



# THE GIFT OF



# TONGUES!



## 5 Types of Tongues

*Don't be confused, if you think there is only one type or usage of the Gift of Tongues for today, you will be mixed up and disoriented about this gift of the Spirit. Distinguishing the various manifestations of this gift and who they are available to will help you navigate some of the tricky portions of Scripture and hopefully avoid being discouraged and frustrated.*

## Public Ministry

The public usage of the *Gift of Tongues* is not a ministry that every Believer is called to demonstrate. Do not confuse the public use of Tongues to give a message and the private or personal use of Tongues for one's own uplifting, which is available to all Spirit-filled Believers. This is where confusion around 1Cor12:29-30 comes from, which is a reference to one specific usage of the *Gift of Tongues*. The public ministry of Tongues is given to whom the Spirit wills.

**1) sign to unbelievers** - Act2, 1Cor14:22 - speaking a previously unknown earthly dialect/language by the Spirit... this is an evangelistic tool and is for public ministry or possibly missions... this is why on the day of Pentecost people were so impressed that "ignorant/untrained men" could speak so well & boldly

### Historical Example:

A little later the readers of the "Record" (*N.Z. Christian Record*, 14Apr1881, p.11) would be curious, if not startled, to read the following testimony under a bold heading - The Gift of Tongues.

The article went on to describe a Miss Read, a missionary who was largely blessed among the heathen and Muslim women of Punrooty in Southern India, and had for some time been speaking in the Tamil tongue, and when she asked the Lord for the gift of speaking Hindustani, the tongue of the people she was ministering to, the following is her testimony in her own words "The power came to her as a gift from God and she was soon able to preach and pray without waiting for a word.

Those who heard her could only say it was a gift from above."

from *A History of the Charismatic Movements in New Zealand*, p.82

**2) tongues for congregational interpretation** - 1Cor14:5 - speaking a heavenly language by the Spirit, to be interpreted (vs translated) by the Spirit for the edification (building up) of The Church. To be done in a church gathering setting, a message for The Body. Paul puts special priority on interpretation and orderly conduct of *this* specific aspect of the gift of tongues (1Cor14:27, 1Cor14:40)

**3) corporate worship** - Acts2, Acts10 - can tongues be used corporately, collectively and cooperatively? **Yes**, in the NT we see Messianic Jews and Believing Gentiles speaking in tongues together, bringing praises to God as a group. This would appear to be available to any Believer who has received the gift of tongues on any level, joining in group praise of God together in tongues, without (it would seem) interpretation. In Acts19:6 there is no mention of interpretation within a group of new Believers where Tongues is manifested. This must be weighed against Paul's support of interpretation (1Cor14:13) which seems specific to a message for the Church. Order, respect & self-control seem to be Paul's priorities with Tongues (1Cor12-13)!

## Personal Walk

This usage of Tongues is available to every Spirit-filled Believer [Mark16:17, 1Cor14:5], as opposed to the public manifestation for presenting a message via interpretation, which is given as the Spirit wills to whom He wills.

**4) groanings/tongues for intercession** - Rom8:26, 1Cor14:2 - the Spirit prays through us and for us with groanings; in a situation where we don't know 1) what or 2) how to pray for a specific circumstance.

**5) personal prayer language** - 1Cor14:4, Jude1:20 - for your edification (literally = "to build you up"). Often referred to as *Praying in the Holy Spirit*, this is the use of an earthly or heavenly language that a Spirit filled Believer can use in prayer to be built up and encouraged.

## Why should Believers speak in tongues? \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) We can communicate with God in a way that He & we can understand. (1Cor14:2, 1Cor14:14-15)
- 2) Many interpret 1Cor13:1 as referring to a Believer's ability to speak to angels!
- 3) It overcomes the limitations of our perspective and understanding. (Rom8:26-27)
- 4) It *edifies* or builds me up. (1Cor14:4, Jude1:20)
- 5) Increases our ability to bring thanksgiving, praise & worship. (1Cor14:14-17)
- 6) It strengthens our faith. (1Cor14:26)
- 7) Reveals hidden counsel/mysteries of God. (Prov20, John7:37-39, 1Cor2:4-13, 1Cor14:2)
- 8) It gives us rest and brings refreshing. (1Cor14:21, Isa28:11-12)
- 9) It brings power! (Acts all of chapter 1-2, note Acts1:8)

## How do you receive the Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

- The Gift of Tongues is available to all Believers! Mark16:17, Acts2:18, 1Cor14:5
- There is a "sign" that accompanies being filled with the Spirit (Acts2:33 "...see and hear", Acts8:17-18 "...saw"). This specific sign appears to be *implicit* rather than *explicit* in the text.
- The Gift of Tongues (often accompanied by Prophecy) is a consistent sign of being filled with the Spirit. **Expect this!** (Acts2:4, Acts10:44-46, Acts19:6)
- Ask the Father in Jesus name. Believing He is good and He will do it!  
Luke11:10-13 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup>What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; <sup>12</sup>or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
- You receive Him (the Holy Spirit is not an "it") **by faith**, not effort. His filling and power are a gift, not a wage. (Acts2:38)
- You must step out in faith and open your mouth to speak in the gift God has promised you (Psalm81:10). It is done in cooperation with your will (1Cor14:32), it is not an act that "takes control of you" and makes you do it... this is not the Lord's way. He is gentle and a gentleman.
- Most importantly... **Stay Hungry**. "... earnestly desire the best gifts" - 1Cor12:31

This was largely summarised from **John Bevere's** teaching "*Intimacy with the Holy Spirit*", available on 

**Further Reading:** "*Concerning Spiritual Gifts*" - Donald Gee; "*Baptism in the Holy Spirit*" - Randy Clark

*"Now I want you all to speak in tongues..." - Paul, the Apostle*