

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART X
THE GIFT OF SPEAKING IN OTHER TONGUES - Part 1

Text: I Corinthians 12:10d1

Key Word: Tongues

Key Thought: The Seventh Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gift of Speaking in Other Tongues

Since becoming a Christian, I believe that the evening God filled me with His Holy Spirit, was the most significant development in my spiritual growth. It opened the door to a storehouse of blessings as well as opportunities.

I never realized though that there was such an opposition to this Biblical teaching until my mind broadened to understand what others have been taught and believe. As I've studied this doctrine, I have become more convinced that there is absolutely no reason to doubt this teaching, since the Scriptures are so abundant and clear in meaning.

Let us first consider a working definition for The Gift of Speaking in Other Tongues.

“It is a supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit in languages never learned by the speaker – not understood by the mind of the speaker – nearly always not understood by the hearer.

It has nothing whatever to do with linguistic ability nor with the mind or intellect of man. It is the manifestation of the mind of the Spirit of God employing human speech organs.”

Harold Horton
“The Gifts of the Spirit”
p. 132

Before plunging into this matter too deeply, I would like to emphasize that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit along with the subsequent gifts was not something that the Church brought into being. It was and has remained a sovereign act of God. God continues to be the leader and we simply avail ourselves to His will in this matter. It was Jesus who told us,

“ and these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues.”

Mark 16:17

If Jesus wanted His Church to speak in new tongues, there must've been a purpose. [Let's Consider for a Few Moments Some of the Scriptural Purposes of this Spiritual Gift.](#)

1. It was the ONLY Scriptural Evidence that Someone had been Baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1–4; 10:46; 19:6)

The beginning of this spiritual phenomena is a strong defence for why we should stand by this fact. In Acts 2:1–4 there is no doubt that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit came with **“other tongues.”** It was eight years later in Caesarea at the Gentiles received the same outpouring with the same initial evidence (Acts 10:46). Again , 23 years later after Pentecost, the church at Ephesus received the Holy Spirit (Acts19:6) with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues.

The clear implication throughout the book of Acts is that those who received the infilling of the Holy Spirit spoke in other tongues. No other sign was used to clearly identify that the believer had received the precious Gift of God.

2. That Believers May Speak Supernaturally to God (I Corinthians 14:2)

I have yet to meet a sincere Christian who is not had a desire to open his /her heart to God in the level of communication and adoration that could not be quenched by anyone or anything.

“For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries in his spirit.”

I Corinthians 14:2

The Gift of Tongues liberates the communication highway between the believer and God.

“Other tongues will capture the escaping thought, the elusive expression , the inarticulate longing, lending worthy and soul-satisfying utterance to profoundest gratitude and worship.”

*Harold Horton
“The Gifts of the Spirit”
p. 135*

An error often believed is that on the Day of Pentecost the disciples preached the gospel to the foreigners in their foreign language .What actually was taking place was that these newly filled disciples were speaking to God and magnifying His name. This of course, caught the attention of the crowds. At no time were the disciples given a “Crash Course “ to be able to speak in foreign languages for the purpose of preaching the Gospel.

3. That Believers May Magnify God (Acts 10:46)

The group that gathered at the home of Cornelius were there for one main purpose and that was to meet with God and respond to what He had to say to them through the apostle Peter.

“ now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”

Acts 10:33b

We need to again proclaim to all those who love His salvation – LET GOD BE MAGNIFIED. Lets not allow a curse or a lack of praise to adorn our Lord. Jesus the adorable! Jesus the wonderful! Jesus the magnificent! Jesus a beautiful! Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! It takes the Holy Spirit to quicken our vocal cords into songs that reach into our galleries of worship and praise.

No greater unadulterated worship can be surrendered to the Lord than that which is proclaim through the Gift of Tongues. No demon can defile it. No doubt can quench it. No one can interfere with its messages of grander. Indeed God is magnified in Spirit and in truth! Karl Barth referred to tongues as *“an attempt to express the inexpressible.”*

4. That Believers May Edify Themselves

Have you ever had days when you’ve had to speak to your soul to get it out of a spiritual slump?

“ why are you so downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.”

Psalm 42:5,11; 43:5

God has placed the well of refreshing within every Spirit filled Christian that the enemy wants to keep covered. He does not want us to gain from its blessing.

*“He who speaks in a tongue **edifies himself**, but he who prophesies **edifies the church**.”*

I Corinthians 14:4

It should never be our final goal though . It is simply to be a stepping stone to be effective to minister to others.

4. That Believers May Edify Themselves (Contd.)

“Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.”

I Corinthians 14:12

*** I have watched God accomplish both of these acts at one time. A parishioner who had come to one of our services was down both emotionally and spiritually. As the service continued there was a real sense that God was going to manifest His Word through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

I noticed a rich anointing beginning to be poured out upon this woman who had come with great needs. The Holy Spirit began to come alongside her and bear the weight of her burden.

A refreshed woman began to rise up and shortly after that a beautiful message of encouragement came to the congregation. It lifted the hands of those that were hanging down. Our voices began to proclaim in one accord the glory due to the name of the Lord.

Tears of joy begin to flow down the cheeks of those who were surrendering their cares to the Lord. A Spirit of liberty captivated the hearts of the congregation. The aisles began to be filled with those who were experiencing the edification of their tired spirit.

Some were witnessing a beautiful time of quiet communion while others were sensing a need to openly express their freedom. All was done decently and in order. God received the glory.***

5. That Believers May be Tested in Their Obedience to God’s Word (I Corinthians 14:27, 28,32, 33)

In any great move of God there is an opportunity for us to take over. What God starts, we often like to try to add to what He is doing.

“Are you so foolish ? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?”

Galatians 3:3

Spiritual Gifts have often been misused because people do not understand the Scriptures or are unwilling to abide by them. One area of concern is in how many messages in tongues can be given in one service. The Lord gave us His instructions through the apostle Paul.

5. That Believers May be Tested in Their Obedience to God's Word (I Corinthians 14:27, 28,32, 33) (Contd.)

“ if anyone speaks in a tongue, two – or at the most three – should speak , one at a time, and someone must interpret.

28. If there was no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God . . .

32. The spirits of the prophets are subject to the control of prophets.

33. For God is not a God of disorder but a peace.”

I Corinthians 14:27,28, 32,33

People who do not follow these instructions are simply out of order in the church. I don't care how much a person feels God has given an additional message – after three messages in tongues or prophecy or a combination of them - **there must be no more in one service.**

Anything that comes without proper order is to be judged according to the Scriptures.

“Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully (judge - KJV) what is said.”

I Corinthians 14:29

At no time should we accept **“unscriptural freedom”** as being a **“move of God”** when it breaks away from the boundary set within the Word of God.

- Either 3 Messages in tongues\interpretation
- 2 Messages in tongues\interpretation & 1 prophecy
- 1 Messages in tongues\interpretation & 2 prophecies
- 0 Messages in tongues\interpretation & 3 prophecies

Or none at all. No other possibility exists in the Word of God. This is the maximum per meeting of believers. God needs to give us grace to admit our faults and mercy to change from them. There is a bottom line in exercising Spiritual Gifts.

“But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”

I Corinthians 14:40

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Date: Aug 30/20

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: C - Arise, Shine for Thy Light is Come

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3. That Believers May Magnify God (Acts 10:46) - Acts 10:33b

**4. That Believers May Edify Themselves - Psalm 42:5,11; 43:5; I Corinthians 14:4
I Corinthians 14:12**

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(I Corinthians 14:27, 28,32, 33) - Galatians 3:3; I Corinthians 14:40**