

A great number of Charismatics believe that I Corinthians 14:14 quotes, "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, the Holy Spirit prayeth, but I do not understand what I am saying."

Using the verse this way supports their reason for the allowance of the speaker to talk in unknown tongues without understanding what he said at the same time.

But that is not what the verse said!

The verse said, "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful," meaning that if I pray in an unknown tongue, I am the one that is praying, but my understanding does not bear any fruit.

The phrase, "my spirit prayeth," plainly means "my very own spirit prayeth".

Obviously, this is not referring to the Holy Spirit.

What this is referring to is to my very own spirit, which is the spirit of man.

I Corinthians 2:11 states, "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."

Realize that I Corinthians 2:11 implies that man is able to understand the things that he does; so I Corinthians 14:14 displays that the speaker is able to understand his prayer in an unknown tongue.

The word in I Corinthians 14:14 "understanding" is defining for "interpretation".

How do you know that is true?

Look at the context of vs. 14-17.

The speaker obviously was able to understand what he was praying in an unknown tongue; the listener was not able to understand.

This verse shows that unless you do not interpret what you just prayed, the listener would not be edified.

Look at the context of vs. 2-5.

The speaker obviously was able to understand what he was saying in an unknown tongue, because he was edified; but the church was not edified, because they were not able to understand what the speaker was saying.

This verse shows that unless you do not interpret what you just said, the church would not be edified.

Therefore, I Cor  
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14:14 reveals that my interpretation will not bear any fruit, because the person in front of me is not able to understand what I was saying in an unknown tongue.

Know for a fact that what Paul said by “understanding” is the same as “interpretation”.