

Theme: The gift of tongues is the enablement of believers by the Holy Spirit to speak in a language they have not learned and do not understand.

I. Intro – Confusion Over Tongues

- A. No topic is more controversial than tongues
- B. Tongues have been a major source of strife
- C. What does the Scripture say about tongues?

II. What Are Tongues?

- A. The word “tongues”
 - 1. γλῶσσαι - tongue or language (Acts 2:3,4,11)
 - 2. The gift refers to language
 - 3. They are real human or heavenly languages
 - a. Acts 2 – real human languages
 - b. 1 Corinthians 13:1 – Heavenly languages
- B. Speaking in a language I did not learn or understand
 - 1. 1 Cor 14:13-14 – pray to interpret; unfruitful
 - 2. Aaronic benediction – not tongues- I studied this!
- C. Speaking in a language not understood
 - 1. Others do not understand it (vs 16-17)
 - a. 1 Cor 14:2 – no one understands
 - b. Acts 2 only time they did
 - c. Not a gift for preaching to tribes!!!

2. Contrasted with the mind (vs 14-15)

- a. The mind is not the source of the words
- b. This does not mean a mindless trance!
- c. Language provided by the Spirit (Acts 2:4)

3. This does not mean it is ‘ecstatic’!!!

- a. Many use this term – not in Scripture
- b. Not my experience – no more than normal prayer

D. A language of prayer, praise, and blessing to God

- 1. Tongues are spoken to God – not men (vs 2)
- 2. Tongues used to pray to God (vs 14-15)
- 3. Tongues used to bless/praise God (vs 16)
- 4. Tongues used to give thanks to God (v16-17)

E. A language that can build up believers

- 1. The speaker is built up by tongues (vs 4)
- 2. Self-edification good – quiet time; prayer etc
- 3. The hearers can be – if interpreted (vs 5)

III. The Spirit & Tongues – **BE VERY BRIEF**

A. Tongues related to the promise of the Spirit (v14)

1. Promise & fulfillment (Acts 2:16-18)
 - a. Peter said Pentecost fulfilled Joel 2
 - b. Tongues related to this fulfillment
 - c. Tongues & prophecy – Spirit inspired speech
2. The promise repeated (Acts 10:44-46; 19:6)
 - a. Tongues accompanied Spirit in both cases
 - b. Also likely in Acts 8; Acts 9
 - c. Corinth – though not mentioned in Acts 18
3. The promise continued (Acts 2:38-39; history)
 - a. This promise available to all God calls
 - b. No hint part of promise will cease
 - c. Continued throughout history – esp. 1900's

B. The relation between tongues and the Spirit

1. Tongues are not THE evidence of the Spirit
 - a. This is sadly the chief focus of tongues
 - b. Tongues are not a sign for believers (vs 22)
 - c. This was the problem in Corinth
2. Tongues are speech provided by the Spirit

a. This is the real blessing of tongues!!!

b. I speak as the Spirit gives utterance (Acts 2:4)

IV. Conclusion & Summary

A. Do we understand the gift of tongues?

1. The Scripture gives a LOT of information
2. We need to look carefully at what it says
3. Don't be put off by differing opinions

B. Do we desire the gift of tongues?

1. Spirit and gifts not academic exercise!
2. We are told to zealously desire gifts
3. Tongues are a wonderful gift from God
4. We should expect them to be widespread
5. Tongues & prophecy part of New covenant

C. Do we respond to the gift of tongues?

1. How do we respond when God brings this gift?
2. They are normal part of church life
3. They are normal part of our individual walks
4. My personal experience with tongues

D. Seeking the Spirit and His gifts - communion

What Is the Gift of Tongues?

1 Corinthians 14:13-19

September 13, 1998

Communion

Romans 15:13

³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to **speak in other tongues** as the Spirit enabled them....¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs-- **we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"** Acts 2:3-4, 11

²For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. **Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.**
1 Corinthians 14:2

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit **and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.** Acts 2:4

²**For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God.** **Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.**
1 Corinthians 14:2

⁴**He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself,** but he who prophesies edifies the church. 1 Corinthians 14:4

⁵I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than **one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.**
1 Corinthians 14:5

¹⁶No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Acts 2:16-17

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹**The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off-- for all whom the Lord our God will call."** Acts 2:38-39