

The subject of Speaking in Tongues is important for Bible-believing Christians to understand. As we approach the end, Satan will introduce counterfeit manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit. He will create an excitement to make it appear that the power of God is at work when in reality his devilish power will be at work! His deceptions will be so well-crafted that many sincere Christians will be readily deceived by the ecstatic experiences associated with his ingenious designs. There is no question that believers spoke in tongues when the Holy Spirit imparted this gift in Acts 2 and in other instances recorded in the New Testament. And there is no question that this gift still functions in God's church today. However, it is necessary to understand its purpose and function so that we can avoid succumbing to Satan's crafty designs. Let's study this important subject and gain a clear understanding of What God Says About..."Speaking in Tongues."

SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE CHURCH TODAY

1. Spiritual gifts remain in the church until who returns?

6"Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: 7So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord _____ _____." *1 Corinthians 1:6, 7*

Note: *According to scripture, spiritual gifts will remain in the church until Jesus Christ returns. The Holy Spirit imparts spiritual gifts to the church for the purpose of carrying out and completing the mission of the church.*

2. What is the ultimate purpose of the spiritual gifts?

12"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13_____ _____ _____ _____ in the _____ of _____ _____, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a _____ _____, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." *Ephesians 4:12, 13*

DIFFERENT GIFTS – SAME HOLY SPIRIT

3. According to the apostle Paul, what is there a diversity of in the church?

"Now there are diversities of _____, but the same Spirit." *1 Corinthians 12:4*

4. What questions does Paul ask regarding tongues and the interpretation of tongues?

[28]"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. [29]Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? [30]Have all the gifts of healing? _____ _____ _____ with _____? _____ _____ _____?" *1 Corinthians 12:28-30*

Note: *The Holy Spirit bestows different gifts upon the members of the church (1 Cor. 12:11). All do not possess the same gifts.*

"A MORE EXCELLENT WAY"

5. After discussing spiritual gifts in the church, what does Paul show or explain to the Corinthian believers?

"But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you ____ _____ _____ _____." *1 Corinthians 12:31*

Note: *Love is the "more excellent way" in which Paul refers and further expounds upon in 1 Corinthians 13.*

6. What must we possess in order to avoid becoming sounding brass or a tinkling symbol?

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not _____, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." *1 Corinthians 13:1*

THE GIFT OF TONGUES

7. What spiritual gift did the disciples demonstrate on the Day of Pentecost?

[1]"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. [2]And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. [3]And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. [4]And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with _____ _____, as the Spirit gave them utterance." *Acts 2:1-4*

Note: *The disciples were instructed to tarry in Jerusalem and pray for the promise of the Father—the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The disciples having met the conditions and the appointed time having now arrived, the Holy Ghost was manifested like cloven tongues of fire upon each in the upper room. This symbol represented the fluency of foreign languages in which the disciples would be enabled to communicate the gospel as well as the zeal and power that would accompany their efforts and words.*

8. How many nations were represented at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost?

"And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of _____ _____ under _____." *Acts 2:5*

Note: *According to Acts 2:5, "every nation under heaven" was represented by those dwelling at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. This meant that a diversity of languages were represented and spoken by the Jews then present at Jerusalem. According to scripture, God utilized this opportunity to reach this large and diverse gathering of language groups with the gospel message. The gift of tongues imparted by the Holy Spirit to the disciples on this occasion, provided the means through which the gospel was heard, received and carried throughout the world by the diverse language groups represented in Jerusalem at the religious festivals.*

A TONGUE IS A LANGUAGE

9. Why were the people confounded and amazed when they heard the disciples speak on the Day of Pentecost?

[6]"Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____. [7]And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? [8]And how hear we every man _____ _____ _____ _____, wherein we were born?" *Acts 2:6-8*

10. What were some of the tongues or languages that were spoken by the disciples on the Day of Pentecost?

9"_____, and _____, and _____, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and _____, 10Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in _____, and in the parts of _____ about Cyrene, and strangers of _____, Jews and proselytes." *Acts 2:9, 10*

THE GIFT OF TONGUES "MAGNIFY GOD"

11. When the disciples spoke in different tongues, what did the multitude clearly hear them proclaiming?

"Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the _____ _____ of _____." *Acts 2:11*

Note: *A proper use of the gift of tongues magnify God. It does not magnify self. It highlights the wonderful works of God.*

"MANUFACTURED TONGUES"

Note: *Many equate the "manufactured gibberish" often heard in churches to the "unknown tongue" of 1 Corinthians 14. The word "unknown" was supplied by the translators and is not in the original Greek. Scripture knows nothing of an "unknown tongue." It is important to clarify what the Bible teaches regarding the true manifestation of the gift of tongues because many are deceived on this point. According to scripture, ecstatic utterances or the "manufactured gibberish" is not the genuine manifestation of the gift of tongues. It is a "counterfeit gift" ingeniously crafted by Satan to deceived well-meaning Christians.*

A MISUSE OF THE GIFT OF TONGUES

Note: *1 Corinthians 14 is written in the context of a public worship service. In this chapter, Paul is rebuking church members who were speaking in tongues for the sole purpose of edifying themselves and not others. Their misuse and abuse of this spiritual gift did not edify the church, but rather it brought confusion within the church. The hearers received no spiritual benefit because they did not understand the foreign languages that were being spoken. Therefore, in an effort to guard against the abuse of this spiritual gift and the confusion that followed, Paul provides clear and direct counsel designed to restore order and peace within the church.*

12. While prophesying edifies the church, to whom does tongues edify?

"He that speaketh in an unknown tongue _____ _____; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church." *1 Corinthians 14:4*

13. According to 1 Corinthians 14:2, the person who speaks in tongues during church is *not* speaking unto whom? How many people understand him in church?

"For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh _____ _____ _____, but unto God: for _____ _____ _____ _____; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries." *1 Corinthians 14:2*

Note: *According to 1 Corinthians 14:2, it is unfruitful to speak in tongues in church service. It doesn't edify the church.*

14. According to Paul, what is unfruitful if a person prays in a tongue or foreign language during church service?

"For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but _____ _____ is unfruitful." *1 Corinthians 14:14*

Note: *Understanding that 1 Corinthians 14 is written in the context of a public worship service, praying in a foreign language is unfruitful to the listeners. They don't understand what is being said and consequently they receive no benefit.*

15. If the whole church comes together and speaks in tongues, what will the unlearned visitor and unbeliever say?

"If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that _____ _____ _____?" *1 Corinthians 14:23*

16. What does Paul instruct those with the gift of tongues in the church to do if there is no interpreter?

"But if there be no interpreter, let him _____ _____ in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God." *1 Corinthians 14:28*

Note: *Paul is clear. If there is no interpreter in the church, members should not speak in tongues. They are to keep silent. However, if an interpreter is present and tongues are spoken, only two or three at the most in their*

proper turn should speak, and their words must be interpreted. Paul's counsel is given for the purpose of avoiding confusion in the church (see 1 Cor. 14:27, 33).

17. Rather than speak ten thousand words in a foreign tongue, Paul would rather speak five words with what?

18"I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: 19Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with _____ _____, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. 20Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men." *1 Corinthians 14:18-20*

***Note:** The apostle Paul says that in the church he would rather speak five words "with my understanding," or that could be easily understood by the listener rather than ten thousand words in a foreign tongue that is not understood by those whom he teaches.*

TONGUES—A SIGN FOR UNBELIEVERS

18. According to Paul, tongues are a sign for whom?

"Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but _____ _____ that _____ _____: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe." *1 Corinthians 14:22*

19. What happened when the Gentiles heard Peter speak? What gift was poured out on the Gentiles?

44"While Peter yet spake these words, the _____ _____ _____ on _____ them which heard the word. 45And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out _____ _____ of the _____ _____." *Acts 10:44, 45*

***Note:** When Peter spoke the Word to the Gentile Cornelius and his family, the Holy Ghost fell upon them and they spoke in tongues. The gift of tongues that they received was identical to the gift of tongues that the disciples received on the Day of Pentecost. This gift of the Holy Ghost poured out on the Gentiles was a clear indication that God, who is no respecter of persons, accepted the Gentiles. God was communicating through the manifestation of this gift, that the Gentiles are accepted and welcomed into the church.*

20. What wonderful thing did the believing Jews hear the Gentiles do when they spoke with tongues?

[46]"For they heard them speak with tongues, and _____ _____. Then answered Peter, [47]Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? [48]And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days." *Acts 10:46-48*

21. When Peter explained to the Jews his experience with the Gentiles in Caesarea, how does he confirm that God gave the Gentiles the same gift as He gave to the disciples?

[15]"And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____. [16]Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. [17]Forasmuch then as God gave them the _____ _____ as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?" *Acts 11:15-17*

PROPHECY—A SIGN FOR BELIEVERS

22. According to Paul, what is a sign for believers?

"Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but _____ serveth not for them that believe not, but _____ _____ _____ _____." *1 Corinthians 14:22*

23. According to Acts 19:1-4, certain disciples of John the Baptist had not heard of whom?

[1]"And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, [2]He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any _____ _____. [3]And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. [4]Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." *Acts 19:1-4*

24. What happened when Paul taught these disciples of John about the Holy Ghost and re-baptized them?

[5]"When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [6]And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they _____ _____ _____, and _____." *Acts 19:5, 6*

Note: *These disciples of John the Baptist already believed and had a knowledge of truth, but they had not heard of the Holy Ghost. When they learned this essential truth, they were re-baptized, received the gift of tongues and prophesied.*

OTHER RELEVANT SCRIPTURES

Note: *The scriptures below are troublesome for some, but it need not be the case in light of the Bible evidence that a tongue is a language.*

Isaiah 28:11—Speaks of "stammering lips and another tongue" (Paul refers to this passage in 1 Cor. 14:21). God was saying that He would speak to His rebellious people through the foreign languages of those who would take His people into captivity such as the Assyrians, Babylonians and etc. In other words, Ancient Israel refused to listen to God's messengers and message spoken in their own tongue, so God would speak through these foreign nations as a means of judgment.

Mark 16:17—Speaks of "new tongues." The earliest Greek manuscripts do not include Mark 16:9-20. Nonetheless, the disciples spoke with "new tongues" when this spiritual gift was manifested on the Day of Pentecost and thereafter in order to communicate the gospel and reach other language groups.

1 Corinthians 13:1—Speaks of "tongues of men and of angels." According to the Greek in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, Paul is saying "if" rather than "though." In other words, "if" I do all that is listed in 1 Corinthians 13 and lack love, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling symbol. Paul is emphasizing a more excellent way—love.

SUMMARY

A tongue is a language. It is a spiritual gift that the Holy Spirit bestows upon some in the church for the purpose of communicating the gospel. Tongues should only be spoken in the church if an interpreter is present and biblical guidelines are followed. Tongues are a sign for unbelievers, and it edifies the one with the gift. Prophecy is a sign for believers, and it edifies the church. In the last days, Satan will introduce counterfeit manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit—including tongues. The scriptures distinguish between the genuine gift and the misuse thereof and it exposes the "manufactured gibberish" which is often heard in churches.

25. Dear friend, are you willing to accept the truth regarding the genuine gift of tongues and reject the counterfeit?

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