

PRAYER STUDY #115  
**TONGUES: REVISITED**

*And these signs shall follow those who believe: In my name shall they cast out demons; THEY SHALL SPEAK WITH NEW TONGUES; They shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

Mark 16:17

**Two Kinds of Tongues**

1. TONGUES OF MEN: This is when a person speaks in a known language on earth, but the speaker does not know and has not learned the language.
2. TONGUES OF ANGELS: This is when a person speaks in a language that is not known on earth. The speaker cannot interpret that language without an interpreter.

*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:1*

**Tongues : A Sign for Unbelievers**

*Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but to understanding be mature. 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.[Paul is quoting Isaiah 28:11-12] 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. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:20-22*

**When You Need an Interpreter**

*If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. But, if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:27-28*

I think that many who have not experienced the Baptism in the Holy Spirit misunderstand the above passage. Paul is talking about a message given by someone with the Gift of Tongues in the church service, which is interpreted by someone with the Gift of Interpretation. I do not think he is referring to those who pray in a prayer language to themselves and to God outloud(without an interpretation) in the corporate body during corporate prayer times, as is frequently the case in Pentecostal churches where

everyone prays at prayer time outloud in their prayer language. I also do not feel that this applies to a speaker who lays hands on someone and prays in the Spirit, without an interpretation, over a person in a church service. If the contrary was the case, then the Spirit Himself would be violating scriptural principles when He caused all present to pray outloud in other tongues on the Day of Pentecost. Of course, the Holy Spirit would never violate the Word of God.

On the Day of Pentecost when the Spirit was poured out, **all began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance at the same time.** *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared in them divided tongues as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together and were confused because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another. "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God. So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying one to another, "Whatever could this mean?" Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine." Acts 2:1-13*

Again in other instances when people received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in a corporate body, they all spoke outloud with tongues, and this became a sign that they had received the Holy Spirit: *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 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. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Acts 10:44-46*

**Is Speaking in Tongues the Initial Evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?** In most instances of believers in the New Testament being baptized with the Holy Spirit(Acts 2; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:1-3, 6) they spoke in tongues as the initial evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The

scriptures do not say that the Samaritans spoke in tongues(Acts 8:14-17) but there was some manifestation(whether tongues or something else) because Simon the sorcerer **saw** that the Holy Spirit was given by the laying on of hands and offered money to buy this power(Acts 8:18). Also, the Apostle Paul own filling of the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:10-12, 17) does not mention tongues, but Paul later said, “I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all.” 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:5 indicates that all believers **may** speak in tongues for their private life and edification(faith building), but not all have this gift in public worship for use with interpretation(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:30). It seems that all believers can and do have this ability to speak in tongues, if they so desire and ask for it. Some believers do not gain this ability because of fear or prejudice against speaking in tongues or wrong teachings concerning this. I personally believe that some of those who never speak in tongues have been baptized in the Spirit because they have special empowerments such as the Gift of Words of Knowledge or the Gift of Healing which come from being Baptized in the Spirit, but I encourage speaking in tongues for all because of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:4 tells us that *He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself.*

### **Kenneth Hagin’s Reasons for Speaking in Tongues**

1. Tongues are an initial sign of the Baptism in the Spirit(Acts 2:4).
2. Tongues bring spiritual edification(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:4).
3. Tongues remind us of the Spirit’s Indwelling Presence(John 14:16-17).
4. Praying in Tongues is praying in line with God’s perfect will(Romans 8:26-27).
5. Praying in Tongues stimulates faith(Jude 20).
6. Speaking in Tongues keeps us free from worldly contamination(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:28).
7. Praying in Tongues enables us to pray for the unknown(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:2).
8. Praying in Tongues gives spiritual refreshing(Isaiah 28:11-12).
9. Tongues can be used to give thanks(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:15-17).
10. Speaking in Tongues brings the tongue under subjection(James 3:8).

Brother Hagin also says that tongues with interpretation is equivalent to prophecy-i.e., if the utterance in tongues is interpreted so that the church can understand what is being said, then the one prophesying is not greater. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:15-17) And he says, “Of course we don’t want prolonged praying in tongues in the service because unless there is an interpretation,

folks don't know what is said and are not edified. It is all right to pray[in tongues] in the altar service as long as you want, for you go there to be edified. If people in the service are lifting their hands and praying, it is all right to pray in tongues[outloud]. I stand on the platform and pray that way every night. But when the congregation ceases praying, I cease praying. The congregation wouldn't be edified if I went on and on.”

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Ernest B. Gentile put it this way: At Pentecost, when the disciples declared the greatness of God in languages they had never learned, a remarkable, life-changing experience was initiated. The Holy Spirit expressed Himself through them in a dynamic way that bonded the disciples to God and one another-and made the awareness of Jesus excitingly real. This miracle of tongues wonderfully combined both the initiatory act of Holy Spirit baptism with the participation of people.

The gift of tongues is still very much in evidence today. It is not meant to replace normal Christian responsibilities or minimize the importance of the Bible, but it will enhance all the good things of God already in your life. Here are six great reasons for seeking and using this gift:

**Personal evidence.** The Holy Spirit uses tongues as a miraculous, abiding sign. Miracles languages confirm the inner presence of the Spirit by using the body member most dependent on volitional, human intelligence-the tongue(Acts 2:4; 10:44-47; 19:6; James 3:8).

**Praise declaration.** Tongues initiates a prophetic gush of inspired worship and causes the heart to soar in adoration and worship unattainable by human means, creating “the fruit of the lips”(Isaiah 57:19; Hebrews 13:15; John 4:23-24; Philippians 3:3).

**Impetus for the Great Commission.** Tongues reaffirms our call to the nations and the urgency of the Great Commission. The baptism with the Holy Spirit ignites, through various languages, a burning passion to proclaim Christ to every ethnic group(Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-17; Luke 24:47-49).

**Uniform experience.** The expression of tongues at the time of Spirit baptism authenticates the experience as genuine and gives evidence that it is the same as that of believers everywhere. It reverses Babel's curse of separation and instead initiates unity(Genesis 11:7-8; Acts 10:46; 11:15-167; 15:8).

**Spirit-inspired prayer.** The miraculous gift of tongues, which is activated by the Holy Spirit, brings glorious new dimension of prayer into our lives. Though of course we should pray in our native languages as well,

praying in tongues allows us to relate to God through our spirits rather than our minds(see Romans 8:15; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:2; Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20).

**Same-Spirit continuity.** Speaking in tongues authenticates the continuing, abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in both the individual and the body of Christ. Miraculous tongues continue as a convincing witness and evidence of the Spirit of Pentecost wherever the Gospel is preached: “and these signs will follow those who believe...They will speak with new tongues”(Mark 16:17)

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Another theologian wrote, “A common evidence of the Holy Spirit baptism is release of our tongue to speak in tongues, an unlearned heavenly prayer language(Acts 2:4; 10:45-47; 19:6). All of us can release our tongue to God’s (“groanings”), perhaps a word or two, but don’t let Satan convince you you’re making up the sounds. Open your mouth and begin to speak, trusting the Spirit to bring forth His language from your inner being: “They began to speak as the Spirit gave them utterance”(Acts 2:4). This release of the Spirit of God through your tongue(the bridle of the body-James 3:2), will help release the Spirit to flow through you with other gifts of God’s power.

When you are unsure of God’s will and don’t know how to pray, the Holy Spirit can take over and strengthen your inner person: “The Holy Spirit helps us with our daily problems and in our praying. For we don’t even know what we should pray for, nor how to pray as we should; but the Holy Spirit prays for us...and the Father who knows all hearts knows, of course, what the Spirit is saying as He pleads for us in harmony with God’s own will” (Romans 8:26-27). “...build up your lives even more strongly upon the foundation of our holy faith, learning to pray in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit” (Jude 19).

## **SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES TO TONGUES**

**Mark 16:17:** And these signs shall follow those who believe: In my name shall you cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues....

**Acts 2:3-4:** And there appeared unto them cloven tongues as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

**Acts 2:11:** ...we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

**Acts 10:46:** For they heard them speaking with tongues and magnify God....

**Acts 19:6:** And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:8-10:** For to one is given, by the Spirit, the word of wisdom; to another, the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another, faith by the same Spirit; to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another, the working of miracles; to another prophecy, to another, discerning of spirits; to another, various kinds of tongues; to another, the interpretation of tongues.

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:28-31:** And God hath set some in the church: first, apostles, second prophets, third teachers; after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversity of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts, and yet show I unto you a more excellent way.

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:1:** Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:8-10:** Love never fails, but whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:5:** I would that ye all spoke with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied; for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:6:** Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues[without an interpreter], what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation or by knowledge or by prophesying or by doctrine?

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:18-22:** I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all; yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. Brethren, be not children in understanding; however in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not; but prophesying served not for them that believe not, but for them who believe.

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:23:** If, therefore, the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:39:** Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.