

Theme: The main use of the gift of tongues is for private worship and prayer, and as we use this gift we are built up in our faith so that we can better serve God and others.

I. Paul and Tongues - Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde?

- A. The story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
- B. Is Paul schizophrenic about tongues?
 - 1. Negative – 1 Cor 14:16-19
 - 2. Positive - 1 Cor 14:18
- C. The key: public versus private use of tongues
 - 1. “Negative” statements – uninterpreted public
 - 2. Positive – private prayer, interpreted public
- D. This week - the private use of tongues
- E. Next week – the public use of tongues

II. What is the Gift of Tongues? (Review)

- A. A language the speaker did not learn
- B. A language not understood by the speaker of those hearing the speaker
- C. A language of prayer, praise, and blessing to God
- D. A language that can build up believers
- E. Tongues and prophecy are part of the New Covenant promise of the Gift of the Spirit
- F. They are not an evidence of being Spirit filled or mature – but are a real blessing to be sought

III. Is the Gift of Tongues for Private Use?

- A. Paul prayed in tongues in private
 - 1. Paul prayed in tongues a lot (vs 14-15; v18)
 - 2. He did not do it in a public meeting (vs 19)
 - 3. He must have prayed in private!
 - 4. Why the Corinthians thought him unspiritual?
- B. What if no interpreter? – pray privately (v28)
 - 1. The issue here is intelligibility in the meeting
 - 2. Tongues are fine if the meeting is interpreted
 - 3. If not – pray quietly or in private (vs 28)
- C. This proves there is a private use for tongues
 - 1. Paul used & prefers them in private
 - 2. If no interpreter – pray privately
 - 3. There is private, uninterpreted tongues

IV. Why Should I Pray in Tongues in Private?

- A. The general nature of tongues makes them useful
 - 1. Tongues are a gift from God
 - a. Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 12:10-11
 - b. Paul thanked God for tongues (14:18)
 - 2. Tongues build me up in my walk with God

- a. I am built up when I pray in tongues (vs 4)
 - b. True even though I don't understand!
 - c. Paul prayed in tongues a lot (vs 18)
3. Tongues bless and thank God (v16-17)
- a. They are another way for me to bless God
 - b. Meaningful part of my communion w/ God
- B. Tongues an integral part of praying in the Spirit
1. Tongues related to praying in Spirit
- a. 1 Cor 14:14-15 – Spirit praying through me
 - b. Romans 8:26-27 – Tongues part of this
 - c. Jude 20 – Tongues part of this too (14:4)
 - d. Eph 6:18 – all kinds of prayers (mind & spirit)
2. This is an integral part of spiritual warfare!!
- a. Allow me to pray when I don't know how
 - b. I am built up as I pray in tongues
 - c. Allow me to do warfare in Spirit
 - d. Others pray too – but this really helps!

V. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see that tongues are a good gift of God?
- 1. They are a gift of the Spirit
 - 2. They build us up in Christ

- 3. They let us praise and bless God in Spirit
 - 4. Should be a wonderful part of time w/ God
- B. Do we see that tongues are a private prayer language?
- 1. This is the main use of tongues in Scripture
 - a. Paul's main use (exclusive?) use of tongues
 - b. Paul main desire for believers - private use
 - 2. This will be the main use today
 - a. Public must be interpreted
 - b. Only 2 or 3 can use publicly in a given meeting
 - c. We can do in private & receive benefits
- C. Do we receive and use the gift of tongues?
- 1. God does not force this gifts (or any) on us
 - 2. Acts 2:4 – Spirit enables – we pray
 - 3. Don't think of trance or ecstasy – unbiblical
 - 4. Great variety of ways – hands laid on; privately, etc.
 - 5. No forcing, not a test – a wonderful gift!
- D. Receiving the Spirit and His gifts

The Gift of Tongues for Private Prayer

1 Corinthians 14:13-19

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Come Holy Spirit

Ephesians 1:17-19 Paraphrase

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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

¹⁰ ... to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Corinthians 12:10-11

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

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. Romans 8:26-27

²⁰ But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Jude 20

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18