

I. Understanding is Better than Unfruitfulness

1 Corinthians 14:13-15 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For if I pray in an *unknown* tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. ¹⁵ What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

1 Corinthians 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Seventeenth-century English bishop Thomas Ken gave poetic expression to the thought of praising the Triune God for such blessings in the familiar doxology:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

II. Edifying is Better than Selfishness

1 Corinthians 14:16-17 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? ¹⁷ For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

At the conclusion of a prayer in a Jewish synagogue, it was customary for the audience to utter a responsive **amen**—a **Hebrew** term that means "**So let it be!**"—as a sign of wholehearted approval of what was said.

III. Quality is Better than Quantity

1 Corinthians 14:18-20 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: ¹⁹ Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that *by my voice* I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an *unknown* tongue.

²⁰ Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

Luke 12:6 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

The following words by Fanny Crosby are clear and easy to understand:

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchased of God,

Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood!

Perfect submission, perfect delight!

Visions of rapture now burst on my sight!

Angels descending bring from above

Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest.

I in my Saviour am happy and blest;

Watching and waiting, looking above,

Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

This is my story, this is my song,

Praising my Saviour all the day long.

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Praising my Saviour all the day long.