

A Biblical Understanding of Tongues

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



OVERVIEW

Establish a biblical basis for Tongues, and develop the distinction between the various kinds of tongues referenced in Scripture, and their uses/purposes.

The Gift of Tongues

READ 1 Cor. 14:1-19

Understanding the Gift of Tongues

The Gift of Tongues as Described in 1 Cor. 12 & 14

- Given as the Holy Spirit wills, to some believers, for the purpose of building up the body of Christ and **serving** other believers.
- This is a 'Gift' for use in a Public Setting
- A believer receives a spiritual message in another language, designed to edify someone else, or a group of believers.

Understanding the Gift of Tongues

A Few Parameters of Use given in 1 Cor. 14

- When a message is given in Tongues, it must be interpreted in order for the Body to be edified
- The interpretation usually comes through another believer who is gifted in that way.
- If no interpretation is forthcoming, Paul says the believer should pray for the interpretation him/herself.

Understanding the Gift of Tongues

A Few Parameters of Use given in 1 Cor. 14

- If no interpretation is forthcoming, and the person does not receive the interpretation, Paul says that person should 'speak to himself and God.' (1 Cor. 14:28)
- Tongues like this are to be a sign to unbelievers (1 Cor. 14:22)
- Paul reminds the Corinthian believers that tongues should not be glorified above other gifts.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Tongues

Reminders Regarding the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit is a person not a thing.
- The Holy Spirit is a member of the Godhead, and is equally self-existent and eternal in both directions.
- Upon Salvation, every believer in Jesus Christ receives a deposit of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 8:11, Eph. 1:13-14)
- The Holy Spirit is given to every believer as a gift of empowerment so that we may serve the purposes of God with our lives.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

- We believe that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues, was the **normative** experience in the early church.
- Acts 2:4 - The Day of Pentecost
- Acts 8:14-20 - the Samaritans
- Acts 9:17 - Saul of Tarsus
- Acts 10:44-48 - Cornelius' house
- Acts 19:6 - the Ephesians

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

- The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate and subsequent experience from salvation. (Acts 2:4) (DRAW ON BOARD)
- Speaking in tongues as a 'Gift' is different from speaking in tongues as the 'evidence' of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is *available* to all believers. (Luke 11:13, 1 Cor. 14:5)
- The Gift of Tongues is available to some believers as the Holy Spirit determines.

The Different Kinds of Tongues

- **PUBLIC TONGUES** - This is a 'Gift' of the Holy Spirit, given to certain believers, for the edification of the church. This 'gift' is not available to all believers, but is distributed as the Holy Spirit determines, in the same way that the other 'Gifts of the Spirit' are distributed. (1 Cor. 12:7-11)
- **Purpose:** to strengthen and edify other believers, must be interpreted
 - This is a 'Corporate' gift for use in the church

The Different Kinds of Tongues

- **PRIVATE TONGUES** - This is a private gift, available to ALL believers, and comes with a heavenly prayer language, designed to deepen your intimacy with the Father. The form of tongues is the resulting evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- **Purpose:** to strengthen and edify yourself
 - This is a 'Personal' gift for use in your private prayer times

NOTE that Paul exhorted the Corinthian Believers to 'not forbid speaking in tongues.' - 1 Cor. 14:39

Charting the Differences

GIFT OF TONGUES

For Some Believers

For use Publicly

Edify the Body

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT TONGUES

Available to ALL Believers

For use Privately

Edify Myself

Positioning Yourself to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

- Right **Belief** - having faith in God that it is real and that He wants to do this in your life
- Asking & Seeking - Luke 11:9-12
- **Waiting** on God - Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-4
- Surrender
- Life of Obedience

Possible Hindrances to Receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

- **Unbelief** - Matt. 13:58
- Lack of Faith - Heb. 11:6
- Lack of Understanding
- Lack of Humility
- Lack of **Hunger**

QUESTIONS??

Other Aspects of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (from 1 Cor. 14)

- A. Speaking in tongues is communication with God not man (v. 2)
- B. Speaking mysteries in the spirit (v. 2)
- C. Speaking in tongues brings personal edification (builds up spiritually). (vs. 3-4)
- D. Tongues in the church should be interpreted. (v. 6)
- E. Primary use of tongues is for personal prayer and edification (v. 12)
- F. When you speak in tongues your spirit is praying. (v. 14)
- G. When you speak in tongues you are giving thanks to God. (v. 17)

Other Aspects of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (from 1 Cor. 14)

- A. Paul was grateful for the ability to pray and worship in tongues. (v. 18)
- B. Tongues are a sign to unbelievers not believers. (v. 22)
- C. Tongues are to be used with Biblical guidelines (vs. 23 & 27)
- D. It doesn't matter what we are comfortable with but what God's Word says. (vs. 36-40)
- E. Paul's final word on the use of tongues in the church was that we not forbid it! (1 Cor. 14:39)