

PLEASE NOTE - The references below are taken from the 86-19 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

(1 Corinthians 14:1) 14 Pursue love, yet keep striving for the spiritual gifts, but preferably that you may prophesy.

*** w93 10/15 p. 31 Questions From Readers ***
Then, at the start of chapter 14, he urged: "Pursue love, yet keep zealously seeking [ta pneu·ma·ti·ka'], but preferably that you may prophesy." Seeking what? Those Christians did not have to seek a spirit anointing, for they already had such. Logically Paul meant "gifts" of the spirit, which he, at the end of chapter 12, urged them to seek. Hence, the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures renders 1 Corinthians 14:1: "Keep zealously seeking the spiritual gifts." Other Bible versions here render ta pneu·ma·ti·ka' "the spiritual gifts" or "the gifts of the Spirit."

(1 Corinthians 14:36) 36 Was it from you that the word of God originated, or did it reach only as far as you?

*** w11 6/1 p. 14 Does God Have an Organization? ***
When the congregation in Corinth began to do things in a way that was radically different from the way that other congregations handled matters, Paul wrote: "What? Was it from you that the word of God came forth, or was it only as far as you that it reached?" (1 Corinthians 14:36) Paul used this rhetorical question to correct their thinking and to help them understand that they were not to act independently.

(1 Corinthians 15:6) 6 After that he appeared to more than 500 brothers at one time, most of whom are still with us, though some have fallen asleep in death.

*** w15 11/15 p. 26 par. 2 One Hundred Years Under Kingdom Rulership! ***
2 Shortly after his resurrection, Jesus met with more than 500 prospective Kingdom proclaimers. (1 Cor. 15:6) Perhaps it was on that occasion that he gave the command to take the Kingdom message to "people of all the nations"—a daunting task back then!

*** w15 11/15 p. 26 One Hundred Years Under Kingdom Rulership! ***
There is reason to believe that most of those present on that occasion became Christians. Paul refers to them as "500 brothers" in his letter to the Corinthians. Significantly, he adds: "Most of [them] are still with us, though some have fallen asleep in death." So it seems that Paul and other first-century Christians were acquainted with many who had heard that command firsthand.

(1 Corinthians 16:2) 2 On the first day of every week, each of you should set something aside according to his own means, so that collections will not take place when I arrive.

*** w13 12/15 p. 14 par. 11 Will You Make Sacrifices for the Kingdom? ***

11 The apostle Paul provided a principle to follow when considering donations. (Read 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2.) Under inspiration, he encouraged his brothers in Corinth not to wait until the end of the week to see what was left over but, rather, to set aside funds at the start of the week in harmony with what they could do. As in the first century, brothers and sisters in our time plan ahead to respond generously according to their circumstances. (Luke 21:1-4; Acts 4:32-35) Jehovah treasures such a giving spirit.

(1 Corinthians 16:3, 4) 3 But when I get there, I will send the men you approve of in your letters to take your kind gift to Jerusalem. 4 However, if it seems advisable for me to go there also, they will go there with me.

*** w89 12/1 p. 24 "A Test of the Genuineness of Your Love" ***

The brothers did not have any fear that their money would be misappropriated or wasted. Only 'approved men' would be allowed to deliver the collected funds, Paul accompanying them himself if deemed necessary.—1 Corinthians 16:3-5.

(1 Corinthians 16:19) 19 The congregations of Asia send you their greetings. Aq'ui-la and Pris'ca together with the congregation that is in their house greet you heartily in the Lord.

*** w07 8/15 p. 10 Christianity Penetrates Asia Minor ***

Developments in Asia Minor

Near the end of his stay in Ephesus, Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "The congregations of Asia send you their greetings." (1 Corinthians 16:19) What congregations did Paul have in mind? He probably included those in Colossae, Laodicea, and Hierapolis. (Colossians 4:12-16) The book Paul—His Story observes: "It seems logical to attribute the creation of communities at Smyrna, Pergamum, Sardis and Philadelphia to the missionary initiative of Ephesus. . . . All were within a 120-mile (192-km) radius of Ephesus and linked by excellent roads."



*** si pp. 212-213 pars. 19-22 Bible Book Number 46—1 Corinthians ***

19 "Pursue love," Paul admonishes. Spiritual gifts are to be used in love for the upbuilding of the congregation. For this reason, prophesying is to be preferred over speaking in tongues. He would rather speak five words with understanding to teach others than ten thousand in an unknown language. Tongues are for a sign to unbelievers, but prophesying is for the believers. They should not be "young children" in their understanding of these matters. As for women, they should be in subjection in the congregation. "Let all things take place decently and by arrangement."—14:1, 20, 40.

20 The certainty of the resurrection hope (15:1–16:24). The resurrected Christ appeared to Cephas, to the 12, to upward of 500 brothers at one time, to James, to all the apostles, and last of all to Paul. 'If Christ has not been raised up,' writes Paul, 'our preaching and faith are in vain.' (15:14) Each one is raised in his own order, Christ the firstfruits, then afterward those who belong to him during his presence. Finally he hands over the Kingdom to his Father after all enemies have been put under his feet. Even death, the last enemy, is to be brought to nothing. Of what use is it for Paul to face perils of death continually if there is no resurrection?

21 But how are the dead to be raised? In order for the body of a plant to develop, the sown grain must die. It is similar with the resurrection of the dead. "It is sown a physical body, it is raised up a spiritual body. . . . Flesh and blood cannot inherit God's kingdom." (15:44, 50) Paul tells a sacred secret: Not all will fall asleep in death, but during the last trumpet, they will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. When this that is mortal puts on immortality, death will be swallowed up forever. "Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?" From the heart Paul exclaims: "But

thanks to God, for he gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”—15:55, 57.

22 In conclusion Paul counsels on orderliness in collecting the contributions for sending to Jerusalem to aid needy brothers. He tells of his coming visit via Macedonia and indicates that Timothy and Apollos may also visit. “Stay awake,” Paul exhorts. “Stand firm in the faith, carry on as men, grow mighty. Let all your affairs take place with love.” (16:13, 14) Paul sends greetings from the congregations in Asia, and then he writes a final greeting in his own hand, conveying his love.