (14:4).

Paul's original audience understood Paul's use of "himself" in a very negative way in 14:4 just as we understand "selfish" in a negative way!

There should be no question that Paul is repeating the principles laid down in 10:24, 33 and applying them to using tongues!

The direct parallels are too clear.

“Not all things build up. Let no one seek the things of himself, but the things of the other” (10:23-24).

“Not seeking the advantage of myself, but of the many, that they may be saved” (10:33).

“The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church”(14:4).

Paul is using both the words “edifies – builds up” and “himself” in a negative way in 14:4 a.

“Let no one seek the things of himself, but the things of the other” (10:24).

“Not seeking the advantage of myself, but of the many, that they may be saved” (10:33).

“The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church”(14:4).

In 14:4 a, “edifies – builds up himself” parallels “seek the things of himself” in 10:24, and “seeking the advantage of myself” in 10:33.

Let no one do this.

**1 Cor 14:4 a uses “builds up” or “edifies” negatively!
When tied to “himself” which is negative, “builds up” is also
negative, as in “His dirty joke is of no benefit to others,
but only builds up himself” or “He strutted his stuff at the
beach, but only to build up himself.”**

The Corinthians are selfish.

At the Lord’s supper, “one goes ahead with his own meal.

One goes hungry, another gets drunk” (11:21).

**They quarrel with each other. “I follow Paul!” “I follow
Apollos!” “I follow Cephas!” “I follow Christ” (1:12).**

“A man has his father’s wife. And you are arrogant!” (5:1-2).

**Some are just clanging cymbals as they selfishly show off
their spirituality with tongues, not speaking in love (13:1).**

**“Love seeks not the things of herself” but selfish tongues
seeks to edify himself rather than build up the church!**

In the pagan religions of Corinth, tongues were highly prized as being more spiritual. You were in connection with the gods, who were speaking in their own language!*

Others in the religion thought of you highly.

In this context, we can easily see another meaning in the phrase “builds up – edifies himself” in 1 Corinthians 14:4.

“The one who speaks in a tongue *builds up* himself.”

He builds himself up as being spiritual. He seeks to promote himself as spiritual. He enjoys thinking he is spiritual and that others think he is spiritual. It is edifying to his needy, selfish heart. It is affirming and validating.

This kind of self “edification” is not good! In contrast, building others up in Christ with prophecy is *agape* love.

* H. Wayne House, “Tongues and the Mystery Religions of Corinth,” 2008.
www.seeking4truth.com/tongues_corinth.html

The other verse which is often interpreted the exact opposite to what Paul is saying is 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.”

As with 14:4, we should not make 14:15 disagree with the many clear verses that argue that edification does not occur unless the mind understands what is said.

For Paul, tongues that are not understood prevents the spirit and mind working together and makes the mind 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.”

**“I want to pray, sing and praise with my spirit and mind working together. I don’t pray, sing and praise without my mind understanding what I’m saying.”
(When I swim, I swim with both my right arm and left arm working together!)**

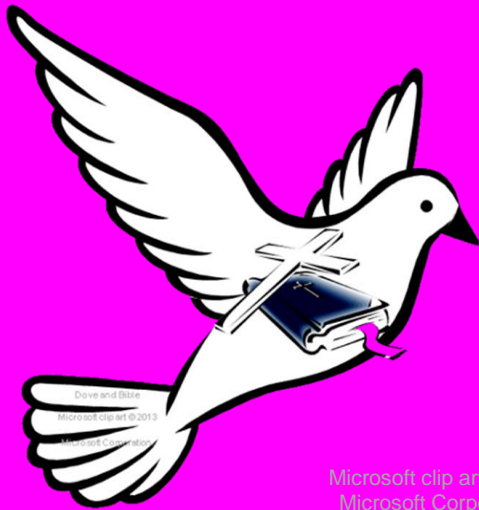
Today many say, “I pray with my spirit in tongues. I also pray with my mind like other Christians do.”

They interpret verse 15 to promote the very thing Paul is against throughout the chapter!

Beware of using verses like 14:4 or 14:15 to promote tongues that are not understood, when the clear emphasis in the chapter is to stop the use of tongues that are not understood!

The very genius of Paul in this chapter is to give principles that stop unhelpful tongues without preventing tongues that can be understood, translated and thus edify (1 Cor 14:39)!

**Remember Day 20 “The Spirit helps us pray.”
The Spirit helps us pray in the Spirit
using the sword of the Spirit, the word of God!**



**“Take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,
praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and
supplication. . . . with perseverance . . . for all saints”
Eph 6:17-18**

Weep for the mindless spiritism throughout the church of Jesus Christ, when the Spirit of truth wants to fill our minds with the glory of God in Christ in God's Word so we praise him!

Plead for a church that earnestly prays and worships with the Spirit of truth focusing minds on the glory of the infinitely magnificent Christ and God's glorious covenant promises in Christ!

God's command is,

"Take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit" (Eph 6:17-18).

Pray in the Holy Spirit using God's word!

Do you think praying in tongues without understanding what is said is better and more spiritual?



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**Which view of the Spirit do you have?
It affects so many things we do.**

Pagan religious devotees in Corinth claimed to be more spiritual by speaking in the tongues of their god.*

When some in the church in Corinth claimed to be more spiritual by speaking in tongues, who did Paul say was more spiritual?



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**“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels,
but have not love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal” (1 Cor 13:1).**

*** H. Wayne House, “Tongues and the Mystery Religions of Corinth,” 2008.
www.seeking4truth.com/tongues_corinth.html**

When some in the church in Corinth claimed to be more spiritual by speaking in prophecy explaining the mysteries and knowledge of God, who did Paul say was more spiritual?



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“And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge . . . but have not love, I am nothing.” 1 Cor 13:1

Flashy spiritual gifts are not more spiritual!
Daily repentance from sin to walk together with Christ
in his holiness, witness and *agape* love is God's heart!



**Matt 22:36-40;
Rom 13:8-10; Acts 1:8; 8:4; Gal 5:19-23;
Eph 3:17-19; 6:14-18; Col 2:6-7;
2 Peter 1:3-8; 1 John 4:7-14**

Walk in Christ in the Spirit in *agape* love by faith in God's word, enjoying God and all his riches of grace in Christ freely given us on the basis of Christ's death. It is finished!



For more on 1 Corinthians 14, see the appendix article on page 223 in “The Grace of God in Christ” eBook free at www.GraceGodChrist.com

“Does edification require the mind understanding what is said?” 223.

Also helpful:

“Ephesians 5:19 speaking to “yourselves” vs. “one another”” 225.

“Praying in the Spirit in Ephesians 5:18-20; 6:18 and Jude 20” 227.

“Super-supernaturalism vs. the supernatural life of Jesus” 229.

Part 3: Confusion about spiritual fullness in Christ.

Or in other words,

Confusion about being “more spiritual”
than those who are in Christ the fullness of God.

Regarding what being “spiritual” is, many ignore the main message of the book of Colossians. Many today claim that certain spiritual experiences make them more “spiritual” than those who have simply received Christ the Lord by faith and walk in him rejoicing.

**The following expands on the glorious truth of Colossians 2:9-10 from Day 9 “The Lord fills and completes us in Christ the fullness of God” in “The Grace of God in Christ”
a free discipleship eBook available at
www.GraceGodChrist.com**



in Christ

filled and complete

in Christ the

fullness of God

Day 9

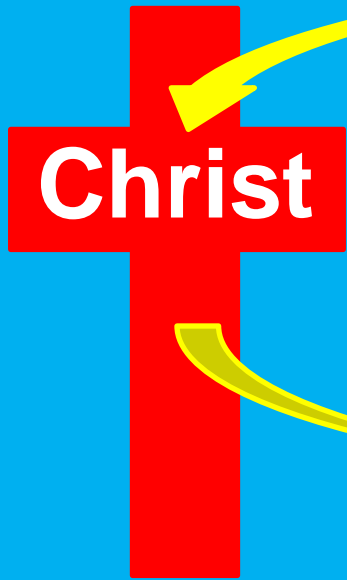
**The Lord fills and completes us in Christ
in whom the fullness of God dwells**

My sin and spiritual emptiness

**Filled with spiritual fullness in God
needing nothing to be more complete,
in Christ alone,
through faith alone,
by God's grace alone**

**Christ the fullness of God,
the head of all rule and authority**

**“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,
and you have been filled in him, who is the head
of all rule and authority” Col 2:9-10**



Jesus Christ

is Lord of all



in Christ in whom
the whole fullness
of deity dwells bodily,
the head of all rule
and authority

~~Ceres~~

~~Vulcan~~

~~Jupiter~~

~~Mercury~~

~~Bacchus~~

~~Venus~~

~~Minerva~~

~~Diana~~

~~Mars~~

~~Juno~~

World map
various copies on internet,
original source unknown

~~Apollo~~

~~Neptune~~

Roman gods had some power as heads of some things.

All the powers of all gods made up “the fullness of deity.”

But Jesus has “the whole fullness of deity” and is head of all.

We are “filled” in Christ the fullness of God by faith,
needing nothing more to make us more complete in God.

Jesus is our fullness as Jesus is our righteousness!



**“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,
and you have been filled in him, who is the head
of all rule and authority” Col 2:9-10**



Fullness is not through beauty, music, sports, cars, booze, romance, sex, money or homes!

Fullness is not through
other gods,
meditation similar to Buddha,
honoring ancestors,
pleasing the spirits,
going to witchdoctors,
making pilgrimages,
bathing in the Ganges,
observing special holy days,
speaking in tongues,
having dreams and visions,
or being a very religious Christian.

**Fullness is
by faith in Christ
the fullness of God!**

The false teachers in Colossians taught that being in Christ by faith was not enough for spiritual fullness in God.

They proclaimed deeper “wisdom and knowledge” (2:2,3) and “fullness” (2:9-10) beyond receiving Christ Jesus the Lord by faith and walking in him (2:6-7).

Christ is not enough.
You need spiritual experiences of knowing and fullness by worship encounters with angels in visions of the spirit world (Col 2:18-19).



Faith is not enough.
You need to not eat certain food and drink with ascetic severity to your body and observe special holy days as you seek angels and visions (Col 2:16-23).



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**Don't be led astray from
God's wisdom in Christ!**

**The moment we repent and
trust Christ, we are in Christ
the righteousness of God.
Christ is our righteousness.
It is finished.**

**The moment we repent and
trust Christ, we are in Christ
the fullness of God.
Christ is our spiritual fullness.
It is finished.**

Jesus is our fullness as Jesus is our righteousness!

Stop *doing* something to be more whole and complete.

Stop searching for fullness in other ways.

**Enjoy God's gift of fullness in Christ
by *faith* in his Word with prayers of thanks.**

**Don't mistake our constant battle with the flesh
to mean we don't have fullness in Christ.**

**“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord,
so walk in him, rooted and built up in him
and established in the faith, just as you were taught,
abounding in thanksgiving.” Col 2:6-7**

**Discern the error of those like the false teachers
in Colossians who say receiving Christ by faith
and walking in Christ by faith is not enough.**

**Discern the Colossian error of teaching that
spiritual experience beyond conversion such as
encounters with angels or having visions (Col 2:18) makes
us more “spiritual” with deeper “fullness” and “wisdom.”**

**If we are in Christ in whom the fullness of God dwells,
we are complete with God’s fullness by faith in Christ,
needing nothing more to be more complete in God!
Jesus is our fullness as Jesus is our righteousness!**

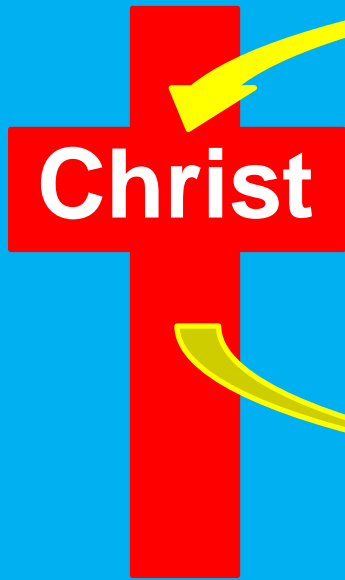
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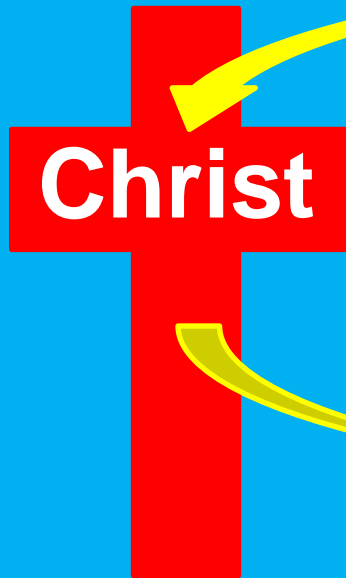
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the head of all rule and authority**

**“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,
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of all rule and authority” Col 2:9-10**



**Lord, thank you that Christ, in whom your fullness dwells,
died to fill me with spiritual fullness in God!**

My sin and spiritual emptiness



**Filled with spiritual fullness in God
needing nothing to be more complete,
in Christ alone,
through faith alone,
by God's grace alone**



**Christ the fullness of God,
the head of all rule and authority**

**“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,
and you have been filled in him, who is the head
of all rule and authority” Col 2:9-10**

**Lord, thank you that all your powers dwell in Christ!
Lord Jesus, you are the fullness of God
in bodily form.**

**You are the head over every power and authority.
All else submits to you.**

**Thank you that if we are in Christ the fullness of God,
we are filled and complete by faith in Christ,
needing nothing to be more complete!**

**We rely on Christ for everything from God -
forgiveness, right standing, union, freedom from sin,
the Holy Spirit, wisdom, eternal life and all else.
Thank you that we have all in Christ by faith in his
finished work, apart from spiritual experiences!**

**“If we do not rely on Christ for
wholeness,
all our relationships
are an attempt
to complete ourselves.”**

adapted from Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott

**Lord, I trust Christ as my spiritual wholeness and fullness,
Jesus in whom the whole fullness of God dwells.**

I am filled in him who is the fullness of God.

I am filled with the riches of the grace of God in Christ.

**It is finished. I am complete in Christ by faith
without tongues, dreams, visions, miracles, or words.**

Charismatic Confusion

all over the world

**is leaving joyful faith that the finished work of
Christ provides all spiritual blessing**

**and is promoting all sorts of spiritual experiences
as being “more spiritual”**

vs.

**receiving Christ by faith as the apostles taught
and walking in him by faith, rejoicing in Jesus
Christ our Lord, our spiritual fullness in God.**

Stop the confusion!

If I have Jesus, I have the Spirit.

If I have Jesus, I have all of Jesus.

He is a person! I receive the person of Christ!

If I have the Spirit, I have all of the Spirit.

He is a person! I receive the person of the Spirit!

If I am filled with Jesus, I am filled with submission to the word of God, and Jesus is empowering me to do whatever he wants at that moment – walking in holiness, sharing the gospel, loving with *agape* love!

If I am filled with the Spirit, I am filled with Jesus to do whatever he wants at that moment!

Stop the confusion!

If I am in Christ in whom the whole fullness of God dwells, I am filled with spiritual fullness in God, needing nothing more to be more complete in God!

Nothing I do or experience makes me have more “fullness” or “wisdom” or be “more spiritual.”

This is the main message of Colossians.

Spiritual fullness is a gift from the cross of Christ which we receive by faith

like justification is a gift from the cross of Christ.

Don't be confused by those who believe that speaking in tongues, receiving “words from the Lord,” having dreams and visions, or other “spiritual” experience makes us “more spiritual” than being in Christ.