

Through the Bible

I CORINTHIANS - II

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruvilla

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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

69, PARADISE ENCLAVE, BELAHALLI
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THUS SAYS THE LORD .. !!!



I THINK I HAVE THE SPIRIT OF GOD ...



NOTICE 7:40 AS WELL: "IN MY OPINION, I THINK I HAVE THE SPIRIT OF GOD." OBSERVE PAUL'S DEEP HUMILITY HERE. HIS OPINION WAS CERTAINLY A VERY GODLY OPINION BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE THE ARROGANCE THAT MANY HAVE TODAY.



IN CHAPTER 8, PAUL SPEAKS ABOUT THE DANGER OF USING OUR LIBERTY TO DO THINGS THAT MAY CAUSE OTHERS TO STUMBLE.



IN THOSE DAYS, ALL THE MEAT THAT WAS SOLD IN THE MARKET WAS PRESENTED TO THE IDOLS IN THE TEMPLE BEFORE BEING SOLD. SO THOSE WHO HAD A PROBLEM WITH THAT DECIDED TO BE VEGETARIANS.



BUT THERE WERE OTHER BELIEVERS WHO SAID, "WHAT IS AN IDOL? JUST A PIECE OF WOOD WITH A FACE CARVED ON IT." PAUL SAYS HERE THAT EACH BELIEVER MUST RESPECT THE OTHER BELIEVER'S POINT OF VIEW -- AND NOT FORCE THE OTHER TO CONFORM TO YOUR VIEW.



PAUL SAYS LATER IN 1 CORINTHIANS 10:25--28 (MSG), "EAT ANYTHING SOLD AT THE BUTCHER SHOP. YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN AN 'IDOLATRY TEST' ON EVERY ITEM. THE EARTH, AFTER ALL, IS GOD'S, AND EVERYTHING IN IT. THAT 'EVERYTHING' CERTAINLY INCLUDES THE LEG OF LAMB IN THE BUTCHER SHOP!



IF A **NONBELIEVER** INVITES YOU TO **DINNER** AND YOU FEEL LIKE GOING, GO AHEAD AND **ENJOY YOURSELF**; EAT EVERYTHING PLACED BEFORE YOU. IT WOULD BE BOTH **BAD MANNERS** AND **BAD SPIRITUALITY** TO **CROSS-EXAMINE** YOUR **HOST** ON THE **ETHICAL PURITY** OF EACH **COURSE** AS IT IS SERVED.



ON THE OTHER HAND, IF HE GOES **OUT OF HIS WAY** TO TELL YOU THAT THIS OR THAT WAS **SACRIFICED TO GOD OR GODDESS SO-AND-SO**, YOU SHOULD **PASS**. EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY BE **INDIFFERENT** AS TO WHERE IT CAME FROM, HE ISN'T, AND YOU DON'T WANT TO SEND **MIXED MESSAGES** TO HIM ABOUT **WHO YOU ARE WORSHIPPING**."



IN **LOVE**, WE MUST **REMEMBER** THAT THOSE WHO HAVE COME OUT FROM **IDOLATRY** HAVE RECOGNISED THOSE **BLOCKS OF WOOD AS GODS** FOR **MANY YEARS** -- AND SO THEIR **CONSCIENCE BOTHERS** THEM. **OUR CONSCIENCE DOES NOT BOTHER US** BECAUSE WE DO **NOT** HAVE THAT **BACKGROUND**.



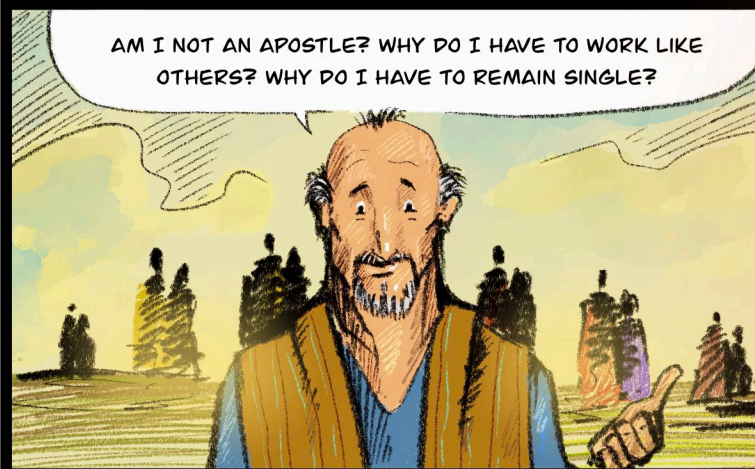
THEREFORE, (PAUL SAYS) IF **FOOD CAUSES MY BROTHER TO STUMBLE**, I WILL **NEVER EAT MEAT AGAIN**, SO THAT I WILL **NOT CAUSE MY BROTHER TO STUMBLE**" (8:9, 13). THAT IS THE POSITION ANY **MATURE CHRISTIAN** WILL TAKE.



LET US APPLY THIS TO **OUR TIME**. THE BIBLE DOES **NOT** SAY THAT IF YOU DRINK A **LITTLE WINE** IT'S A **SIN**. THE BIBLE ONLY SAYS YOU **SHOULDN'T GET DRUNK**. BUT SUPPOSE **ANOTHER BELIEVER** SEES YOU DRINKING JUST A **LITTLE WINE**. YOU MAY HAVE THE **SELF-CONTROL** TO **STOP** WITH A **SMALL BIT** OF WINE. BUT WHEN HE SEES YOU, AS A **GODLY BROTHER**, **DRINKING WINE**, HE ALSO DOES THE **SAME**. BUT HE DOES **NOT** HAVE YOUR **SELF-CONTROL**; AND HE BEGINS TO **DRINK MORE** AND MORE AND BECOMES A **DRUNKARD** -- AND FINALLY GOES TO **HELL**. SO WHAT SHOULD A **GODLY MAN** DO? HE **DOESN'T** ASK HIMSELF (LIKE THE **SELF-CENTRED BELIEVER**), "IS IT **RIGHT** OR **WRONG?**" NO. HE ASKS HIMSELF A **HIGHER QUESTION**, "WILL I **STUMBLE OTHERS?**"

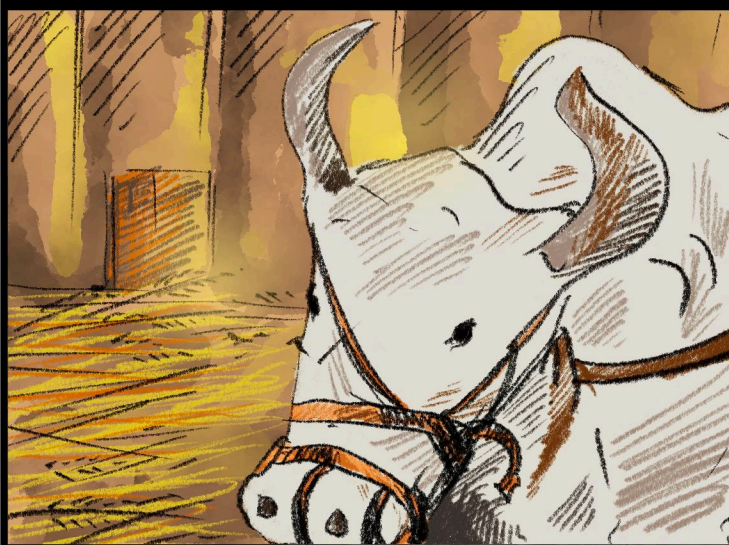


THIS PRINCIPLE CAN HAVE OTHER APPLICATIONS TOO. IF YOU, AS A MAN, GO TO SOMEONE'S HOME AND DISCOVER THAT THE MAN OF THE HOUSE IS NOT AT HOME, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO? IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO GO IN -- NOT BECAUSE YOU WILL BE TEMPTED BY HIS WIFE, BUT TO PRESERVE YOUR TESTIMONY AND TO BE AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS. YOU MAY BE TOTALLY PURE; BUT SOMEONE ELSE MAY FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE AND FALL INTO SIN.



CHAPTER 9 IS ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF LIBERTY. ALL THE APOSTLES WERE MARRIED EXCEPT PAUL (9:5). SO WHEN A CHURCH TEACHES THAT ONE HAS TO BE SINGLE IN ORDER TO SERVE THE LORD FULL-TIME, THAT IS A CHURCH THAT MOST OF THE APOSTLES WOULD HAVE BEEN DISQUALIFIED FROM JOINING.

ANOTHER THING THAT SOME CHURCHES SAY IS THAT IF ONE WANTS TO SERVE THE LORD, HE MUST NOT HAVE A SECULAR JOB. PAUL AND BARNABAS WOULD THEN BE DISQUALIFIED, BECAUSE BOTH OF THEM SUPPORTED THEMSELVES WITH SECULAR JOBS (9:6).



THEN PAUL MOVES ON TO THE SUBJECT OF SUPPORTING THE LORD'S SERVANTS. GOD SAYS, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING" (9:9). THAT WAS TO TEACH THAT WE MUST PROVIDE FINANCIALLY FOR THOSE WHO SERVE THE LORD SO THAT THEY CAN FEED THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

HE WAS TALKING ABOUT A SERVANT OF THE LORD RECEIVING MONEY FOR HIS NECESSITIES, TO LIVE WITH HIS FAMILY IN A SIMPLE WAY. BUT THIS PROVISION THAT THE LORD ORDAINED HAS BEEN EXPLOITED BY MANY PREACHERS TO MAKE MONEY FOR THEMSELVES.



PAUL WAS VERY **DISCERNING** AS TO WHO HE WOULD ACCEPT **MONEY** FROM. HE **ACCEPTED** MONEY FROM THE CHURCH AT **PHILIPPI** (PHILIPPIANS 4:14--18). BUT HE **NEVER** ACCEPTED A CENT FROM THE CHRISTIANS AT **CORINTH** OR **EPHESUS** OR **THESSALONICA** (2 CORINTHIANS 11:7--9; ACTS 20:33, 34; 2 THESSALONIANS 3:7--9). WHENEVER A GIFT WAS OFFERED TO HIM, PAUL SOUGHT THE **LEADING** OF THE **HOLY SPIRIT** AS TO WHETHER TO ACCEPT IT OR NOT.

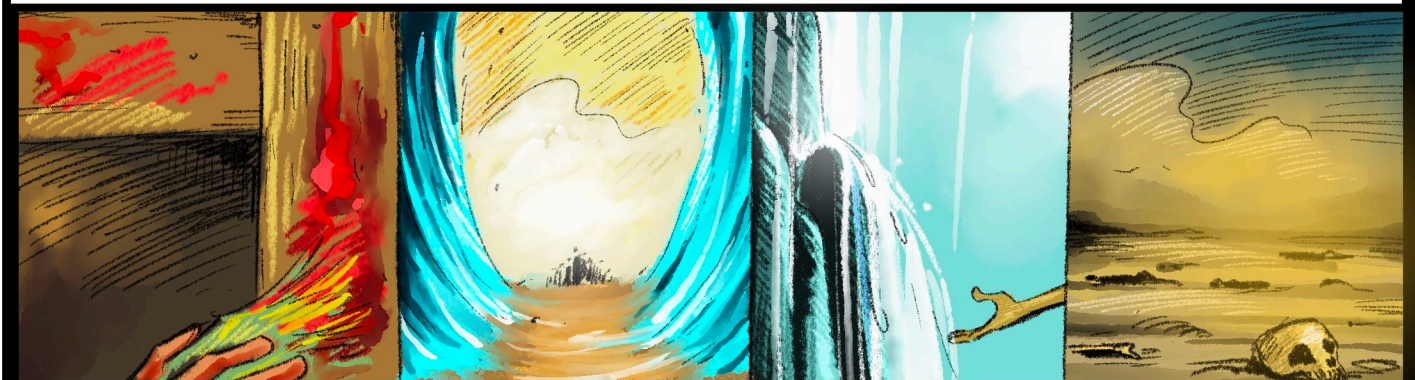


FIRST OF ALL, HE SAYS, "I DO IT BECAUSE I WANT TO MAKE THE **GOSPEL FREE OF CHARGE**" (9:18). PEOPLE WHO HEAR THE **GOSPEL** MUST KNOW THAT THEY **DON'T** HAVE TO **PAY ANYTHING** TO HEAR THE **GOSPEL**.

THERE **MAY** HAVE BEEN ONE MORE REASON WHY PAUL DID **NOT** ACCEPT ANY MONEY FROM THE **CORINTHIAN** CHRISTIANS. THEY HAD **QUESTIONED** HIS **APOSTLESHIP** -- AND PAUL WOULD NEVER ACCEPT ANY MONEY FROM PEOPLE WHO DID NOT **RECEIVE** HIS **MINISTRY**.



PAUL THEN SPEAKS ABOUT **DISCIPLINING** HIS BODY SO THAT HE IS **NOT** FINALLY **DISQUALIFIED** HIMSELF, AFTER HAVING **PREACHED** TO OTHERS (9:24--27). SO HE KEPT HIS **BODILY PASSIONS** UNDER **CONTROL**. LET US **NOT** **IMAGINE** THAT BECAUSE **GOD** HAS **USED** US SO MUCH, HE WILL **DEFINITELY** TAKE US INTO HIS **KINGDOM**. **GOD** LOOKS AT OUR **LIFE**.



IN CHAPTER 10, PAUL **CONTINUES** ON THE **SAME THEME** AND WARNS **BELIEVERS** FROM THE EXAMPLE OF THE 600,000 ISRAELITES WHO WERE **REDEEMED** BY THE **BLOOD** OF THE **LAMB**, BUT WHOM **GOD** WAS **DISPLEASED** WITH AND DID **NOT** **PERMIT** TO ENTER THE LAND OF **CANAAN**. THEY **PERISHED** IN THE **WILDERNESS**. THE **SAME** THING CAN HAPPEN TO **US**



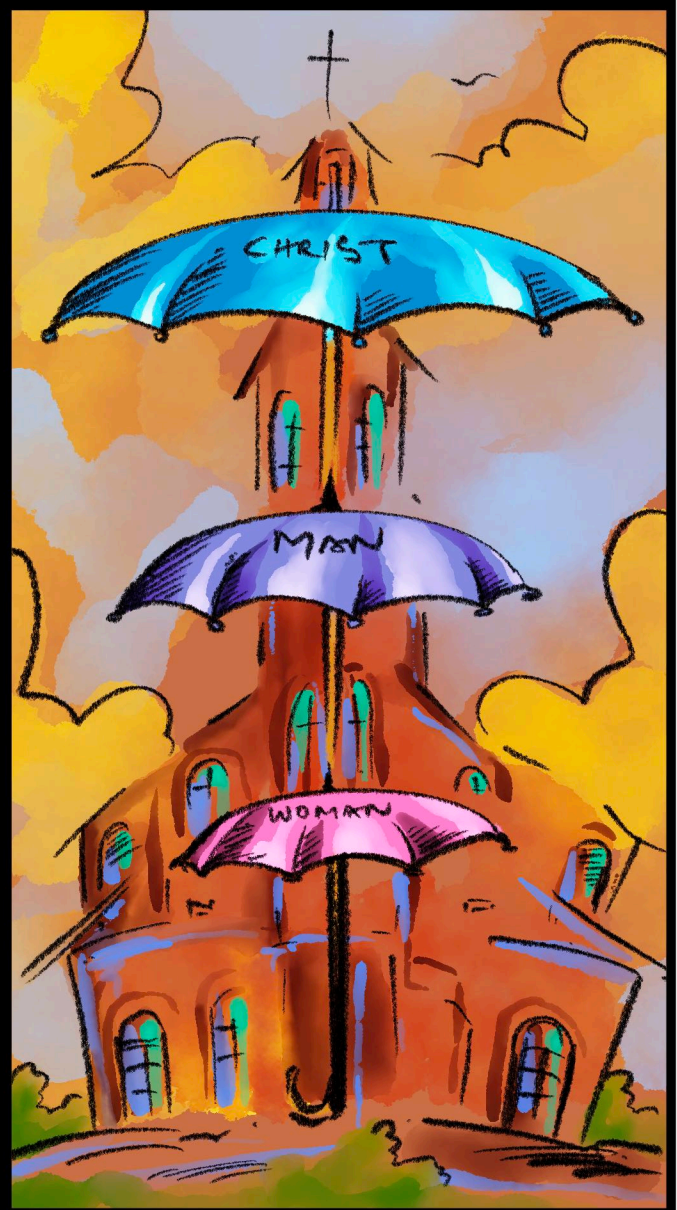
THEN, WE HAVE THIS **WONDERFUL PROMISE** OF GOD THAT HE "WILL NEVER ALLOW US TO BE **TEMPTED BEYOND OUR ABILITY**" (10:13). **NO TEMPTATION** CAN EVER COME INTO OUR LIVES THAT WILL BE **TOO MUCH** FOR US TO DEAL WITH. THIS IS WHAT **ASSURES** US THAT WE CAN **OVERCOME** EVERY TEMPTATION AND BE **VICTORIOUS** IN EVERY TRIAL. THERE IS A WAY OF **ESCAPE** IN EVERY TEMPTATION -- AND **THAT IS** TO ASK GOD TO GIVE US **GRACE** TO **OVERCOME**.

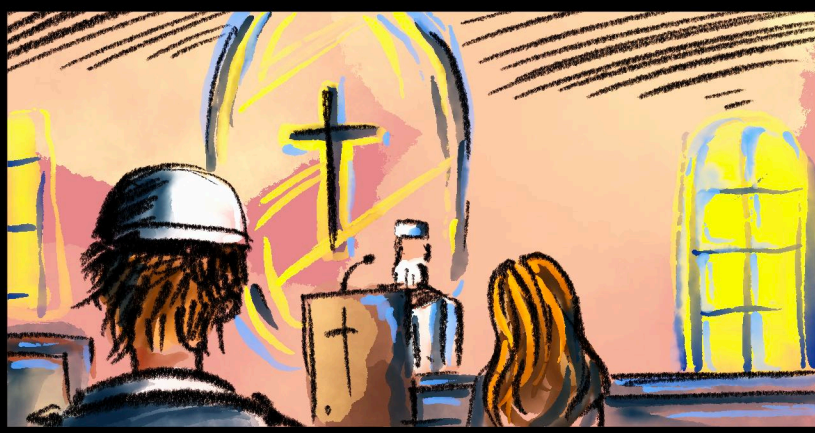


IN 10:31, WE HAVE A **WONDERFUL GUIDELINE** TO FIND GOD'S WILL IN ALL AREAS WHERE THE **BIBLE** IS **SILENT**. "WHATEVER YOU DO, DO **ALL** TO THE **GLORY** OF GOD." WHENEVER YOU ARE IN **DOUBT** ABOUT **GOD'S WILL** IN ANY MATTER, ASK YOURSELF, "**CAN I DO THIS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD?**"

CHAPTER 11 SPEAKS ABOUT **TWO THINGS** -- THE **COVERING OF THE HEAD** AND THE **BREAKING OF BREAD**. WHY SHOULD A **MAN** NOT COVER HIS HEAD WHEN HE PRAYS OR PROPHESES IN THE CHURCH AND A **WOMAN** COVER HER HEAD? **THREE** REASONS ARE GIVEN:

1. "**CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF EVERY MAN, AND THE MAN IS THE HEAD OF A WOMAN**" (11:3). SINCE **CHRIST** IS THE **HEAD** OF **MAN** AND **CHRIST** SHOULD **NOT BE COVERED** IN THE **CHURCH**, A **MAN** SHOULD **NOT COVER** HIS HEAD. **MAN**, HOWEVER, IS THE **HEAD** OF THE **WOMAN** AND **MAN** SHOULD BE **COVERED** IN THE **CHURCH**. SO A **WOMAN** SHOULD **COVER** HER HEAD. FURTHER, "**MAN IS THE IMAGE AND GLORY OF GOD BUT THE WOMAN IS THE GLORY OF MAN**" (11:7). THE **GLORY OF GOD** SHOULD **NOT BE COVERED** IN THE **CHURCH** AND SO A **MAN** SHOULD **NOT COVER** HIS HEAD. THE **WOMAN**, HOWEVER, IS THE **GLORY** OF THE **MAN** -- AND **MAN'S GLORY** SHOULD BE **COVERED**.



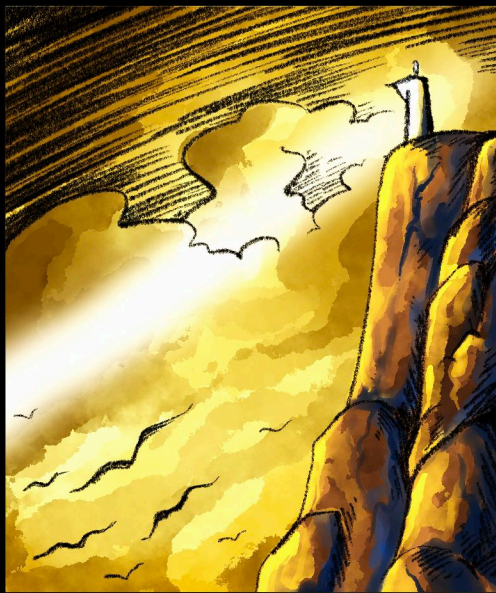


A PRIEST WHO WEARS A CAP ON HIS HEAD IN CHURCH IS THEREFORE JUST AS WRONG AS A SISTER WHO DOES NOT COVER HER HEAD.

2. "IF A WOMAN HAS LONG HAIR, IT IS A GLORY TO HER" (11:15). ALL WOMEN KNOW THAT LONG HAIR IS PART OF THEIR BEAUTY -- THEIR GLORY. THE GLORY BOTH OF MAN AND OF THE WOMAN SHOULD BE COVERED.



3. "THE WOMAN OUGHT TO HAVE A SYMBOL OF AUTHORITY ON HER HEAD, BECAUSE OF THE ANGELS" (11:10). BY COVERING HER HEAD, A WOMAN IS SHOWING THAT SHE IS SUBMISSIVE TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE MAN -- TO HER HUSBAND OR HER FATHER -- AND IF SHE IS AN ORPHAN OR A WIDOW, THEN TO THE ELDERS OF HER CHURCH. SHE IS NOT REBELLIOUS LIKE THE ANGELS THAT FELL.



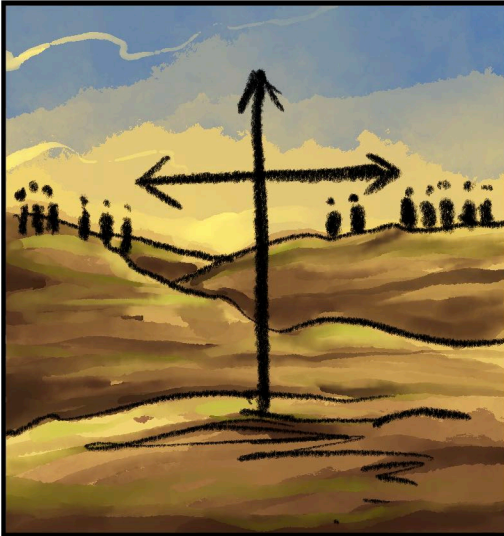
UNFORTUNATELY, WESTERN INFLUENCE HAS COME INTO THE CHURCHES OF THE CITIES OF INDIA AND CORRUPTED THIS TEACHING.



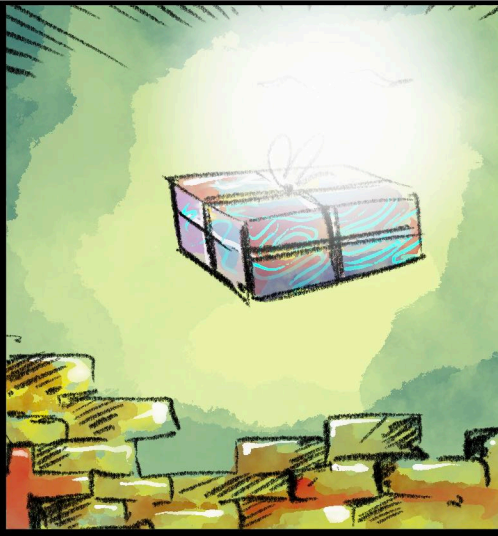
IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, FROM THIS PASSAGE THAT WOMEN CAN PRAY AND PROPHECY IN THE CHURCH MEETINGS. WHAT WOMEN ARE FORBIDDEN TO DO IN THE CHURCH ARE TEACHING AND BEING ELDERS (1 TIMOTHY 2:12). BUT WOMEN CAN (AND SHOULD) PROPHECY -- THAT IS, SHARE GOD'S WORD IN A WAY THAT WILL "ENCOURAGE, COMFORT AND BUILD UP" THE OTHERS (1 CORINTHIANS 14:3).



WE NOW MOVE ON TO THE SUBJECT OF THE LORD'S TABLE (11:23--34). WHEN WE COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE, WE REMEMBER THE LORD'S DEATH. WE TESTIFY THAT JESUS GAVE HIS BODY TO BE BROKEN FOR US AND WE WANT TO BE BROKEN LIKE HE WAS. WE ALSO TESTIFY THAT ALL OF US WHO ARE PARTAKING OF THIS ONE BREAD ARE ONE BODY -- THE BODY OF CHRIST (10:17). SO THIS IS A TESTIMONY OF A COVENANT WITH THE LORD, AND OF OUR UNITY WITH OUR FELLOW-BELIEVERS.



IF WE DON'T HAVE SUCH A **VERTICAL FELLOWSHIP** WITH OUR LORD AS WELL AS A **HORIZONTAL FELLOWSHIP** WITH OUR FELLOW **BELIEVERS**, THEN OUR BREAKING BREAD WOULD BE A **LIE**.



IN CHAPTER 12, WE READ ABOUT THE **GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**. THE GIFTS ARE SEEN HERE IN **RELATIONSHIP** TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE **LOCAL CHURCH** -- THE **LOCAL BODY OF CHRIST**.



IN 12:13, PAUL SPEAKS OF THE **UNIVERSAL BODY OF CHRIST**, THE **WORLDWIDE CHURCH** (FOR HE USES THE WORD "WE"). BUT IN 12:27, HE SPEAKS ABOUT THE **LOCAL** EXPRESSION OF THAT BODY IN CORINTH (FOR HE SAYS "YOU ARE THE **BODY OF CHRIST**").

"IF THE **WHOLE BODY** WAS JUST **ONE EYE**, OR THE **WHOLE BODY** WAS JUST **EYES** WHERE WOULD THE **HEARING** BE? AND IF THE **WHOLE BODY** WAS JUST **EARS**, WHERE WOULD THE SENSE OF **SMELL** BE? (12:17).

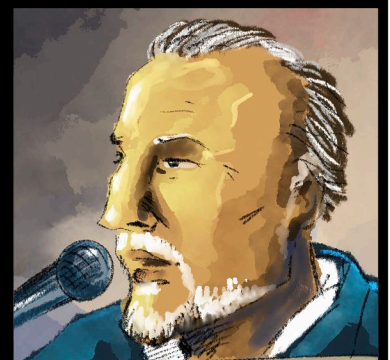


NOBODY SHOULD WANT TO BE A **PROMINENT MEMBER** IN THE BODY, LIKE THE EAR OR THE EYE. SO WE **SHOULDN'T DESIRE** ANYONE **ELSE'S GIFT**. IT IS **GOD** WHO MAKES SOMEONE AN **EYE** OR A **TONGUE** IN CHRIST'S BODY. HE MAY **NOT WANT** YOU TO BE A **VISIBLE MEMBER** LIKE THE **TONGUE**, BUT AN **INVISIBLE MEMBER** LIKE A **HEART**, A **LIVER** OR A **KIDNEY**. BUT ALL THESE **INVISIBLE MEMBERS** PERFORM A VERY **IMPORTANT FUNCTION**.



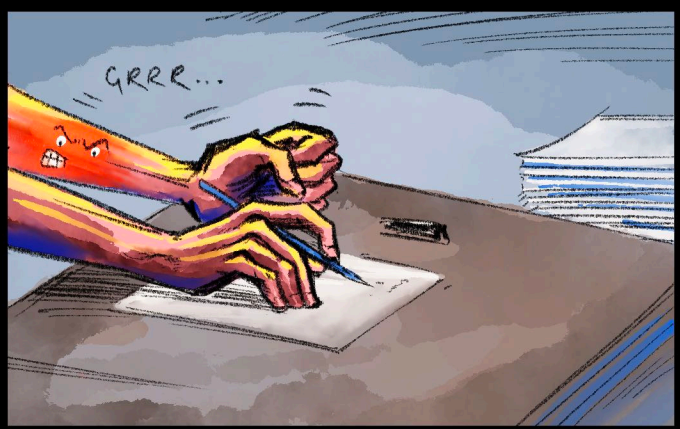
SOME PARTS OF OUR HUMAN BODY ARE LIKE THE **SOLES OF OUR FEET** -- **HARD** AND CAPABLE OF TAKING A LOT OF **ROUGH TREATMENT**. BUT OTHER PARTS ARE **WEAKER**, AND ARE VERY **SENSITIVE** AND EASILY **INJURED**, LIKE OUR **EYES**. IF ONE **SPECK OF DUST** GETS INTO THE EYE IT **DISTURBS** US **CONTINUOUSLY**. BUT IF OUR **FEET** ARE **COVERED** WITH **DUST**, THAT DOESN'T CAUSE US ANY PROBLEM.

IN THE CHURCH ALSO, THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE VERY **VISIBLE**, LIKE A **PREACHER** WHO IS FREQUENTLY IN THE **PULPIT**. WE COULD SAY THAT HE IS LIKE THE **TONGUE**. BUT MOST OF THE OTHERS IN THE BODY NEVER STAND IN A **PULPIT**. THEY MAY BE THE **"PRAY-ER'S"** -- THOSE WHO **PRAY** MUCH IN PRIVATE FOR THE **PREACHER**. THEY ARE LIKE THE **HEART**, **PUMPING BLOOD** SO THAT THE **MOUTH CAN SPEAK**.





THERE ARE **MANY** GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT, BUT THERE IS **NO** **COMPETITION** BETWEEN THEM, BUT ONLY **COOPERATION**. ALL ARE **EQUALLY NEEDED**. **NOBODY** NEEDS ANOTHER PERSON'S **GIFT**. AND **NOBODY** CAN SAY TO ANOTHER, "I **DON'T** NEED YOU. I CAN DO **EVERYTHING** ON MY OWN" (12:21).



THE **RIGHT** HAND MAY BE WRITING ALL THE **IMPORTANT** LETTERS AND **SIGNING** ALL THE **CHEQUES**. BUT DOES THE **LEFT** HAND EVER BECOME **JEALOUS** OF THAT AND THINK, "OH, IT IS THE **RIGHT** HAND THAT ALWAYS DOES THE **IMPORTANT** TASKS. I **DON'T** EVER GET TO DO ANY **IMPORTANT** TASKS."

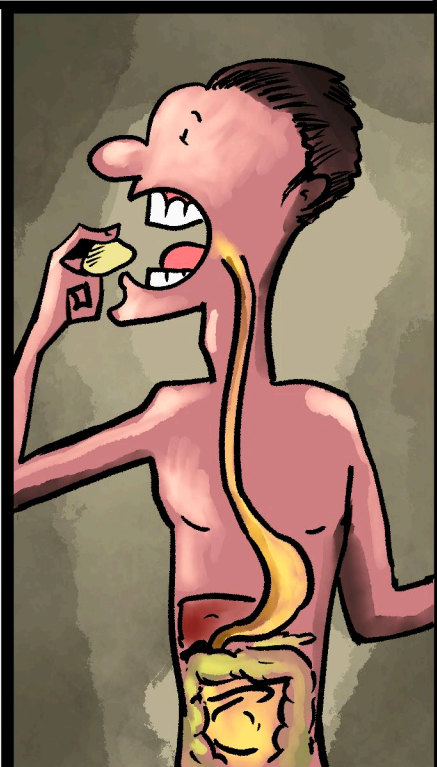


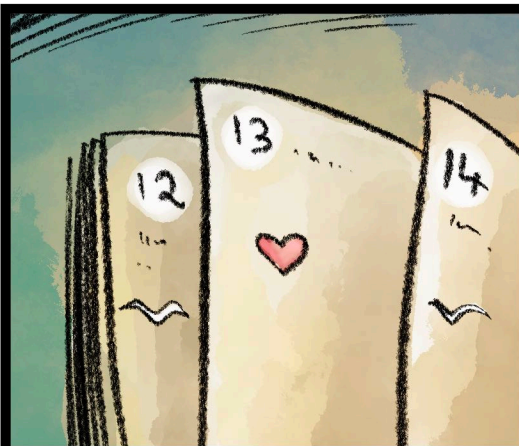
AND THEN SUPPOSE YOUR **RIGHT** HAND IS **INJURED** ONE DAY AND BOUND IN **PLASTER**. WILL THE **LEFT** HAND NOW SAY, "AH, NOW IS MY **CHANCE** TO DO THOSE **TASKS**"? IF THE **LEFT** HAND WERE TO SIGN A **CHEQUE** NOW, IT WOULDN'T LOOK LIKE YOUR **SIGNATURE** AND THE **BANK** WON'T ACCEPT IT! BUT WHAT DOES THE **LEFT** HAND **ACTUALLY** DO? IT DOES **EVERYTHING** **POSSIBLE** TO RESTORE THE **RIGHT** HAND TO HEALTH **QUICKLY** SO THAT THE **RIGHT** HAND CAN SIGN THAT **CHEQUE**.



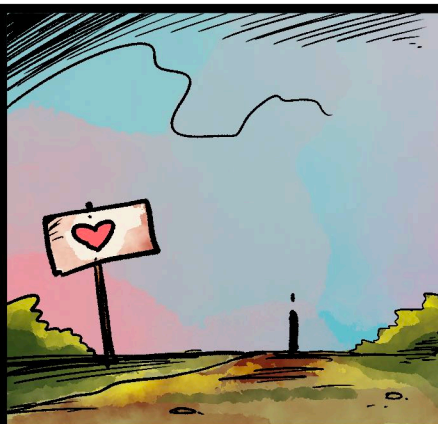
PEOPLE HAVE SOMETIMES ASKED ME THIS QUESTION, "BROTHER ZAC, WHY DO YOU KEEP **EMPHASISING** ONLY **HOLINESS** AND **BALANCE** IN THE BODY ALL THE TIME?" I REPLY WITH THIS QUESTION, "WHY DOES A **KIDNEY** ONLY KEEP **PURIFYING** THE **BLOOD** STREAM AND **BALANCING** THE **CHEMICALS** IN IT -- AND NOTHING ELSE?"

EVANGELISM IS SOMETHING LIKE A **HAND** TAKING A **POTATO** AND PUTTING IT INTO THE **MOUTH** -- BRINGING AN **UNBELIEVER** TO **CHRIST**. BUT IS THAT **ENOUGH**? NO. AFTER THE **UNBELIEVER** HAS COME TO **CHRIST**, SOMEONE **ELSE** HAS TO TAKE OVER. THE **POTATO** HAS TO BE **CHEWED** BY THE **TEETH** AND THEN GO INTO THE **STOMACH**, HAVE **ACID** POURED ON IT, SO THAT IT IS **BROKEN** DOWN. FINALLY, AFTER **MANY** **MORE** PROCESSES, IT BECOMES A **PART** OF THE **HUMAN** **BODY**.





CHAPTER 13 COMES **BETWEEN** CHAPTERS 12 AND 14 (BOTH OF WHICH DEAL WITH THE **GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**).

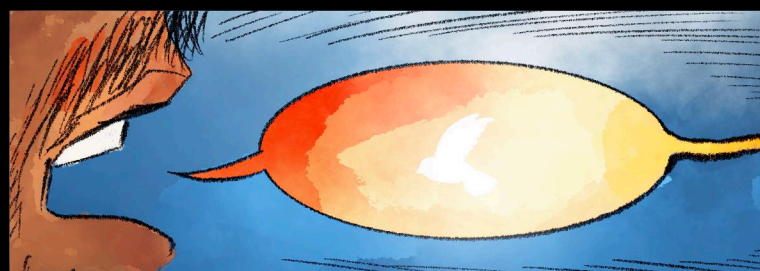
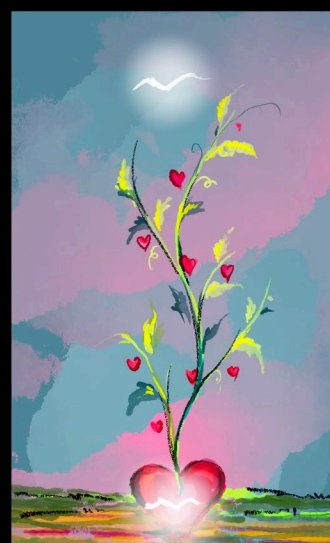


PAUL WROTE CHAPTER 13 TO SHOW BELIEVERS **HOW** TO EXERCISE THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT IN "A MORE **EXCELLENT WAY**" (12:31). TO EXERCISE THE GIFTS **WITHOUT LOVE** IS LIKE USING AN **ELECTRIC WIRE WITHOUT ANY INSULATION**.

HAVING ALL THE MOST **SUPERNATURAL GIFTS** (MIRACLES, HEALING, PROPHECY AND TONGUES) AND EVEN **SACRIFICE** AND **BIBLE-KNOWLEDGE** WILL ALL STILL MAKE US **WORTHLESS** IN GOD'S WORK, IF THESE ARE NOT ALL MOTIVATED BY **FERVENT LOVE FOR GOD** AND **FERVENT LOVE FOR OTHERS**.



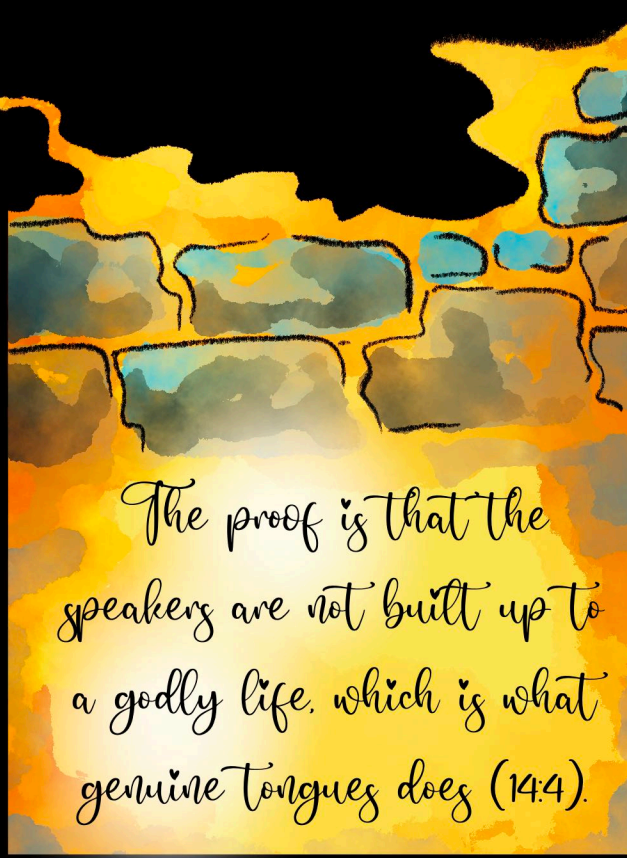
LOVE WILL MAKE US **HUMBLE, PATIENT, CONSIDERATE, UNSELFISH, FORGIVING, ETC.** (13:4--7) AND **WILLING TO ACKNOWLEDGE** THAT WE **DON'T HAVE THE FULL ANSWER** TO MANY MATTERS (13:12). THOSE WHO DO **NOT** MANIFEST ALL THESE QUALITIES IN USING THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ARE ACTUALLY **BABIES** AND **IMMATURE** (13:11).



CHAPTER 14 TELLS US HOW WE ARE TO EXERCISE THE GIFT OF TONGUES AND PROPHECY, PARTICULARLY IN THE **CHURCH**. IN 14:5, PAUL SAYS, "I **WISH** THAT YOU **ALL** SPOKE IN TONGUES, LIKE ME." THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT EVERYONE **MUST** SPEAK IN TONGUES.



IT IS VERY CLEAR FROM 14:5 THAT EVERYBODY IN CORINTH DID **NOT** SPEAK IN TONGUES. WHEN CHRISTIANS ARE **PSYCHOLOGICALLY PRESSURISED** TO SPEAK IN TONGUES, THEY WILL **PRODUCE "TONGUES"** THEMSELVES



The proof is that the speakers are not built up to a godly life, which is what genuine tongues does (14:4).



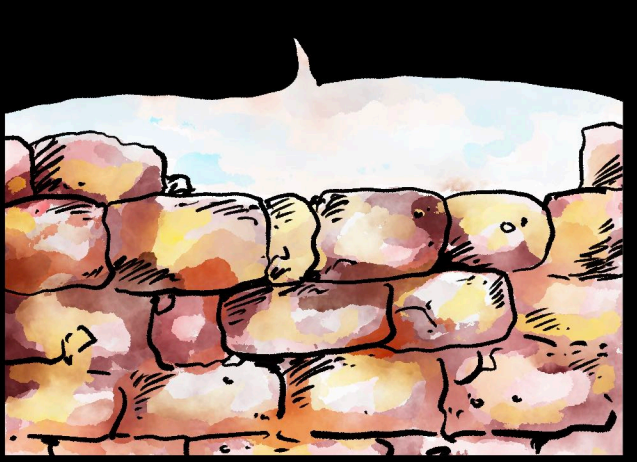
AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE COMMANDED IN 14:39, "DON'T FORBID TO SPEAK IN TONGUES." WE HAVE **TWO GROUPS** IN CHRISTENDOM TODAY IN THIS MATTER: ONE GROUP **URGES EVERY CHRISTIAN** TO SPEAK IN TONGUES -- GOING AGAINST 14:5 AND AGAINST 12:30 ("DO ALL SPEAK IN TONGUES?"). THE **OTHER GROUP FORBIDS** ANYONE TO SPEAK IN TONGUES -- DISOBEYING 14:39. **BOTH GROUPS ARE GOING AGAINST THE SCRIPTURES.**



WHAT IS THE USE OF A MAN SPEAKING IN TONGUES UNLESS HE **INTERPRETS?** IF THERE IS **NO INTERPRETER**, HE SHOULD PRAY THAT HE SHOULD **INTERPRET** OR ELSE **KEEP QUIET** (14:13, 27, 28). "**INTERPRETATION**" IS NOT THE SAME AS **TRANSLATION**. **TRANSLATION IS WORD FOR WORD**. **INTERPRETATION IS THOUGHT FOR THOUGHT.**



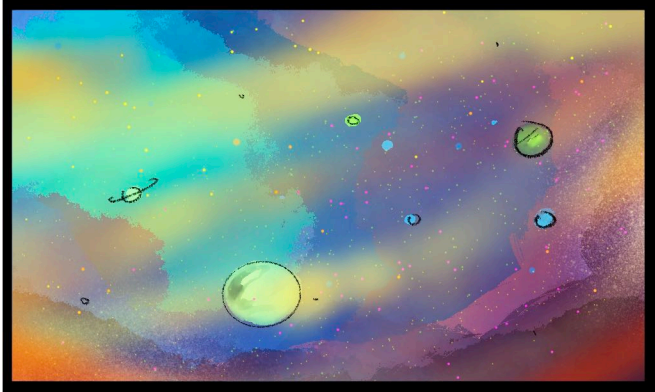
PROPHECY (IN THE NEW COVENANT) IS PRIMARILY SPEAKING TO MEN TO **BUILD THEM UP, ENCOURAGE THEM, CHALLENGE THEM** AND COMFORT THEM (AS CLEARLY TAUGHT IN 14:3).



CHAPTER 14 CLEARLY TEACHES THAT THE MOST **IMPORTANT GIFT** IN A CHURCH MEETING IS THE GIFT OF **PROPHECY**. THE GREATEST OLD COVENANT PROPHET, **JOHN THE BAPTIST**, NEVER PREDICTED THE **FUTURE**. ALL THE OLD COVENANT PROPHETS CALLED GOD'S PEOPLE TO **REPENTANCE**.



CHAPTER 15 DEALS WITH THE SUBJECT OF THE **RESURRECTION**. THE BODY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING THAT EVER LIVED WILL BE **RESURRECTED** ONE DAY -- TO FACE GOD'S **JUDGEMENT**.



AND IN THE DAY OF RESURRECTION AND REWARDS FOR CHRISTIANS, ALTHOUGH **ALL TRUE BELIEVERS** WILL BE IN GOD'S KINGDOM... "THERE IS ONE GLORY OF THE **SUN**, ANOTHER GLORY OF THE **MOON** AND ANOTHER GLORY OF THE **STARS**. **STAR DIFFERS** FROM STAR IN GLORY. SO **ALSO IS THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD**"



IN 16:12, PAUL SAYS THAT HE HAD **URGED APOLLOS** TO GO TO CORINTH TO TEACH THE WORD. BUT APOLLOS DID **NOT FEEL FREE** IN HIS SPIRIT TO GO. THIS IS THE **FREEDOM** IN THE BODY OF CHRIST. "LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN **LOVE**" (16:14).