

Spirit Filled Corporate Worship

In *1 Corinthians 14:23-26* Paul describes the potential that lies within a Holy Spirit inspired corporate worship service.

Suppose the whole congregation gathers in the same place and you speak in other languages. When outsiders or unbelievers come in, won't they say that you're out of your mind? ²⁴ Now suppose you speak what God has revealed (NKJV But if all prophesy). When unbelievers or outsiders come in you will show them where they are wrong and convince them that they are sinners. ²⁵ The secrets in their hearts will become known, and in this way they will quickly bow with their faces touching the ground, worship God, and confess that God is truly among you. ²⁶ So what does this mean, brothers and sisters? When you gather, each person has a psalm, doctrine, revelation, another language, or an interpretation. Everything must be done to help each other grow.

Paul portrays this gathering as a growing church "outsiders" and "unbelievers" would "come in" (vs 23)

What was the attraction?
GOD WAS PRESENT!

...they will quickly bow with their faces touching the ground, worship God, and confess that God is truly among you. (vs 25)

Spirit filled corporate worship generates PASSION.

Paul's description of those falling prostrate under the conviction of sin and crying out that God was present reveals the **potential that lies in Spirit-filled worship.**

The Church can grow through Holy Spirit inspired corporate worship and the proclamation of the Gospel.

The Church does its best evangelism as a worshipping community, bonded in love, preaching the gospel of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit!

Spirit filled worship generates a *PROPHETIC atmosphere.*

1 Corinthians 12:24 (NKJV) But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all.

Paul says that "if all prophesy." This cannot mean that everyone present actually delivered a prophetic message for that would contradict vs 27; 29.

27: No more than two or three should speak in tongues. They must speak one at a time, and someone must interpret what they say. (NLT)

29: Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said. (NLT)

Paul is encouraging a mantle of prophecy resting on every part of the service (vs 26)

This prophetic atmosphere had a quality of divine grace that lifted it from the natural to the supernatural.

The tangible presence of God, and His voice speaking among His people, is the one thing Christian worship can create that the world cannot begin to emulate.

Spirit filled worship generates *PARTICIPATION.*

The outworking of *vs24 if all prophesy*, is seen in *vs 26: ...when you **come together**, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.*

The meaning of "*all prophesy*" means that they were "*all participating*".

Paul is inferring that the congregation members did not come to be ministered to, but rather to minister to the Lord and to one another.

- **Everyone is included as we all have our part to play.**
- **The Local Church should function like a living body.**

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (NCV) A person's body is one thing, but it has many parts. Though there are many parts to a body, all those parts make only one body. Christ is like that also. ¹³ Some of us are Jews, and some are Greeks. Some of us are slaves, and some are free. But we were all baptized into one body through one Spirit. And we were all made to share in the one Spirit.

Paul describes how each person has a part to play through a spiritual gift, a function, or an office.

*1 Corinthians 12:7 (NCV) Something from the Spirit **can be seen in each person**, for the common good.*

*1 Corinthians 12:11 (NCV) One Spirit, the same Spirit, does all these things, and **the Spirit decides what to give each person.***

(Note 1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

1 Corinthians 12:18 *But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.*

Each person is important; the Holy Spirit has no favourites.

Paul describes when the whole body is working together it benefits all.

1 Corinthians 14:26 (CEB) *...when you meet together, each one has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. All these things must be done to build up the church.*