

Theme: When spoken for others to hear in public worship, tongues must be interpreted so that others may benefit from the prayer, blessing and praise to God.

## I. What is the Gift of Tongues? (Review)

- A. A language the speaker did not learn
- B. A language not understood by the speaker or 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
- G. Remember the distinction between the private and public use of tongues – key to 1 Corinthians 14

## II. Key Rule for Public Use - Interpretation

- A. They **must** be interpreted (vs 27)
- B. The speaker must pray for interpretation (vs 13)
- C. If no interpretation – pray quietly to God (vs 28)

## III. The Meaning of Interpretation

- A.  $\delta\epsilon\rho\mu\eta\nu\epsilon\acute{\upsilon}\omega$  - explain thoroughly (vs 5, 13, 27; Acts 9:36; Lk 24:27)
  - 1. Can mean “translate”
  - 2. Can mean “explain” – not word for word

## B. A dynamic equivalence/paraphrase translation

- 1. Gives the gist of the meaning
- 2. We are not translating Scripture here!!!

## C. Interpretation should be in form of speech to God

- 1. Tongues speech to God (v2, 14, 16)
- 2. Always in NT (Acts 2:11 ESV; 10:46)
- 3. Our practice has often missed this
- 4. We should interpret in form of speech to God

## IV. Why Public Tongues Must Be Interpreted

- A. If not – believers are not edified (vs 4-5, 17)
  - 1. I am edified – but you are not (vs 4, 5, 17)
  - 2. Why gather – I can edify myself at home
- B. If not – unbelievers miss God (vs 21-25)
  - 1. Discuss the general situation of this text
  - 2. The meaning of sign
    - a. A sign of God's attitude towards someone
    - b. Can be either positive or negative
  - 3. Isaiah 28:9-11
    - a. Unbelieving Jews mock Isaiah's words
    - b. God will speak so they can't understand
    - c. A sign of judgement!!!

4. The result: hardening and judgement
  - a. Unbelievers will not understand God's Word
  - b. This will leave them hopeless & hardened
  - c. They will think you are out of your mind!!

C. Purpose of gathering – edification & outreach

1. We are to edify other believers
2. We clearly proclaim Word to unbelievers

**V. Applying the Word**

A. Do we understand the public use of tongues?

1. If used in public they must be interpreted
2. Otherwise do not edify believers
3. Even worse, harden unbelievers in sin
4. Public use means spoken for others to hear
5. Think of praying in a foreign language

B. Do we understand interpretation?

1. It can be literal or just give meaning
2. It should be form of prayer, praise, thanksgiving
3. Ask God to use you this way
4. Describe ways of interpreting - and relax!

C. Do we desire the word gifts?

1. We want the word to dwell richly in our midst
2. Many ways - reading, teaching, prophecy, tongues
3. Christ has provided all of this for His people

D. Communion - receiving Christ's gifts to us

The Gift of Tongues for Public Use

1 Corinthians 14:1-5; 26-28

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Communion

Ephesians 1:17-19 paraphrase

1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. 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. 3 But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I 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 14:1-5

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- Remember distinction between private and public use of tongues – key to 1 Corinthians 14

13 For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue **should pray that he may interpret** what he says. 1 Corinthians 14:13

36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when **translated**, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. Acts 9:36

27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he **explained** to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Luke 24:27

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.... 14 For if **I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays**, but my mind is unfruitful... 16 If **you are praising God with your spirit**, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say "Amen" to your **thanksgiving**, since he does not know what you are saying? 1 Corinthians 14:2,14,16

11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians--**we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.** Acts 2:11 ESV

46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, Acts 10:46

4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I 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 14:4-5

9 "Who is it he is trying to teach? To whom is he explaining his message? To children weaned from their milk, to those just taken from the breast? 10 For it is: Do and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule; a little here, a little there." 11 Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people, Isaiah 28:9-11