

# 1 Corinthians 14:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:

## Analysis

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**But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned**—Paul contrasts a prophecy-dominated service with the tongues-dominated one (v. 23). **He is convinced of all, he is judged of all**—the unbeliever is elegchetai hypo pantōn, anakrinetai hypo pantōn (ἐλέγχεται ὑπὸ πάντων, ἀνακρίνεται ὑπὸ πάντων, "convicted by all, examined by all").

Elegchō (ἐλέγχω) means to convict, expose, bring to light—the Spirit's work through prophecy (John 16:8). Anakrinō (ἀνακρίνω) means to examine, scrutinize, judge. Intelligible, Spirit-prompted preaching penetrates the unbeliever's conscience, exposing sin and revealing truth. This is true evangelistic power—not ecstatic display, but convicting proclamation.

## Historical Context

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Early Christian worship was public and evangelistic; unbelievers attended regularly (see v. 16, 23-25). Paul insists worship should convict outsiders through intelligible proclamation, not confuse them through incomprehensible speech.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does prophecy 'convince' and 'judge' an unbeliever?
2. What's the relationship between intelligibility and conviction by the Spirit?
3. Should modern worship services be designed with unbelievers in mind? How?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἐὰν δέ πάντων προφητεύωσιν εἰσέλθῃ δέ τις  
if But all prophesy there come in But one  
G1437 G1161 G3956 G4395 G1525 G1161 G5100

ἄπιστος ἢ ἴδιώτης ἐλέγχεται ὑπὸ πάντων  
that believeth not or one unlearned he is convinced of all  
G571 G2228 G2399 G1651 G5259 G3956

ἀνακρίνεται ὑπὸ πάντων  
he is judged of all  
G350 G5259 G3956

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