

A church at the Coalface is one where....

- ... we use God's gifts to us

## Introduction

- Recap on series:
  - lessons for a church that is working, that is building the kingdom, that is witnessing for Christ
- Recap on chapters 12-14:
  - love over gifts, body, attitude
- Seems to have been two levels of problem at Corinth:
  - general issue of how the gifts God gives inter-relate, and how they are to be used - **largely covered in chapter 12**
  - and a specific issue relating to the gifts of tongues and of prophesy - **covered here in chapter 14**
  - chapter 13 is Paul's surprise addition, his re-directing of their attention away from themselves and their own problems onto God and his way of living
- So, what of this specific issue of tongues and prophesy?
  - we'll need to do a bit of digging!!

## Tongues and Prophesy in Corinth

- What are tongues?
  - glossolalia - other languages - cf Acts 2 - but distinguish between meaning and utterance
  - exstatic language of praise to God
- What is prophesy?
  - includes, but is **not** limited to, the prediction of future events
  - wider - God's word for today
  - might be the specific application of a passage of Scripture to a particular situation today
  - might be a divine prompting to action - to visit someone, to write to someone, to care for someone
  - more specifically here it is a word from God, verbal and comprehensible, for the building up of his people - and able to be shared publically in worship
  - cross-over with preaching... they using slightly different categories

### Work through passage...

- paragraph by paragraph...

## Application

- Don't write off tongues, or those who speak in tongues, out of hand
- Eagerly desire to speak prophetically - to hear from God and speak for him **for the benefit of your brothers and sisters in Christ**
- Work through how the same lesson over the balance of the gifts applies to other gifts:
  - eg administration - are we so fussed that things are done right we actually, in action, draw attention to ourselves and our way of doing things and not to God's way of love?
- Consider how we can shift away from a culture of passive interaction with God on a Sunday morning - I do all the talking! - to one where we each come ready to share what God has been saying to us for our mutual edification