

Speaking with Tongues

Key Verses:

Acts 2:4 – *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Acts 10:44-46 – *While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. v.45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. v.46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God...*

The Objective:

There are few subjects that excite more curiosity, interest, joy, animosity, and doctrinal debate than "speaking with tongues." In this lesson, we will define the purpose for tongues and describe the two main ways tongues manifest in the church.

Definition:

Speaking with tongues is a supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit in a language or languages _____ to the speaker and not always _____ by the hearers.

Six Scriptural Facts for Speaking with Tongues:

- 1) Speaking with tongues is a beneficial _____ for every born-again believer.

Mark 16:17 – *And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues...*

Jesus said His followers would have power over demons and they would speak in new tongues.

- 2) Speaking in tongues was an important part of the _____ outpouring of the Holy Spirit and it is _____ for all believers.



They _____ began to speak in tongues.

- a) Acts 2:1-4 – *When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. v.2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. v.3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. v.4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
- b) Acts 2:39 – *For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.*
- 3) It is reasonable for a modern day believer to expect a _____ experience when they are baptized with Holy Spirit.
 - a) The same experience occurred many times after the initial outpouring on the Day of Pentecost.
 - b) Peter says of the Gentiles hearing his preaching at the home of Cornelius, “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning” (Acts 11:15).
- 4) The Apostle Paul gave _____ to speaking in tongues.
 - a) Understand that in a church gathering, the apostle valued the gift of prophecy over speaking in an unknown tongue because he wanted all the believers to be edified.
 - b) 1 Corinthians 14:5 – *Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.*
- 5) The supernatural manifestation of tongues is often used as a sign for _____.
 - a) 1 Corinthians 14:22 – *Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.*

- b) When an unbeliever hears a miraculous expression of prayer, praise, or a proclamation in their own known language given by a person who does not speak that particular language, a powerful sign is manifesting.
- c) Acts 2:6-8 – *And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. v.7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? v. 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?'*

Note: Just like today, some heard it and marveled and believed while others doubted and _____ what God was doing (Acts 2:12, 13).

- 6) The church should _____ tongues to operate when God's people are gathering.

1 Corinthians 14:39, 40 – *So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. v.40 But all things should be done decently and in order.*

The Personal Private Use of Tongues and the Public Prophetic Use of Tongues

Note: The New Testament clearly distinguishes between (a) the "gift of tongues" as a public exercise not granted to all believers (1 Corinthians 12:10, 30) and always to be accompanied by an interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:5, 26-33), and (b) the benefits of speaking with tongues "to God" (1 Corinthians 14:2), enabling prayer, praise and worship (1 Corinthians 14:14-18) as well as spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:18-20) and self-edification (Jude 1:20).

1) The Personal Private Use of Tongues

- a) Speaking in tongues is linked to the _____ with the Holy Spirit.
 - i) In Acts 2, all the believers were baptized with the Holy Spirit and they began to "speak in other tongues" (Acts 2:4).
 - ii) In Acts 10, some Gentiles were baptized with the Holy Spirit and they spoke with tongues (Acts 10:46).

iii) In Acts 19, some followers of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit when Paul prayed for them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:6).

b) When a person is praying in tongues, his spirit is _____ to God.

i) 1 Corinthians 14:2 – *For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.*

ii) Speaking mysteries to God is one way to communicate with God beyond the _____ and deeply in the Spirit.

c) When a person is praying in tongues, his _____ man is strengthened.

1 Corinthians 14:4, 5a – *The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. v.5 Now I want you all to speak in tongues...*

Jude 1:20 – *But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit...*

d) Praying in an unknown tongue is a great benefit and _____ gift available to believers in the New Testament church.

1 Corinthians 14:14, 15 – *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. v.15 What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.*

2) The Public Prophetic Use of Tongues

a) In 1 Corinthians chapter 12, there are these nine dynamic gifts of the Spirit: working of miracles, faith, healings, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, prophecy, discerning the spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

b) The prophetic gift of tongues has a _____ gift called the gift of “interpretation of tongues.” These gifts should operate together publically.

1 Corinthians 14:26-28 – *What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. v.27 If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. v.28 But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.*

c) When a tongue is given and interpreted accurately in a gathering, the church is _____.

1 Corinthians 14:5 – *Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.*

Summary - Three Main Points for Speaking in Tongues:

- 1) Speaking in tongues is one of the _____ of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Speaking in tongues is a mysterious language of the Spirit given for personal _____ with God that _____ the speaker.
- 3) Speaking in tongues is a public manifestation of the Spirit and it _____ the church and reaches _____ when it is interpreted by the Spirit of God.

REFLECT

1. Which of the six scriptural facts for speaking with tongues that Pastor Ron listed speaks most to you?
2. How is your prayer language working for you in everyday life?
3. What questions do you have about what it means to be Spirit-filled?
4. After completing this lesson, what questions on this topic are still unanswered for you?

ACT

Select one audio message from the *Life in the Spirit* teaching series on the Holy Spirit by Pastor Ron and listen to it. Share with your group next week which lesson you chose and why. (Feel free to listen to more than one.)