

1 CORINTHIANS

The Gospel
in Community

WHEN FAITH AND LIFE COLLIDE

Study 18

SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

I Corinthians 14

A photograph capturing a moment of collective worship. The scene is filled with numerous hands raised high, reaching towards the top of the frame. The lighting is warm and golden, creating a sense of spiritual atmosphere. The background is dark, with a bright, vertical light source on the right side, possibly a candle or a lamp, which casts a soft glow. The overall mood is one of devotion and unity.

Spiritual gifts in worship





A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN WORSHIP

- 1) The gifts exercised in the corporate worship should build the church..tongues are counter productive
- 2) Prophecy is preferred but also must be regulated

PROPHECY BETTER TONGUES

1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV) Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophecy.

WHICH ONE BETTER?

1 Corinthians 14:5 (ESV) Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

Unintelligible
Build up self

Tongues

Intelligible
Build up church

Prophecy

ILLUSTRATION 1



1 Corinthians 14:6
(ESV) Now,
brothers, if I come
to you speaking in
tongues, how will I
benefit you unless
I bring you some
revelation or
knowledge or
prophecy or
teaching?

ILLUSTRATIONS 2

inarticulate
expression which
does not constitute a
communicative act



Corinthians 14:7-8
(ESV) If even lifeless
instruments, such as
the flute or the harp,
do not give distinct
notes, how will anyone
know what is played? 8
And if the bugle gives
an indistinct sound,
who will get ready for
battle?

THE RESULT

1 Corinthians 14:9 (ESV) So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.

THE NET EFFECT



SELF AFFIRMATION



ILLUSTRATION 3



1 Corinthians 14:11 There are doubtless many

Makes the others feel alien in their own church

without meaning, but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me.

CONCLUSION: MEANING BEATS MANNER

For the HS revealed action in their lives and in church
Revival, fervor, worship

1 Corinthians 14:12-13 (ESV) So with
yourselves, since you are eager for
manifestations of the Spirit strive to excel in
building up the church

He is not asking all to speak in tongues but the
one with the gift of tongues

13 Therefore one who speaks in a tongue
should pray that he may interpret.

THE AIM OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1 Cor 12:8-10	Ephesians 4	1 Cor 12:28	Romans 12:6-8	1 Peter 4:11	1 Cor 7:7
Utterance wisdom	Apostle	Apostle	Leader	Speak	Marriage
Utterance knowledge					
Faith					
Gifts					
Miracles					
Prophecy		Helping	Mercy		
Discernment					
Tongues		Administration	Service		
Interpretation		Tongues			

How do we exercise the gift of tongues in line with the Spirit's aim



PAUL'S RATIONALE

13 The
should

Romans 8:26 (ESV) Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he searches us out the depths of our hearts. And he intercedes for us with groanings that cannot be uttered. And he who searches us out the depths of our hearts intercedes for us according to the will of God to give us the gift of tongues (which liberate and release innermost sighs to God)

ongue

14 For if I pray in a tongue **my spirit prays**
but my **mind is unfruitful.**

Unproductive ...in terms of the rest of the worshippers in church not self personally due to context

PAUL'S CONCLUSION AGAIN

1 Cor **Intelligible prayers not**

I will **uninterpreted tongues** and

also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

16 Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can **Enables corporate participation** men?"

to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? 17 For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

PAUL'S PERSONAL PRACTICE

1 Corinthians 14:17-19 (ESV) For you may be giving thanks well, but you are not being built up. 18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. 19 Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

Paul does not approve of public tongue speaking whether interpretation is present or not as it is speech directed to God

SPEAKING IN TONGUES IN PUBLIC WORSHIP IS SIGN OF IMMATURITY

1 Corinthians 14:20 (ESV) Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

TONGUES IS SIGN OF JUDGMENT

1 Corinthians 14:21-22 (ESV) In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.” 22 Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.

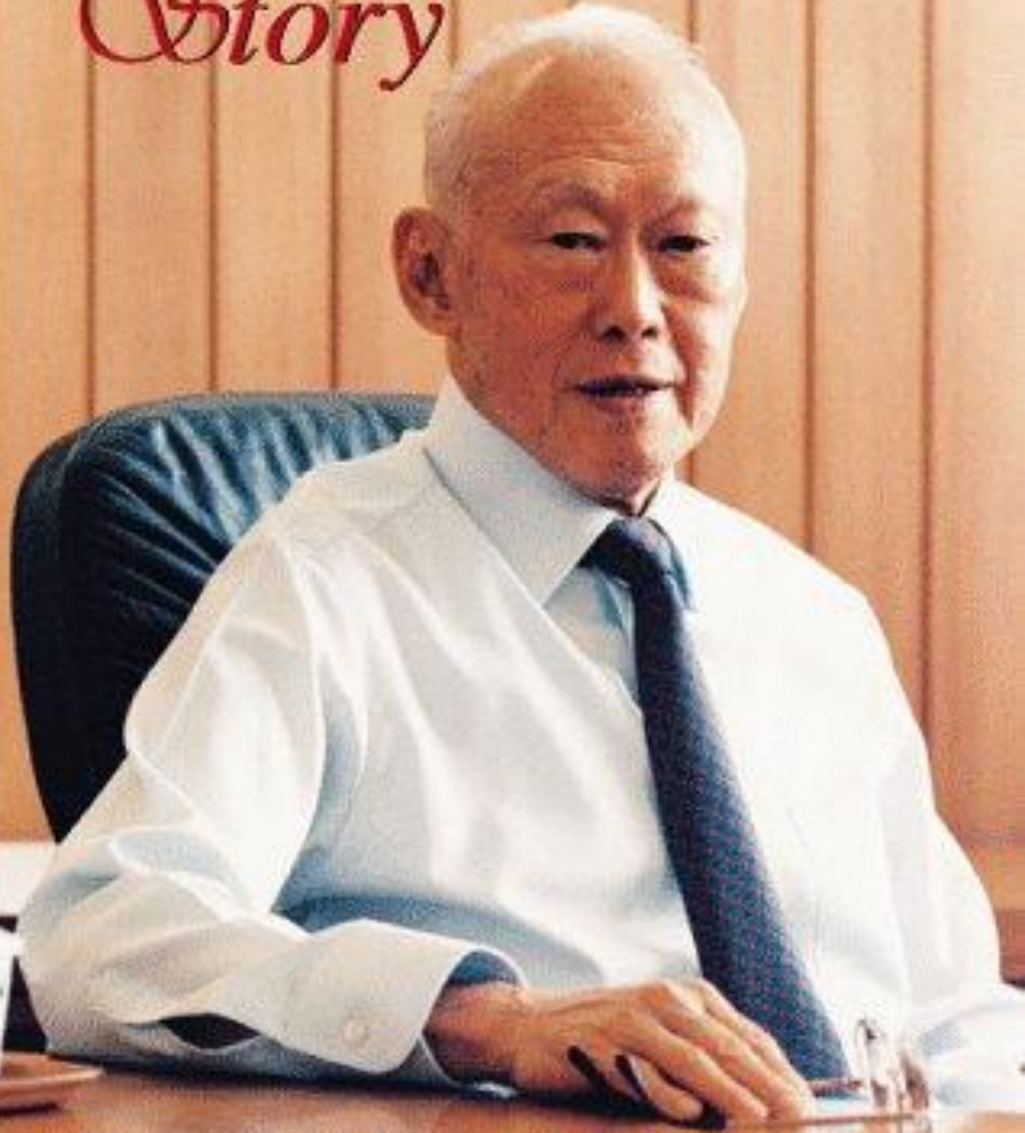


ISAIAH 28

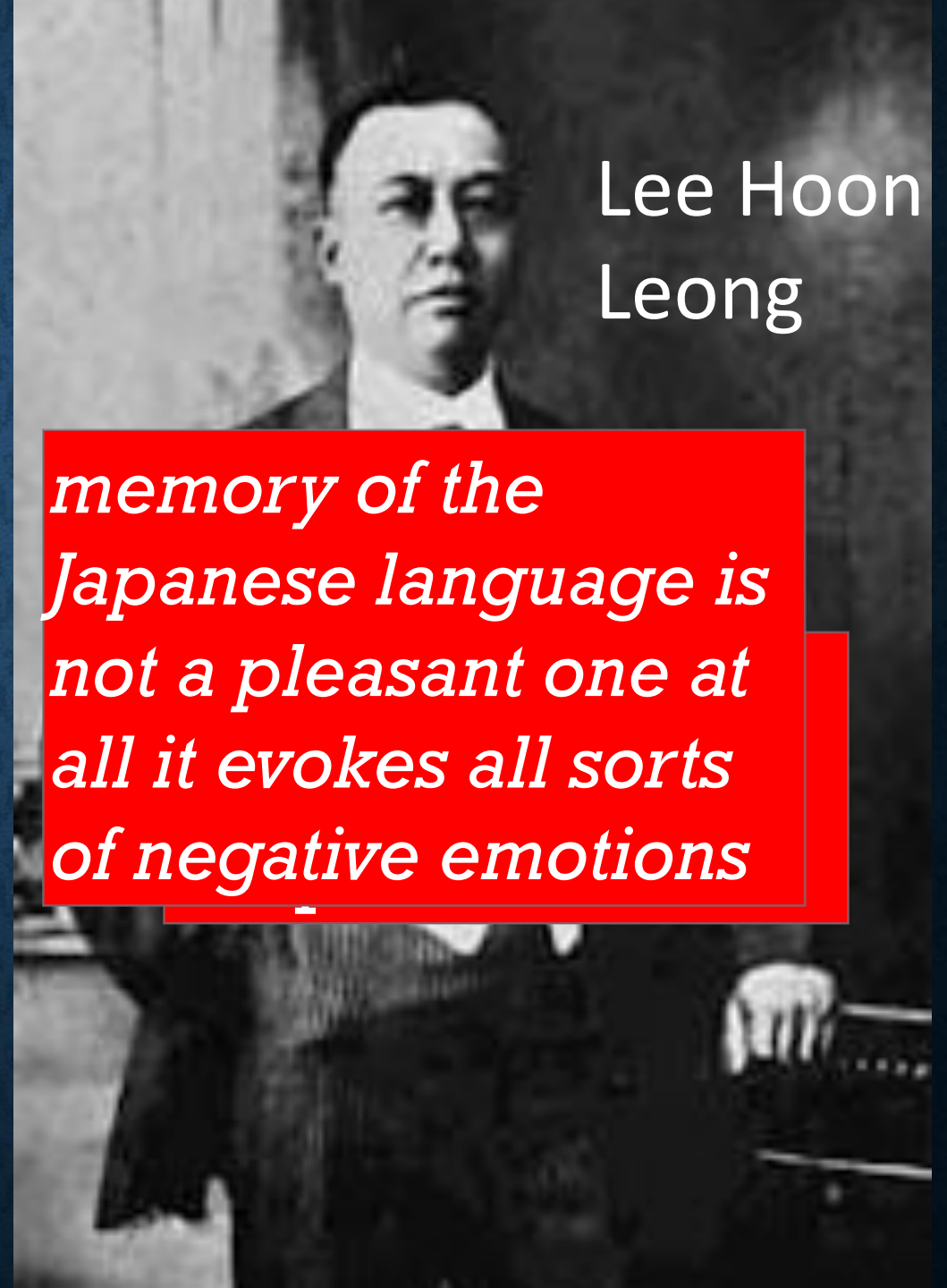
Isaiah 28:11 (ESV) For
by people of strange lips
and with a foreign
tongue the LORD will
speak to this people,

Mother speak to me in Tamil

*The
Singapore
Story*



Memoirs of **LEE KUAN YEW**



Lee Hoon
Leong

*memory of the
Japanese language is
not a pleasant one at
all it evokes all sorts
of negative emotions*

ADVERSE EFFECT ON NON BELIEVERS

1 Corinthians 14:23-25 (ESV) If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? 24 But if all prophecy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, 25 the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

**DO NOT USE
THE GIFT OF
TONGUES IN
CORPORATE
WORSHIP**

1. It does not build up other worshipper because they will not be able to understand
2. It is essentially non-communicative babbling
3. It will make others feel that they are alien in their own church
4. It will not foster corporate participation
5. Their insistence of using tongues was a sign of their immaturity
6. It is a sign of judgement not edification for the church
7. It has adverse effects on unbelievers who visit the church during worship

SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN WORSHIP

- 1) The gifts exercised in the corporate worship should build the church..tongues are counter productive
- 2) Prophecy is preferred but also must be regulated

1 Corinthians 14:26-33 (ESV) What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. 27 If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. 28 But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. 30 If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, 32 and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. 33 For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

Ephesians 2:19-20 (ESV) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

PROPHECY

NT Prophecy

Ephesians 2: 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

Prophetic
Preaching

Gospel preaching

Prophecy
But ceased

Totally infallible

Prophecy of less
authority

Authority of general content
Upbuilding Church
Spontaneous

AT TYRE

Acts 21:8-11 (ESV) Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. 9 He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied. 10 While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11 And coming to us, he took Paul's **Jews will bind Paul and hand to Gentiles** and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles."

NT PROPHETS

Acts 21: 30 Then all the city was stirred up, and the people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the gates were shut. 31 And as they were seeking to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion.

GENTILES SAVED PAUL FROM JEWS AND BOUND HIM

Acts 21:32-33 (ESV) He at once took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. And when they saw the tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. 33 Then the tribune came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains.

PAUL DISOBEYED

Acts 21:4 (ESV) And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.

PENGUIN CLASSICS

EURIPIDES

THE BACCHAE
AND OTHER PLAYS



ESTATIC SPEECH



SPONTANEOUS PROPHECY

For Paul prophecy is the reception and subsequent communication of spontaneous, divinely given apokalupsis

Max Turner

For Paul prophecy is a word of revelation. It does not denote a previously prepared sermon. . . . It is a spontaneous utterance . . .

Dunn

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE NOT NECESSARILY SPONTANEOUS

1 Cor 12:8-10	Ephesians 4	1 Cor 12:28	Romans 12:6-8	1 Peter 4:11	1 Cor 7:7
Utterance wisdom	Apostle	Apostle	Leader	Speak	Marriage
Utterance knowledge	Prophet	Prophet	Prophecy	Service	Celibacy
Faith	Evangelist	Teacher	Teaching		
Gifts of Healing	Pastor	Miracles	Exhortation		
Miracles	Teacher	Healing	Giving		
Prophecy		Helping	Mercy		
Discernment					
Tongues		Administration	Service		
Interpretation		Tongues			

SUSTAINED UTTERANCE-CONTROL AND REFLECTION

29 Let two of you stand and weigh what the other is saying while sitting there, let the first be silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged

It is more likely critically reflective as the context is judging prophecy
The first prophet may be getting carried away by self imposition of ideas

FORE TELLING AND FORTHTELLING

prophet is a Spirit-endowed person “whose preaching contains admonition and comfort, the call for repentance and promise” and who also counsels, as a pastor, and “blames and praises”.

David Hill

PROPHECY

Gift of the Holy Spirit, combines pastoral insight into the needs of persons, communities, and situations with the ability to address

Spontaneous revelation



challenge or
comfort,
judgment, or
consolation

Sermon: result of sustained prayer and sustained prayerful contemplation, meditation, and rational reflection

Upbuilding of the church

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 (ESV) Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good.

BIBLE FINAL AUTHORITY

1 Corinthians 14:37-40 (ESV) If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. 38 If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. 39 So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. 40 But all things should be done decently and in order.

WOMEN SILENT?



As in all the churches of the saints, 34 the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. 35 If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

WOMEN ALLOWED TO PROPHECY

1 Corinthians 11:5 but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven.



APPLICATION

WORSHIP IS PARTICIPATIVE FOR UPBUILDING

1 Corinthians 14:26 (ESV) What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

WORSHIP IS ORDERLY

1 Corinthians 14:27-29 (ESV) If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. 28 But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said

WORSHIP IS UNDERSTANDING

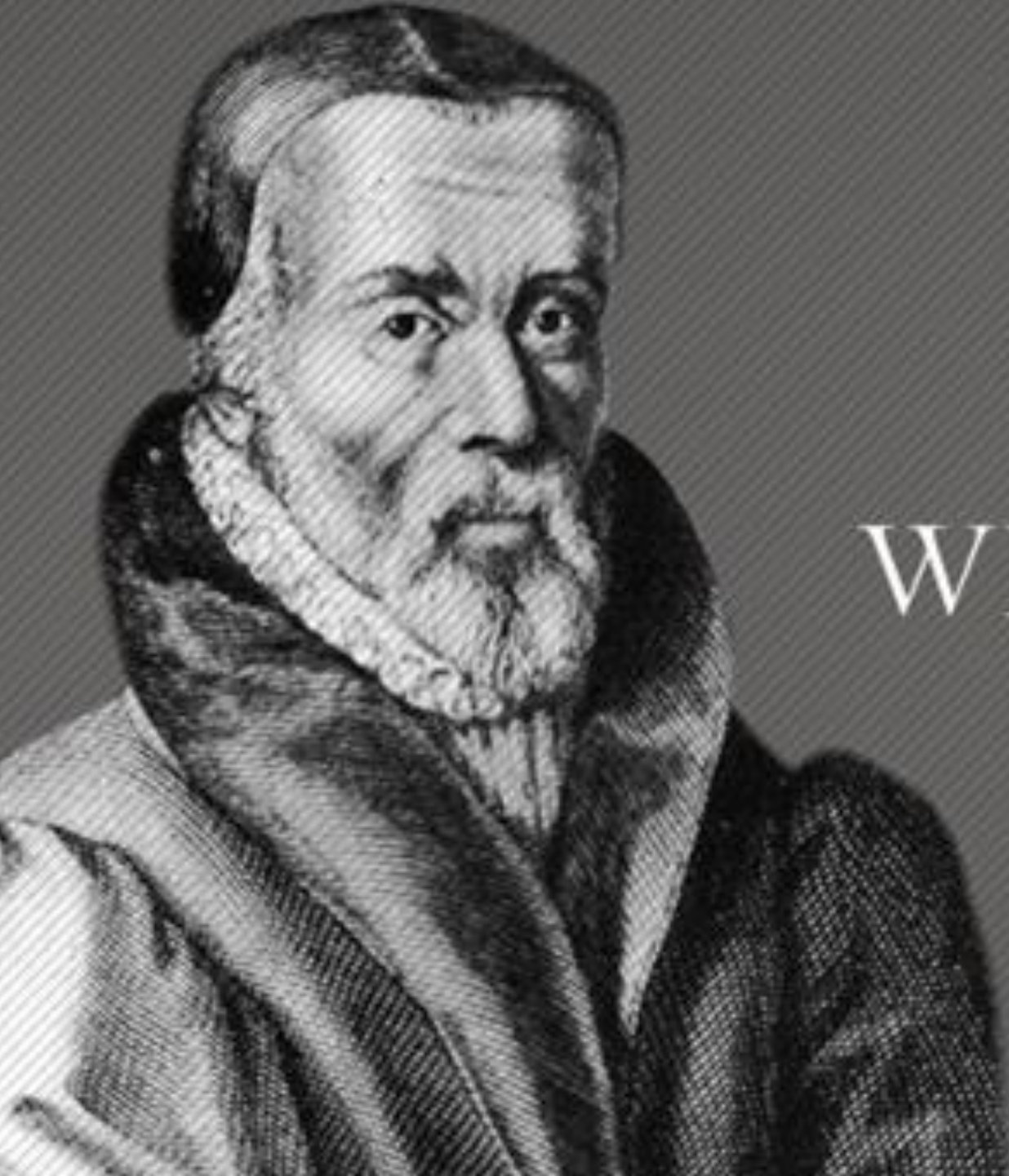
1 Corinthians 14:19 (ESV) Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.



INTELLIGIBILITY VS CULTURE

The preaching and the singing
were to be done so that they
were accessible even to the
unlearned

John Calvin



WILLIAM TYNDAL

1494-1536



ISAAC WATTS

“When I Survey the
Wondrous Cross.” 1690

Joy to the World

THE EMPHASIS IS ON THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD



- Nature of prophesy
- Women who prophesy



HOW CAN WE WORSHIP GOD AND LOOSE OUR NEIGHBOR

- Biblical worship that finds God will also find our neighbor

foreword by THOM S. RAINER best-selling author of Simple Church

seven words of **WORSHIP**

The Key to a Lifetime of
Experiencing **GOD**

mike harland and stan moser

Not routine obligation, guilt,

EXPECT TRANSFORMATION

- Measure your worship not at 11 am on Sunday but at 8.30 am Monday
- Presence and power of God