



Inner Growth - Tongues

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

Acts 2:4

Talk - 1 Corinthians 14:2

Offering - 1 Corinthians, Acts 2:4

Need - 1 Corinthians 14:39

Gifts - 1 Corinthians 12:30

Unlimited - 1 Corinthians 12:10

Ears - 1 Corinthians 14:21

Spiritual - 1 Corinthians 14:22

Tongues are the heavenly language God has granted to the believers who are saved and desire to speak in "other tongues," which manifests by the revelation of the Holy Spirit through the believer. In Acts chapter two verse four, the other tongues on this occasion were a variety of native languages understood by the different nations. These foreign languages are spoken supernaturally by the disciples of Galilee and were a corporate prophetic sign to them. Today, tongues are a God-given sign accompanying the baptism of the Holy Spirit, a Biblical pattern for the Spirit-filled life for the believer. After receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the believer opens their mouth and continually praises God until the Holy Spirit starts to take over

like a mighty rushing stream and flows through them, speaking in tongues. Some Christians today overestimated the importance of the gift of tongues in public worship and emphasized it at the expense of other spiritual qualities. Furthermore, they were exercising the gift without interpretation. This verse points out the unprofitableness of tongues without understanding in public services. Prophecy edifies the church more than uninterpreted tongues. Both are equally important to the church. Speaking in tongues in public services without interpretation is of no benefit to others. Christians who speak or pray in tongues in the church should seek to edify the church by praying for the gift of interpretation. The holy language in a believer's life concerning God is the means of worship and spiritual growth. Prophecy is more effective than uninterpreted tongues because the revelation brings conviction of sin and the knowledge of God's presence. Speaking in tongues and prophesying must be regulated in the church. This activity operates through the presence of the Holy Spirit within the sanctuary. There are two ways to understand this verse. Some believe this verse indicates that the principal use of tongues, whether in the church or private, is to speak primarily to God and not to humans. When speaking in tongues to God, the speaker communes with God by the Holy Spirit in prayer, praise, singing, blessing, and thanksgiving. Tongues are a mystery not understandable to the speaker or hearers. Interpretation of the utterance in tongues allows the congregation to enter into this manifestation of the spirit-directed worship by them saying "Amen" to the Spirit-inspired prayer or praise. What is the significance of the filling with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost? It meant the beginning of the fulfillment of the promise of God in Joel two twenty-eight to

twenty-nine: to pour out His Spirit upon all His people in the end times. The decision to repent and believe in Christ is now prominent since the last days of this age had begun. The Holy Spirit is a Spirit who longs and thrives for the salvation of people in every nation. Those who received baptism in the Holy Spirit are experiencing fulfillment with the same longing for deliverance for the human race.

The need for the heavenly language is evident in the bottom portion of verse thirty-nine of First Corinthians. "To forbid not" does not mean disregarding speaking in tongues but embracing the opportunity of receiving it. The meaning of "to forbid not" in this verse is not to ignore the gift of speaking in tongues upon presentation. When the priest or minister presents the chance to receive the gift of tongues and the reaction from the person is neutral or unresponsive, this reply is a person being passive, which translates to ignorance. The cold feedback from the person is the flesh responding and not the spiritual side. Such behavior indicates that the carnal side is leading or in control instead of the inner person.

Verses thirty-seven and thirty-eight connect with this verse here in First Corinthians. If any Christians think of themselves as a prophet or spiritual, they will acknowledge and follow the commandments of the Lord. Every believer should pursue the gifts of the Holy Spirit by receiving the heavenly language. Otherwise, if they opt to reject, it is due to ignorance which means the individual has not fully allowed the inner person to lead, but the flesh within them is still the leader.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are beyond human comprehension because they are not of the flesh but the Spirit of God. Verse thirty of chapter twelve opens up with rhetorical questions that imply here an adverse answer. The passage refers to

the use of the gift of tongues and its companion gift of interpretation in public worship services. Not attempting to limit the benefit of the heavenly language in prayer and praise privately addressed to God: He understands tongues. Most believers baptized in the Holy Spirit find it easy to pray in tongues as they yield to Him.

The extensive listing of supernatural gifts distributed to Christians by the Holy Spirit is in most of this verse ten of First Corinthians chapter twelve. Among believers today, some churches see the spiritual gifts primarily to the day of the apostles. Other church groups believe they are distributed and practiced today. All agree that these are gifts empowered by God through the Holy Spirit and available only to those who are in Christ. *God's people have the opportunity to receive these spiritual gifts by asking Him. The works of miracles*, or miraculous powers, may include the ability to heal. And yet it also goes beyond that to supernatural displays of God's power to confirm the gospel message and enact God's judgment.

The prophecy describes delivering a message from God, perhaps with force and conviction. Some believe the gift of prophecy includes the supernatural ability to explain things unknown by the speaker beyond special revelation from the Spirit of God. These might be things happening in the present or that will occur in the future. *The other supernatural gift God has to offer is the ability to distinguish between spirits* that may be related to prophesy. It seems to be a celestial ability to tell whether a speaker represents God or is a false or demonic spirit attempting to mislead God's people. *Various kinds of tongues* include the capability of a Spirit-powered believer to speak in a language unknown to themselves. *Interpretation of tongues* is the supernatural ability to listen as someone

speaks in a language not known to the interpreter, or usually to the speaker, and to translate it so those present can hear it in their language.

Matthew thirteen nine says, "Who hath ears to hear let him hear." However, many Christians hear but do not listen. Does this make sense? Yes. They hear the sound but pay no attention to what the speaker is saying to them.

The quotes from the Old Testament prophets make a connection between present circumstances and how God acted in the past. The paraphrases happen in Isaiah chapter twenty-eight, verses eleven and twelve. In this passage, Israel rejected God's clear message to them in their language. Soon He would speak to them through the Assyrians, people with "strange lips" and "foreign tongues." In other words, His messages to them would become less clear and result in His judgment due to their sin.

The practice of the gift of prophecy is better than the lack of meaning in results. When the gift of tongues demonstrates without an interpreter, listeners may be impressed (or not) by a display of foreign languages. They will not respond to the direction of the Lord because they will not be able to understand it.

To desire the gift of prophecy, especially among the others, show why its use in the church service is superior to the use of the gift of tongues if nobody is available to interpret. Prophecy benefits everyone; praying in tongues with no interpreter benefits only the speaker. Only two or three tongues-speakers should contribute to any service, and only then one at a time and followed by interpreters. The same applies to prophesy and the gift of discerning spirits. Orderliness and building up the church are guiding principles for any worship meeting. Modern churches today are in the division by the extent to which these gifts are given or should be proficient.

Tongues are a sign that the supernatural is working within the congregation.

However, the heavenly language inside the audience becomes a negative sign to unbelievers, which signifies that the unbeliever is distant from God and cannot understand what is occurring. Prophecy, however, is a sign to believers, for they recognize that it is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit and proof that God is at work in the church. Tongues also may be a sign to believers indicating that the Spirit is being poured out and manifested among the people of God.

Tongues are the heavenly language for believers to use as a benefit to communicate to God privately and an advantage to diffuse the enemy. The opposition is the evil one: the devil.

Tongues make Satan defective when the believers are speaking in the heavenly language.