

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART XII THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

Text: I Corinthians 12:10f

Key Word: Tongues

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

The gift of Interpretation of Tongues is without doubt entirely from God and to be exercised in the Church to edify, exhort and comfort the people of God.

As is the case with most spiritual gifts, people remember things they've heard which bring accusations against the use of the gift. I've heard how people have come into a service and spoke forth "gibberish" and someone has interpreted it.

** In one service I heard of a young convert giving forth an "interpretation in tongues" that caused most people to begin to snicker.

Everything seemed to be making sense and lined up with the Word of God until the interpreter got excited.

Within a few moments his speech began to quiver and his body shake. The next few words were indeed humorous for the congregation. Speaking on behalf of God he said, *"If this anointing doesn't soon stop, I fear that I even won't be able to stand it."***

There will always be incidences that happen and the enemy will attempt to disregard the truth by highlighting these things. I have never denied that there are sincere people who are guided more by their flesh than by the Spirit of God. This does not deny the fact though that God gave to His Church an authentic outpouring of His Spirit which is still evident today.

The gift of the Interpretation of Tongues is NOT a mental performance but rather a spiritual process.

"Interpretation of Tongues is the supernatural showing forth by the Spirit of the meaning of an utterance in other languages. This interpretation is not an operation of the mind of the interpreter but the mind of the Spirit of God.

The interpretation is just as much a miracle as the original utterance in tongues. Both are utterances equally direct from the mind of the Spirit of God."

Robert C. Dalton
"Tongues Like as of Fire"
p. 105 GPH

I. THE MISCONCEPTIONS OF THIS GIFT

A. It Perfects the Speaker (False) - One of the great misconceptions of this gift is that it instantly transforms the individual being used into a spiritual giant.

"The Holy Spirit conveys the message, but He uses human instruments as the vehicle.

If the individual being moved upon to interpret is timid, poorly educated, or has a speech defect, the utterance will reflect this, but it in no wise obscures the force of what the Spirit has to say."

Richard Dresselhaus
"The Interpretation of Tongues"
Paraclete
p. 11

It is so interesting how God uses human beings with all our flaws and limitations and is able to achieve a divine purpose. This is one gift that unfolds that truth. **Humility must be the driving force behind this gift if it is to accomplish its purpose in the body of Christ.**

B. It is a Translation (False) - I have had people ask me why there is often a big difference in the length of the Message in Tongues compared to the Interpretation of Tongues. Some have expected a word-for-word rendering from one language into another.

We must understand that we are witnessing an interpretation **NOT** a translation of the Message. The Holy Spirit often simplified or added to many verses when they were quoted from the Old Testament into the New Testament.

We must remember that on the Day of Pentecost the 15 different languages that were spoken were done through the Gift of Tongues NOT the Interpretation of Tongues.

"we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

Acts 2:11b

This is not to say that God has not or will not use the Interpretation as a way of giving a translation. **There are many ways of saying the same thing.**

I. THE MISCONCEPTIONS OF THIS GIFT (Contd.)

B. It is a Translation (False) (Contd.)

******* I could simply say that I had quite an adventure while taking my dog for a walk. But I could also elaborate and say, “During the afternoon of April 2, 1995 my household pet named Misty continued to give me indications that she needed to relieve herself. I chose to take her on her leash for a walk around the block. As we turned to go down Branch street heading north we heard the sound of sirens. Our curiosity led us to an adventure. A home located at 1708 Branch had caught fire. We watched as the firemen uncurled their hoses and began to get the flames under control.

We then heard a scream from within the house. One of the firemen, dawned an airpack and rushed toward the open front door. Soon he returned with a young woman who had been overcome by the dense smoke. The ambulance attendants soon arrived and placed an oxygen mask over her face. The surrounding neighbours came to offer any help they could but the fire was quickly placed under control. We quickly went home so I could **INTERPRET** to the rest of my family what I had seen. Upon reading the local paper the next evening I noticed that they had **INTERPRETED** the events slightly different from what I had said” *******

C. It Is Not Necessary with the Gift of Prophecy (False)

1. There would then be No Sign for the unbelievers - True

"Tongues, then, are sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is for believers, not for unbelievers."

I Corinthians 14:22

Without the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues there would be no Gift of Tongues used in a service and therefore no sign given for unbelievers.

2. It Alerts the Congregation that God is About to Speak - True

It therefore, offers time that may be needed to prepare ourselves through a reverent attitude of prayer. Time can often be a critical factor in how effective the Message is to the local body of believers.

I. THE MISCONCEPTIONS OF THIS GIFT (Contd.)

C. It Is Not Necessary with the Gift of Prophecy (False)

3. It Promotes Unity - True

If one person is used to give the Message in Tongues and someone else is used to Interpret, it gives the congregation an avenue for unity to be exercised. I was raised with an expression that the church is "flowing in the Spirit." It keeps the Church alert to becoming involved in edifying, exhorting and comforting.

4. It Provides Opportunity for Further Assurance - True

There have been recorded cases of God using this gift to assure those who doubt its authenticity. There have been recorded times of someone present who understands the language given in Tongues like on the day of Pentecost. They are then very alert as to what the interpretation will be. Once the Interpretation is given it leaves a lasting impression.

It can be and has been used to lead people to the Lord. It can also benefit the one used to Interpret.

*** I will always remember the first time God used me to give an Interpretation of Tongues. I had spent about an hour in the pre-service prayer room. The anointing of God came upon us like waves.

As we walked up the stairs to enter the sanctuary it felt as if the air was electrified with the presence of God. Shortly after the worship began the song leader and musicians felt directed to remain quite before God.

It was at this time that my stomach began leaping with anticipation. A message in Tongues came forth and we waited for the interpretation. I was praying that God would use whoever He chose to interpret the Message. Sharon was praying that God would use me.

All of a sudden it felt like the words were beginning to form in my throat. They seemed like they were moving up my lungs toward my mouth. I was fearful of speaking forth what God was doing. Then I audibly heard my name called out. "BRAD!" I just knew it was the voice of God. No one close to me heard it or called out my name.

The Interpretation began to flow forth and the people were comforted. I was assured that this Gift was from God from that day forward. ***

I. THE MISCONCEPTIONS OF THIS GIFT (Contd.)

5. Preaching is Not Needed because of this Gift - False

Preaching is used for more than just the purpose of edification, exhortation and comfort. The main reason why the Word of God is preached is to lead people into a saving knowledge of God. It is also combined with the gift of Teaching to keep the body of Christ walking in truth.

Preaching edifies Christ. Interpretation of Tongues often edifies the Church from a state of discouragement and possibly depression. The apostles preached everywhere they went. We are not told that they Interpreted Tongues in every service.

Preaching must include the power of God but is not a Spiritual Gift.

"My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power."

I Corinthians 2:4

6. The Gift is Not Needed Because of Preaching - False

"But in the Church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue."

I Corinthians 14:19

The context of what Paul is saying goes back to verse five.

"I would like everyone of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than he who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified."

I Corinthians 14:5

God has many ways to communicate with His Church. He has chosen to use both Spiritual Gifts as well as preaching. Interpretation gives meaning to the utterance of God the same way preaching and teaching can explain certain texts of the Bible.

I. THE MISCONCEPTIONS OF THIS GIFT (Contd.)

7. Every Spirit-Filled Believer Should Interpret - False

We must realize that every Spirit-filled Believer has the POTENTIAL to be used in this gift BUT they may not be. It is God who chooses whom He uses.

"Do all have the gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?"

I Corinthians 12:30

The final choice of whom God uses rests entirely with Him. We are simply told to eagerly desire (covet) the best gifts (I Corinthians 14:1,39).

"and he gives them to each one, just as he determines."

I Corinthians 12:11b

It is within the sovereignty of God that Spiritual Gifts are given. The receiver never warrants the privilege. They are and will remain GIFTS sent by the gracious heart of God to an undeserving Church.

God has and always has had a purpose for Spiritual Gifts. Our hearts should always be open to be used of Him. He must be given the ultimate right to govern the Gifts He gives us. As we all submit to His leadership the Church will fulfill its purpose.

Be open to allow God to change your mind IF you have allowed men's prejudices to sway your understanding of God's Word.

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Date: Sept 13/20 (Beginning 29th yr)

Place: FCA

Time:10:30 Am

Song: Spirit of the Living God (Fill me Anew) - C

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B. It is a Translation (False) - Acts 2:11b

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**1. There would then be No Sign for the unbelievers (True) -
I Corinthians 14:22**

2. It Alerts the Congregation that God is About to Speak - True

3. It Promotes Unity - True.

4. It Provides Opportunity for Further Assurance - True

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I Corinthians 14:1,39; I Corinthians 12:11b**