

1 Corinthians 12:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

Analysis

Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?— Mē pantes charismata echoysin iamatōn; mē pantes glōssais laloysin; mē pantes diermēneyoysin;—Paul continues rhetorical questions expecting "No!" Not all have healing gifts; not all speak in tongues; not all interpret. The Greek construction (mē + question) makes the negative answer emphatic. This is God's design, not a deficiency to correct.

The focus on tongues in verses 29-30 (mentioned twice) suggests the Corinthians overemphasized this gift, perhaps viewing it as the premier sign of spirituality. Paul systematically dismantles this hierarchy: tongues is one gift among many, given to some (not all), and listed last in importance (v.28). The coming chapter (13) will relativize all gifts in light of love, and chapter 14 will regulate tongues-use for body-edification. Paul's point: stop obsessing over one gift; embrace the diversity the Spirit designed.

Historical Context

Corinth's charismatic excesses—uninterpreted tongues dominating worship, ecstatic disorder, gift-pride—necessitated Paul's corrective. His rhetorical questions establish that gift-diversity, not gift-uniformity (especially regarding tongues), reflects the Spirit's intention.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do these verses challenge modern movements that emphasize tongues as essential evidence of Spirit-fullness?
2. Why might Paul mention tongues repeatedly in these rhetorical questions given its last-place ranking in verse 28?
3. What would healthy gift-diversity look like in your church's worship and ministry?

Interlinear Text

μὴ πάντες χαρίσματα ἔχουσιν ιαμάτων μὴ πάντες
Have all the gifts G2192 of healing Have all G3361 G3956
G3361 G3956 G5486 G2386 G3361 G3956

γλώσσαις λαλοῦσιν μὴ πάντες διερμηνεύοντιν
with tongues G2980 Have all interpret G1329
G1100 G3361 G3956

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 12:10 (Parallel theme): To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: