How To Exercise Vocal Gifts

I. Introduction
   A. 1 Cor. 12:7–11—Each of these gifts is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit within a believer
   B. Eph. 4:8–11—The ministry gifts are various ways in which Christ extends His ministry through a believer
   C. The gifts of the Spirit may be divided into three categories—

II. Gifts Of Revelation
   A. A word of wisdom: Wisdom is directive, tells us how to act (Eccl. 10:10)
   B. A word of knowledge: Knowledge is informative, tells us the facts
   C. Discernings of spirits: ability to recognize different kinds of spirits and to distinguish between them

III. Gifts Of Power
   A. Faith: i.e. supernatural faith—“the faith of God” imparted by the Holy Spirit.
      Distinguish:
      1. “Faith to live by”—the normal basis of all Christian living
      2. The fruit of faith—an aspect of Christian character
   B. Gifts of healings: God’s power restoring health to the sick
   C. Workings of miracles: God’s power producing organic or structural changes—restorative and creative

IV. Vocal Gifts
   A. Kinds of tongues (languages). Four aspects of tongues:
      1. Culmination of the baptism in the Spirit
      2. A language for personal communion with God. Three results:
         a. We speak to God
         b. We speak mysteries
         c. We edify ourselves (1 Cor. 14:1–4; Jude 17–20).
            Our spirit communicates direct with God (1 Cor. 14:15).
      3. A supernatural sign to unbelievers. A believer speaks a language which he does not know, but which is recognized by an unbeliever (1 Cor. 14:21–22, Is. 28:11–12)
      4. A public utterance in “the church”—requiring interpretation to make it effective
   B. Interpretation of tongues. Transmits to “the church” the meaning of a preceding utterance in an unknown tongue. Promotes independence; captures attention.
   C. Prophecy. Speaking out, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, words that do not proceed from our own reason or understanding, in a language that we understand and that is understood by those to whom we speak.
      1. Three differences between tongues and prophecy (1 Cor. 14:2–4):

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<th>Tongues</th>
<th>Prophecy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Speaking to God</td>
<td>Speaking to men</td>
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<td>Mysteries</td>
<td>Things that are understood</td>
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Edifies the speaker Edifies those spoken to

2. Three objectives of prophecy: edification, exhortation, comfort

V. Seeking Spiritual Gifts
   A. 1 Cor. 13:31; 14:1, 39—We are exhorted to seek all spiritual gifts, but especially prophecy
   B. 1 Cor. 14:5—All may speak with tongues. But prophecy is preferable to tongues without interpretation (compare 1 Cor. 14:39)
   C. 1 Cor. 14:12–13—The one who speaks in tongues is urged to pray for interpretation
   D. 1 Cor. 14:24, 31—All may learn to prophesy

VI. Conclusion
   Practical instruction on how to receive:
     1. Interpretation
     2. Prophecy

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