

COMING TOGETHER TO WORSHIP

In *1 Corinthians 14:23-26*, Paul describes a worship service where the presence of God is evident to those attending.

So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? ²⁴ But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, ²⁵ as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!" ²⁶ (AMP) When you meet together, each one has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation (disclosure of special knowledge), a tongue, or an interpretation. Let everything be constructive and edifying and done for the good of all the church.

Corporate Worship has a LIFE-GIVING QUALITY.

Paul's reveals the potential that lies in Spirit-filled corporate worship.

It generates spiritual energy and creates a compelling awareness of God's presence.

Paul portrays this worshipping community as a growing church with *unbelievers* and *inquirers* attending the services.

People will be irresistibly drawn to any place where they believe the presence of God can truly be experienced!

The local church is mostly a place of worship, not evangelism, although the church does its best evangelism through its corporate worship.

The local church will grow best, through its Holy Spirit inspired corporate worship.

Corporate Worship has a PROPHETIC QUALITY.

Paul says that *"everyone is prophesying."* This cannot mean that everyone present delivered a prophetic message (*for that would contradict vs 29, 31*

Paul is talking about a prophetic mantle (layer, covering) resting on every part of the worship service.

This prophetic atmosphere or mantle infuses the reading of scripture, prayers, preaching, and songs with the voice and presence of God.

Where this prophetic quality is missing, the worship service is not reaching its potential.

The tangible presence of God and His voice speaking among His people, is something that the world cannot emulate.

We are told in *1 Chronicles 25:1-6* that the musicians prophesied with their instruments and the singers prophesied with their songs.

vs 6 (darby) And David and the captains of the host separated for the service those of the sons of Asaph and of Heman and of Jeduthun who were to prophesy with harps and lutes and cymbals;

The apostle Paul was conveying an ideal, revealing the potential that lies within Holy Spirit inspired corporate worship.

Holy Spirit inspired corporate worship creates an expectant faith atmosphere for God to move as He pleases.

1 Corinthians 14:23-26 (tpt) If the entire church comes together and everyone is speaking in tongues, won't the visitors say that you have lost your minds? ²⁴ But if everyone is prophesying, and an unbeliever or one without the gift enters your meeting, he will be convicted by all that he hears and will be called to account, ²⁵ for the intimate secrets of his heart will be brought to light. He will be mystified and fall facedown in worship and say, "God is truly among you!" ²⁶ Beloved friends, what does all this imply? When you conduct your meetings, you should always let everything be done to build up the church

family. Whether you share a song of praise, a teaching, a divine revelation, or a tongue and interpretation, let each one contribute what strengthens others.