

June 27, 2021

## Holy Spirit: The Gift of Tongues

The Holy Spirit has given us the gift of tongues to strengthen us, give us direction, speak to others, pray with, release God's will, fill us with the Spirit, and magnify God. It is a wonderful and powerful gift, so why are people afraid of it? These are the last words of Jesus before He ascended into Heaven:

**Acts 1:8** *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.* -Jesus

**Acts 2:1-4** *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them **divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.** 4 **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.***

"Divided tongues" implies 2 tongues or languages. There are 2 words used for "tongues" in the NT:

**Tongue;** Strong's #1100, *glossa*, (gloce-sah'); a language (especially one not acquired through your own effort). The Bible refers to this as an "unknown language" between man and God.

**Tongue;** Strong's # 1258 *dialektos*, (dee-al'-ek-tos); discourse, dialect, language. A discourse in a verbal interchange of ideas.

**Acts 2:5-13** *And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them **speak in his own language.** 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these **who speak Galileans?** 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our **own language** in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs — we hear them **speaking in our own tongues** the wonderful works of God." 12 So they were all **amazed and perplexed**, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" 13 **Others mocking said**, "They are full of new wine."*

Right from the very start, the gift of tongues was **mocked**, because people did not understand it. Perry Stone's father spoke at least 3 different foreign languages he was never taught. Pat Tucker in South America speaking Spanish and was never taught the language.

The Apostle Paul warns us about being **ignorant** about spiritual issues. Many Christians are ignorant because of 3 main reasons: 1) not knowing because of a lack of knowledge, 2) because we chose to avoid something we don't understand and 3) sometimes we are ignorant because of the traditions we were taught (religious doctrines and opinions of man).

**Mark 7:13** *making the word of God of no effect through your **tradition** which you have handed down. And many such things you do."*

Many Christians are ignorant about the gifts of the Spirit because they never studied and read the Scriptures and much of their opinion is based on what other Christians have said or was taught to them. Religious traditions replaced the Word of God.

**Ignorant;** Strong's #50, *agnoeo* (ag-no-eh'-o); not to know (through lack of information or intelligence); to ignore (through disinclination). **Disinclination;** Webster; a preference for avoiding something.

Paul starts off his discord about the Spiritual Gifts with a warning about **being ignorant** and then finishes this discord two chapters later with: "*But if anyone is **ignorant, let him be ignorant.***"

I believe Paul is saying if someone is willingly ignorant about the gifts of tongues or any other spiritual gift, it is ok. Just let them be ignorant and don't argue with them. But, it is very concerning when **cessationists** attack those who believe and operate in the gifts and go as far to say "They have the doctrine of demons and are leading people to Hell."

**1 Cor 12:1-11** *"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be **ignorant**:"* Paul goes on to list the gifts: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healings, miracles, prophecy, discernment, **tongues** and interpretation of **tongues**.

2 Chapters later:

**1 Cor 14:36-40** *Or did the word of God come originally from you? Or was it you only that it reached? 37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if anyone is **ignorant**, let him be ignorant. 39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and **do not forbid to speak with tongues**. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.*

One of the most apparent signs of receiving the Holy Spirit is the gift of tongues, but it is not automatic, nor is it essential to being filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 2:3** *And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and **began to speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

**Acts 10:44-46** *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the **gift of the Holy Spirit** had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they **heard them speak with tongues** and magnify God.*

It is especially useful when we do not know God's will for a situation or what to pray and we cannot speak words in our own language and understanding.

**Rom 8:26-27** *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which **cannot be uttered**. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

We can pray in tongues and then pray with understanding;

**1 Cor 14:13-16** *Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue **pray that he may interpret**. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.*

When Paul wraps up teaching about the spiritual gifts in 1 Cor chapter 12, 13 and 14 he concludes with a warning to not forbid speaking in tongues, but to do all things with decency and in order.

**1 Cor 14:39-40** *Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.*

It will help keep us in the love of God as we speak to Him with His Spirit in us

**Jude 20-21** *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

**Acts 8:17** *Then they **laid hands on them**, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

These believers in Samaria were saved, but did not have the revelation of the Holy Spirit in order to **receive** Him.

**Received**; Strong's #2983 *lambano* (lam-ban'-o); to get hold of; obtain, take, attain, accept.

**Acts 19:5-6** *And when Paul had **laid hands on them**, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they **spoke with tongues** and prophesied.*

First we must be **born again** in order to receive the Holy Spirit into our spirit. Then we *lambano* or "take hold" "receive" the Holy Spirit.