

1 Corinthians 14:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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

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

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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