

The Importance of Speaking in Tongues

- *In the Book of Acts we can see a number of elements of the New Testament Church.*
- *The Believers were totally surrendered to Jesus Christ. He was the central focus and purpose of their lives.*
- *There was an emphasis on prayer, fasting, and studying God's Word.*
- *The supernatural power of the Holy Spirit was an integral part of the life of each Believer.*
- *To summarize the early Church: The Believers were so filled with the reality of God that their lives exuded an unshakeable confidence and faith in God.*
- *The reality of God and the supernatural go hand in hand.*
- *To God the supernatural is natural.*
- *The Book of Acts gives us a picture of what it looked like to be a Christian.*
- *The New Testament Believers expected the supernatural. It was part of their daily lives.*
- *Reading the Book of Acts and the Epistles it can be seen that speaking in tongues was considered a normal experience for Believers.*
- *There have been two extremes in Body of Christ regarding tongues:*
 1. *Some say speaking in tongues is no longer available to the Church, but ended with the early church.*
 2. *The other extreme is an unhealthy emphasis on supernatural experiences to the point where discernment is no longer practiced and spiritual maturity is no longer the ultimate goal.*
- *In the West there was a misconception regarding the former Soviet Union and the church.*
- *Although the former Soviet Union had a well-deserved reputation for persecuting Christians there was a misconception that Christians were not allowed to gather together for religious meetings.*

However there were five things the Believers were strictly forbidden to do:

- 1. They were not allowed to share their faith with others.*
 - 2. They were not allowed to teach about the return of Christ.*
 - 3. They were not allowed to pray for the sick.*
 - 4. They were not allowed to prophesy.*
 - 5. They were not allowed to speak in tongues.*
- It is most interesting that an atheistic state would feel compelled to forbid Believers from engaging in supernatural activities when they themselves claimed that such things don't even exist!*
 - The devil understands the power Believers have when they operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit and he will do anything to discourage Believers from operating in the gifts.*

1 Corinthians 13:1 (NKJV)

¹Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

- This verse does not negate speaking in tongues, but puts it in proper perspective in the light of the ultimate goal, which is love – the fruit of spiritual maturity.*
- What is speaking in tongues?*

1 Corinthians 14:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

- “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays” – Speaking in tongues is generated not from the soul, but from our reborn spirit. That is why Scripture also uses the term “praying in the Spirit.”*
- 1 Corinthians 13:1 clearly shows that speaking in tongues can be either in the tongues of men or angels.*
- So when one speaks in tongues it can either be an angelic language or one of over six thousand languages spoken by men.*
- Speaking in tongues is not an emotional experience, but a spiritual experience. Sometimes it may be accompanied by an emotional experience, but not necessarily.*
- For those who do pray in tongues it is understood that one initiates praying in tongues not based on any emotional experience, but by simply opening one's mouth in faith and speaking out words as the Holy Spirit directs.*

- *To an observer, speaking in tongues may seem emotionally charged, but the one speaking in tongues is often very calm and peaceful.*

1 Corinthians 14:14 (The Williams Translation)

For if I pray in ecstasy, my spirit is praying but my mind produces no results for anyone.

- *“For if I pray in ecstasy” – Translating the word “tongue” as “ecstasy” does not reflect the Greek meaning of the word “tongues.” The Greek word simply means that thing in our mouth and by extension language.*
- *The translator of this version used the word “ecstasy” because he misinterpreted what he thought Believers experienced when they spoke in tongues. But in reality this is not what the Bible teaches about this experience.*
- *What the Bible teaches, what Believers experience, and what science has discovered regarding speaking in tongues all converge to form the same conclusions.*
- *Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania, as reported in the New York Times, November 7, 2006, did brain imaging of people who spoke in tongues and below are a few of their observations.*
- *“While they spoke in tongues, the researchers found that their frontal lobes — the thinking, willful part of the brain through which people control what they do — were relatively quiet, as were the language centers.”*
- *“The regions involved in maintaining self-consciousness were active. The women were not in blind trances, and it was unclear which region was driving the behavior.”*
- *“Ms. Morgan, a co-author of the study, was also a research subject. She is a born-again Christian who says she considers the ability to speak in tongues a gift. “You’re aware of your surroundings,” she said. “You’re not really out of control. But you have no control over what’s happening. You’re just flowing. You’re in a realm of peace and comfort, and it is a fantastic feeling.”*
- *“The scans also showed a dip in the activity of a region called the left caudate. The findings from the frontal lobes are very clear, and make sense, but the caudate is usually active when you have positive affect, pleasure, positive emotions,” said Dr. James A. Coan, a psychologist at the University of Virginia.”*
- *“The caudate area is also involved in motor and emotional control, Dr. Newberg said, so it may be that practitioners, while mindful of their circumstances, nonetheless cede some control over their bodies and emotions.”*

- *“Contrary to what may be a common perception, studies suggest that people who speak in tongues rarely suffer from mental problems. A recent study of nearly 1,000 evangelical Christians in England found that those who engaged in the practice were more emotionally stable than those who did not.”*
- *“The new findings contrasted sharply with images taken of other spiritually inspired mental states like meditation, which is often a highly focused mental exercise, activating the frontal lobes.”*
- *What does the Bible teach us regarding speaking in tongues?*
- *In God’s economy every activity done corporately as a Church or personally falls into three main categories.*
- *REVELATION – We are to grow in our revelation of Jesus Christ. This involves our spirit, which is the source of revelation knowledge.*
- *HABITATION – We are to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ. This involves our soul as we grow into the image of Jesus Christ.*
- *PROCLAMATION – We are to be a witness to the world and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. This involves our body as we proclaim the truth to the world, both with our words and how we live our lives.*
- *We are going to look at speaking in tongues in respect to these three categories.*
- *PROCLAMATION – Tongues as a sign.*
- *HABITATION – Tongues as a prayer language that builds us up and strengthens us.*
- *REVELATION – Tongues as a spiritual gift through which God reveals mysteries to us.*

SPEAKING IN TONGUES AS A SIGN - PROCLAMATION

- *1. A unique spiritual gift and sign that identifies the Body of Christ and distinguishes the Church from the Old Testament Believers.*

Mark 16:17 (NKJV)

17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

- *Speaking in tongues is first seen in the Bible on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 – proclaiming the birth of the Church.*
- *2. Speaking In Tongues Is An Evidence Of The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit.*

Acts 19:6 (NKJV)

6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Acts 2:4 (NKJV)

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 10:44-46 (NKJV)

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.

45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered,

- *How did Peter know that the Gentiles had received the gift of the Holy Spirit? “For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.”*
- *I wouldn’t say that speaking in tongues is the evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, but it is definitely an evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.*
- *I believe everyone who is baptized in the Holy Spirit can speak in tongues, but it does not mean they will choose to.*
- *3. Speaking In Tongues Is A Sign To The Unbeliever.*

1 Corinthians 14:21-22 (NKJV)

21 In the law it is written: “With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,” says the Lord.

22 Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.

There are two ways tongues is a sign to unbelievers:

- *i) Speaking in a language understood by the hearer, but not by the speaker.*
- *ii) The wonder of someone speaking an unknown tongue.*

1 Corinthians 14:23-24 (NKJV)

23 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all.

- *Verses 23 and 24 do not contradict verses 21 and 22 but provide a healthy balance to protect Christians from becoming hyper spiritual.*
- *4. Speaking In Tongues Is A Sign Of The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ:*

John 7:38-39 (NKJV)

38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- *The very act of speaking in tongues is a declaration that Jesus Christ has been glorified and is at the right hand of the Father and as a result we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
- *Every time we speak in tongues we are testifying and proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus Christ and that His promise to send the gift of the Holy Spirit is true.*
- *5. Speaking In Tongues Is A Sign Of The Fulfillment Of Prophecy.*

Mark 1:8 (NKJV)

⁸I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

- *In each of the four gospels, John the Baptist prophesied that Jesus would come and baptize in the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33). Jesus Christ Himself prophesied in Acts 1:5, “for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*
- *On the Day of Pentecost when all the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues, the crowds were amazed and perplexed, and Peter stood up and explained in Acts 2:16, “but this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel,” referring to the prophecy found in Joel 2:28.*
- *Peter was saying that this ancient prophecy in Joel, “I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh,” was being fulfilled that very day as testified to by the disciples speaking in unknown tongues.*
- *6. Speaking In Tongues Is A Sign That God Has United Mankind In Christ.*
- *At the tower of Babel God confused the languages of the people so they were no longer were able to understand one another and it resulted in the people being divided and scattered.*

- *At Pentecost God used the manifestation of tongues in order that people of different languages all understood what was being said and it drew the people together to hear and receive the gospel message.*
- *At Pentecost speaking in tongues brought unity as opposed to the tower of Babel where it brought division and separation.*
- *At the tower of Babel the division of the different languages was the result of man's rebellion toward God.*
- *At Pentecost the sign of speaking in unknown tongues was the result of man's obedience and faith in God.*
- *At Babel the people wanted to make a name for themselves which resulted in God scattering the people by confusing their languages.*
- *At Pentecost the believers wanted to make a name for God. This resulted in God using the miracle of speaking in tongues so all the people heard them speaking in their own languages about the wonderful works of God.*
- *Through tongues God broke down the wall of prejudice so that the Jewish believers understood that God's plan of salvation was extended to the Gentiles and that He had united Jew and Gentile together through the blood of Jesus to form one Body.*

Acts 11:1-4 (NKJV)

1 Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

2 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him,

3 saying, "You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!"

4 But Peter explained it to them in order from the beginning, saying:

- *Many Jewish Believers were outraged that Peter preached to the Gentiles, because they never considered the possibility that God's plan of salvation included them.*
- *God used the sign of speaking in tongues as conclusive evidence that Jesus died for all mankind and that His plan of salvation is extended to all people.*

Acts 11:15-18 (NKJV)

15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning.

16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

17 If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"

18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

- *Speaking in tongues was proof that the Gentiles had received the gift of the Holy Spirit the same as Jewish Believers.*
- *7. Speaking In Tongues Is A Sign That We Are Saved By Grace And Not By Works.*

Galatians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

- *Paul took the Believers back to the day when they were baptized in the Holy Spirit and first spoke in tongues. He reminded them that the gift of the Holy Spirit was received solely based on their faith in Christ and not their works.*
- *8. Speaking In Tongues Is A Sign Of The Father's Love And Favour Toward Us.*

Acts 1:4 (NKJV)

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

- *The gift of the Holy Spirit is the promise of the Father. It is a special impartation from God for each of His children.*

Luke 11:13 (NKJV)

13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

- *The gift of the Holy Spirit is something the Father desires to give to each of His children, because He loves us and it is a sign of His love for us.*
- *When I speak in tongues it reminds me of the Father's love for me and for each one of His children.*

- *Doesn't each Believer already have the Holy Spirit the moment they receive Christ and are born again? Yes*
- *Each born again believer has received the person of the Holy Spirit the moment they are born again.*
- *But there is a secondary experience where we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, which represents a special impartation of power. (Acts 1:8 "but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you")*

Acts 8:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

¹⁵who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

¹⁶For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

- *In Acts 8, we see that through the preaching of Philip the people received Jesus Christ and were baptized in water. But after Peter and John came they received the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
- *In Acts 19:2 when Paul and Apollos met some disciples, the first thing Paul asked them was, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"*
- *Therefore Scripture shows that receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, which we receive when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, is a secondary experience.*
- *The baptism of the Holy Spirit can be experienced right after salvation or at some later time.*
- *Speaking in tongues is not a badge of merit or a sign of spiritual maturity. It is more like a tool that can be used to make one's spiritual walk easier.*
- *There are no second class Christians, we are all equally loved and valued by the Father whether one speaks in tongues or not – we are all His favourite children.*
- *The spiritual gifts are available to all Believers. The Church is not to revolve around "the man of God," but the entire Body of Christ.*
- *9. Speaking In Tongues Is A Sign Of The Reality And Faithfulness Of God In Our Moments Of Doubt Or When We Feel Overwhelmed.*
- *10. Speaking In Tongues Is a Sign that God wants to use the foolish things to confound the wise.*

1 Corinthians 1:27 (NKJV)

27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

1 Corinthians 14:2 (NKJV)

2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

- *To a skeptic speaking in tongues may appear as gibberish or as a foolish and useless action.*
- *Speaking in tongues is an affront to those that want to exalt human reason.*
- *11. Speaking In Tongues Is A Sign That God Is Able To Bring Our Self Life Under His Control If We Allow Him*

James 3:8 (NKJV)

8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

- *Speaking in tongues does not mean we have conquered our tongue, but it reminds us that if we submit to the Spirit we can learn to speak words that are always edifying.*
- *12. Speaking In Tongues Signifies That We Are Spiritual Beings.*

1 Corinthians 15:45 (NKJV)

45 And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

- *When we receive Jesus Christ and are born again we become life-giving spirits.*

1 Corinthians 14:14 (NKJV)

14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

- *Speaking in tongues brings a spiritual reality into the natural realm.*

TONGUES AS A PRAYER LANGUAGE - HABITATION

- *13. Tongues Is A Prayer Language That Originates From The Spirit*

1 Corinthians 14:14 (NKJV)

14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

- *When we pray in tongues we can be confident that our prayers are a perfect expression of the will of God, because they originate from our spirit by the Holy Spirit.*
- *14. Speaking In Tongues Is A Supernatural Expression Of The Trinity Of Man Relating To The Trinity Of God.*
- *Our soul chooses to submit to the spirit and in an act of faith begins to speak. The spirit takes control of our physical tongue and forms words in a language unknown to us. – Spirit, soul, and body.*
- *Our reborn spirit in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit prays forth the perfect prayer to the Father.*
- *15. Speaking In Tongues Brings Fulfillment In Prayer.*

1 Corinthians 14:15 (NKJV)

15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

- *We can pray with our minds while our bodies are engaged by the spirit to pray in an unknown tongue. Thus all three parts of our being are fully engaged in prayer – spirit, soul and body.*
- *16. Speaking In Tongues Enables Us To Sing In The Spirit*

1 Corinthians 14:15 (NKJV)

15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

Ephesians 5:19 (NKJV)

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

- *The Greek word for “spiritual” is πνευματικός pneumatikos and it means “being derived from the spirit,” so spiritual songs are songs derived from the spirit and can include singing in tongues.*
- *Singing in the spirit brings a spirit led or heavenly musical component into our prayer life.*
- *17. Praying in tongues is one way of glorifying God.*

Acts 10:46 (NKJV)

46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered,

Acts 2:11 (NKJV)

11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”

- *Praying in tongues brings another component into our prayer life by which we proclaim the greatness of God—even beyond what our human minds can conceive.*
- *18. Speaking In Tongues Edifies Self.*

1 Corinthians 14:4 (NKJV)

4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

Jude 20 (NKJV)

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

- *Speaking in tongues edifies oneself. The Greek word for edify can mean, “to strengthen, to make more able, to increase the potential of someone or something.”*
- *Thus speaking in tongues helps to build us up so we can grow, increase in our potential, and also after a day of experiencing the struggles of life we may need some repair work.*
- *19. When We Are Not Able To Pray We Can Pray In Tongues.*
- *When we cannot express our thoughts and feelings because our inner joy is so great or our inner struggles are so painful, the Spirit gives us the words. When we feel overwhelmed we can pray in tongues.*
- *20. Praying In Tongues Brings Rest And Refreshing.*

1 Corinthians 14:21 (NKJV)

21 In the law it is written: “With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,” says the Lord.

- *1 Corinthians is quoting from Isaiah 28: 11-12 and Paul is speaking about how this new experience of tongues provides refreshing for the weary soul.*

Isaiah 28:11-12 (NKJV)

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people,

12 To whom He said, “This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,” And, “This is the refreshing”; Yet they would not hear.

- *21. Speaking In Tongues Enables One To Communicate Privately To God And Speak Mysteries.*

1 Corinthians 14:2 (NKJV)

2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

- *Sometime when I am seeking revelation from God, praying in tongues seems to release the revelation into my mind.*
- *22. Praying In Tongues Helps Us To Pray Without Ceasing.*

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)

17 pray without ceasing,

- *Praying in tongues is a totally effortless experience. It only requires the willingness of the person to let the Spirit speak through them.*
- *23. Praying In Tongues Helps Us To Learn To Pray And Walk With God By His Grace And Not Our Self-Effort.*
- *24. Praying In Tongues Helps To Bring More Spiritual Liberty And Expression In The Church.*
- *25. Praying In Tongues Is An Introduction to Being Used Vocally In The Church.*
- *26. Paul commands us not to forbid speaking in tongues.*

1 Corinthians 14:39-40 (NKJV)

39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

- *There should be freedom for people to speak in tongues (vs 39), but at the same time it must not be done in a disruptive way (vs 40).*
- *27. It is God’s Desire for All of Us to Speak in Tongues.*

1 Corinthians 14:5 (NKJV)

5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

- *Speaking in tongues is available to normal people.*
- *In the early church speaking in tongues was an expected part of being a Christian.*
- *28. Paul Rejoiced That He Spoke In Tongues More Than All The Others. This Signified its Importance.*

1 Corinthians 14:18-19 (NKJV)

18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;

19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

- *Paul counted it a privilege to speak in tongues and he chose to pray in tongues frequently.*
- *However, Paul recognized that when he addressed the Church publicly for the purpose of giving instruction that he speak in a known language. (vs 19)*
- *Notice the three levels of intensity Paul uses in regards to the importance of speaking in tongues:*
- *Do not forbid to speak in tongues.*
- *I desire or wish that you all spoke in tongues.*
- *I rejoice that I speak in tongues more than all of you.*
- *29. Praying In Tongues Is A Key To Help Us Enter Into The Spiritual Gifts.*

1 Corinthians 14:5 (NKJV)

5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

- *“Even more” that you would prophesy does not mean in place of speaking in tongues, but the idea is don’t stop at tongues, but use that as a stepping stone to enter into all the spiritual gifts.*
- *Praying in tongues builds up our faith so that we can step out in faith and operate in the spiritual gifts of 1 Corinthians 12:8-10.*
- *Praying in tongues is a gateway to experiencing more of the supernatural.*
- *In the Book of Acts the apostles immediately prayed for new converts to be filled with the Holy Spirit.*
- *Speaking in tongues is not a sign of spiritual maturity, but a gift to help us in our service to God.*

- *30. Praying In Tongues Is Part Of Our Spiritual Armor - Spiritual Warfare.*

Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV)

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

- *Many Christians think that in Ephesians 6 there are only six pieces of spiritual armor, but they miss the last one—praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.*
- *While praying in the spirit may not be restricted to praying in tongues it certainly includes it.*
- *Praying in tongues is God's secret weapon and it is the seventh and final piece of our spiritual armor without which we are incomplete.*

Mark 16:17-18 (NKJV)

17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

- *Smack dab in the middle between casting out devils and taking up serpents it mentions speaking in tongues.*

TONGUES AS ONE OF THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - REVELATION

- *31. Tongues Is One Of The Nine Gifts Of The Holy Spirit.*

1 Corinthians 12:10 (NKJV)

10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

- *Tongues is listed as the 8th gift of the Spirit. It says we should covet spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:31), which would include tongues.*

1 Corinthians 12:30-31 (NKJV)

30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

- *Do all speak in tongues? This question is in reference to tongues as a gift not as a prayer language.*
- *Any times tongues is used as a gift it is always accompanied by the gift of interpretation.*

- *32. As A Gift, Tongues And Interpretation Are Equal To Prophecy.*

1 Corinthians 14:5 (NKJV)

5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

- *The gift of tongues and interpretation is given for the edification of the Church.*

1 Corinthians 14:27–28 (NKJV)

²⁷If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret.

²⁸But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

- *When tongues are used in a public meeting as a gift, it should only operate when there is an interpretation.*
- *Many have misinterpreted 1 Corinthians 14:28 as referring to praying in tongues. This verse refers to the gift of tongues which is given to provide prophetic utterance in the church.*
- *Praying in tongues in a public meeting is fully acceptable as long as it flows with the service and it is not disruptive or drawing attention to the one who is praying.*
- *Tongues as a gift is given when all is quiet so it can be heard by all, but as a prayer language it is used when all are engaged in worship and prayer corporately so as not to draw attention to it.*
- *33. Tongues Is A Gift That God Has Ordained In The Church.*

1 Corinthians 12:28-30 (NKJV)

28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?

30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

- *The different between tongues as a prayer language and as one of the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit:*
 - i) As a prayer language it is for prayer and worship.
As a gift it is to give a message to the people.*
 - ii) As a prayer language it is us speaking to God*

As a gift it is God speaking to us.
iii) *As a prayer language it builds oneself up.*
As a gift it builds up the church.

iv) *As a prayer language it does not need interpretation.*
As a gift it requires interpretation.

v) *As a prayer language it is for all believers.*
As a gift it is only for those that the Holy Spirit wishes to give.

vi) *As a prayer language it can be operated at any time.*
As a gift it can only operate as the Spirit leads.

- *How to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the accompanying sign of speaking in tongues.*

1. *You must be born again.*
2. *Don't strive to receive, but rest in His love for you.*
3. *Don't try to figure it out, but focus on Christ and His love for you.*
4. *Step out in faith and speak as the Spirit gives you words to speak.*