

“Speaking in Tongues” FAQ Handout

Why Speak In Tongues?

- 1 Cor 14:2,14-15 - It allows you to speak directly to God, spirit to Spirit, bypassing the limits of your intellect
- 1 Cor 14:4 - It edifies you (strengthen, build up, restore)
- 1 Cor 14:6 - It can be a catalyst for other gifts to come to you, including divine revelation
- Rom 8:26 - It gives you a way to pray when you don't know how or what to pray for.
- Eph 6:18 - We are instructed to do so as a part of spiritual warfare
- Jude 20 - It builds your faith
- Mark 16:17 - Jesus said we would
- Paul's opinion on speaking in tongues: 1 Cor 14:5, 18, 39

What kinds of things are we saying when we are speaking in tongues?

- Praise - Acts 10:46, 1 Cor 14:15-17
- Prayer - 1 Cor 14:15, Eph 6:18
- Proclamation/Declaration - Acts 2:11, 1 Cor 14:2

What is the difference between "prayer language" (Baptism in the Spirit) and tongues/interpretation (gift/manifestation of the Spirit)?

Many times the difference can be seen by asking either of the following the questions:

- "WHO are you talking TO?"
- "Who is INITIATING the speaking"

"Prayer language" received at your Baptism in the Spirit:

This is your spirit talking to God using your vocal ability to speak out loud in a language you do not know (1 Cor 14:2,14). Usually, this is initiated by you, and you are talking to God, not other people. You can do this any time you want to. It is a tool for you to use as often as you like. We are encouraged to do this very often (Eph 6:18)

The "Spiritual Gift of Tongues" as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit:

This is not something you can do any time you like. This is only when the Holy Spirit decides that He wants to do this, and He will grant you the honor of participating in what He is doing. (1 Cor 12:7-11). When this is in operation, it is usually one of two things:

1 - The Holy Spirit is talking to the people through you, using your vocal ability as you choose to cooperate by faith. When combined with the gift of Interpretation of Tongues, it is just like prophesying (1 Cor 14:26-28, 1 Cor 12:7-11). A message from God is delivered to the people.

2 - The Holy Spirit is praying for the people through you, using your vocal ability as you choose to cooperate by faith, and it comes out in a language you do not know or understand.

Questions?

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