

# 1 Corinthians 14:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

## Analysis

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**I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all**—Paul's surprising disclosure: *eucharistō tō theō mou, pantōn hymōn mallon glōssais lalōn* (εὐχαριστῶ τῷ Θεῷ μου, πάντων ὑμῶν μᾶλλον γλώσσαις λαλῶν, "I thank my God, speaking in tongues more than all of you"). This prevents misunderstanding: Paul isn't anti-tongues; he exercises the gift extensively—privately.

The present participle *lalōn* (λαλῶν, "speaking") suggests ongoing practice. Paul's comparative "more than you all" establishes authority: he's not speaking from ignorance or lack of experience. His regulation of tongues comes from one who values and exercises the gift. But notice: he thanks God for private tongues-prayer, then immediately contrasts public worship (v. 19).

## Historical Context

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This rhetorical move disarms critics: Paul can't be accused of despising what he doesn't have. He has tongues in abundance but subordinates them to edification in corporate settings.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

1. Why does Paul reveal his own tongues-speaking at this point in the argument?
2. What's the significance of Paul thanking God for tongues despite his concerns about their public use?
3. How does Paul's personal practice model the principles he teaches?

## Interlinear Text

εὐχαριστῶ τῷ θεῷ μου, πάντων ὑμῶν μᾶλλον

I thank G3588 God my all ye more than  
G2168 G2316 G3450 G3956 G5216 G3123

γλώσσαις λαλῶν·

**with tongues**      **I speak**

G1100

G2980

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