

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

“Tongues Are for a Sign”

Scripture Reading: 1 CORINTHIANS 14:20-25

-) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDE 7-9**. Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 10**. Today we will conclude my teaching in this sermon series on Understanding Spiritual Gifts. This is week #10 in this series. I have titled today’s message “*Tongues Are for a Sign*” (v22).
-) **SLIDE 11**. The six SIGN gifts. In the Scriptures, these gifts will always be identified as signs. None of the other Spiritual gifts are referred to in that way. Signs were necessary to validate the message and the messenger. These gifts were miraculous and they were valid only throughout the apostolic age.
-) **SLIDE 12**. Today we will cover the final two SIGN gifts; the gifts of Tongues and the Interpretation of Tongues.
-) **SLIDE 13**. We see this gift of tongues mentioned once in the Gospel of MARK (16), 3x in the Book of ACTS (2, 10, 19), and in 1COR chapters 12 and 14. First, let’s look at the Book of ACTS. ACTS 2:1-4.
-) We clearly see that there were those who were gifted by the Holy Spirit to speak in tongues.
-) **SLIDE 14**. What was happening with this gift? ACTS 2:5-11.
-) **SLIDE 15**. A tongue is simply a **LANGUAGE** of another country. Listen, we can keep this whole lesson on tongues simple (which it is), or we can complicate it to outrageous proportions as the Pentecostals have done.
-) **SLIDE 16**. 1 CORINTHIANS 14:22.

-) After Paul says all that he says about tongues and prophecy in the first 20 verses of chapter 14, he conclude all that with this verse. And this is all we need to know. Tongues are a sign.
-) **SLIDE 17**. Tongues are a **SIGN** to unbelievers. The message of salvation was confirmed by signs, wonders, and miracles.
-) **SLIDE 18**. We know that the gift of tongues as seen in ACTS 2 was indeed miraculous. But how does this gift of tongues point anyone anywhere? 1 COR 14:21. The apostle Paul quotes ISAIAH 28:11,12. So what does that mean?
-) If we go back to ACTS 2 what do we see? We see that the apostles, who were Jews, were speaking in their native language, which was Aramaic, and unbelieving Jews were hearing the apostles in their own native language.
-) Mike, how do you know they were unbelieving Jews? Why were they there? For the Jewish feast of Pentecost. Jews attend Jewish feasts. Gentiles do not. How do I know they were unbelievers? Because 3,000 of them got saved that day.
-) So what this prophecy is saying is that the Jews would hear the mighty works of God in a Gentile language. What? That can't be. The Jews believed that God would only speak to Jews in the language of the Jews which was the Hebrew (Aramaic) language. What was this that was happening?
-) It was a sign of judgment on Israel. Why? Because when the apostles spoke at Pentecost in all those foreign languages, the Jews should have known that the judgment prophesied by Isaiah was about to fall on them again for their rejection of who? Jesus.
-) Therefore, since the prophetic judgment is against an unbelieving Israel, the purpose of tongues is for a sign to unbelieving Jews. And that is why it was used in a mighty way by God on the day of Pentecost. Now you know and understand the real reason for speaking in tongues.

-) But that is not what we see on TV and hear about today, is it? Today people speak gibberish and claim they are speaking a private prayer language to God. In reality they think it makes them closer to God or some kind of super-Christian.
-) Do I agree with all this? No. I don't agree with any of it. So today I am going to give you 16 reasons why I do not believe in modern-day tongues nor do I believe what we hear and see today is a PPL. I will be looking at this from a historical perspective, a Biblical perspective, and a logical perspective.
-) **SLIDE 19**. #1. I teach reformed theology and reformed theology teaches Cessationism. Cessationism says that the miraculous gifts ceased after the apostolic age around 100 AD.
-) **SLIDE 20**. #2. A common practice among the Gentile pagans in the 1st century was ecstatic babbling in unknown languages founded in the pagan mystery religions.
-) **SLIDE 21**. MATT 6:7-8.
-) **SLIDE 22**. #3. Between 100 AD and 1900 there is very little if any documented instances of speaking tongues and no instances of Christians praying in a PPL.
-) **SLIDE 23**. But in 1901 a man by the name of Charles Parham, a Methodist minister, wanted to resurrect this long lost gift. He was seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit so he could speak in tongues.
-) Parham believed in annihilation (explain). He was associated with the KKK, he believed that interracial marriages caused the flood of Noah, and he did not believe black people could be sealed as part of the bride of Christ.
-) In the summer of 1907 Parham was arrested in San Antonio, Texas, on a charge of sodomy. But yet ~ 656 million people follow the movement he started.

-) **SLIDE 24.** #4. It seems like many in leadership positions within this movement, particularly those that can be seen on TV, come up short with other basic theological truths. When these people tell me that I can, by faith, bring something into existence because I am a little god, and that God cannot do anything here on earth without our permission through prayer, then I also question their theology behind speaking in tongues.
-) **SLIDE 25.** #5. Some people in the P/C movement believe that speaking in tongues is necessary for salvation. They must not understand that spiritual gifts are given to believers as the Holy Spirit determines (1COR 12:11).
-) **SLIDE 26.** #6. The Bible often commands us to pray. PHIL 4:8 (in every situation). 1THESS 5:17 (pray continually). 1TIM 2:1 (pray for all people). I am never told to pray in a PPL.
-) **SLIDE 27.** #7. If a PPL is self-edifying as they say and used to build one up, then it would seem to me it should be found in more books of the NT than just in 1COR 14. But it is not.
-) **SLIDE 28.** #8. If a PPL is so powerful and effective, then why don't we all do it? The only way we could all do it is if tongues was not a spiritual gift. But tongues are a gift so apparently many people like myself will never be able to experience the power of a PPL
-) **SLIDE 29.** 1CORINTHIANS 12:30. This verse clearly states that not everyone speaks in tongues.
-) **SLIDE 30.** #9. Tell Peggy story. For many, this gift can very easily puff one up with pride. And we all know that pride is not a part of the Christian walk.
-) **SLIDE 31.** #10. There are countless websites and YouTube videos of people who will teach you how to speak in a PPL.
-) One YouTube video is titled "*How to Speak in Tongues Like a Pro.*" In another video Reverend Sonja will step you through why you need to speak in tongues and exactly how to do it.

-) **SLIDE 32.** #11. A university professor was speaking with a MDTs. The professor told the man that he spoke in tongues but could not interpret what he was saying. So the professor asked the man if he could interpret the tongues he was speaking. The man answered that he could.
-) The professor began to speak in tongues. When he had finished he asked the man what it was that he had said. The interpreter told the professor it was a prophetic revelation of how he would be changing universities and become a very influential person at the top of the administration in the new school. The professor then told the man that he just recited the Lord's prayer in Greek.
-) **SLIDE 33.** #12. John Crowder. All MDTs will agree that tongues is an unintelligible language. John Crowder speaks in tongues. When he speaks in tongues he oinks like a pig. I suppose that falls into the category of unintelligible.
-) **SLIDE 34.** #13. If I am going to pray to God, I prefer to use English. I understand what I am saying. You understand what I am saying. And the last time I checked, God understands English. And up until now it has worked every time.
-) **SLIDE 35.** #14. Those who support this as a PPL will say they pray this way because Satan cannot understand these tongues and therefore cannot interfere with what is being said.
-) **SLIDE 36.** #15. In the instructions of how to speak in tongues I must first empty my mind to allow the Spirit to speak through me. Empty my mind? Sounds New Age doesn't it? As a Christian the last thing I want to do is empty my mind so anything and everything can find its way in and make itself at home. Do these people realize how dangerous this is?
-) **SLIDE 37.** ROMANS 12:2. Our minds need to be renewed not emptied and disengaged.

-) **SLIDE 38.** #16. If I am going to use my spiritual gifts, it will never be for the purpose of edifying myself. I will always use my gifts to edify you and the body of Christ. And so will you.
-) **SLIDE 39.** But many tongue-speakers will say that 1COR 14:4 clearly states that those who speak in a tongue edifies himself. And wouldn't that be a good thing? Let's look at that verse.
-) **SLIDE 40.** What are the first three rules of Scripture interpretation? Context, context, context. What three truths have we already established in previous messages?
-) **SLIDE 41.** 1 COR 14:4. This verse 4 is not a statement of praise and affirmation from Paul. It is a rebuke because some at the church in Corinth would rather edify themselves than edify the church.
-) **SLIDE 42.** Well, that's all I have for now on understanding Spiritual gifts. There's so much more that could be said. Here they are. Check and exes.
-) If anyone ever tells you that they speak in tongues, ask them this. "*The Bible says that tongues are a sign. What are they a sign of?*" I guarantee they will say something about a private prayer language enhancing their relationship with God and therefore self-edification. But you know that tongues are a sign of judgment against an unbelieving Israel. Period. AD70.
-) Next Sunday my friend Chance Massey will be here. Chance was born and raised in the Pentecostal / Charismatic Church. Several years ago he defected from that religious system. He will share with us his story of how he saw the error in that system and started following the truth. There will be a Q&A after his testimony.

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