

Holy Spirit - Tongues

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I. Introduction.

- A. The main passages for the gifts are Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4.
- B. The gift to be sought after most is prophecy.
- C. Since people can get emotional about this subject it is important to always be steady. (2 Timothy 1:7)
- D. God has given us what we need to know in the Bible.
- E. We do not need to fear the Bible of the Holy Spirit - only take time with them.

II. Tongues.

A. Two places of reference: Acts 2, 8, 10, 19, 1 Corinthians 12-14.

- 1. There is a difference between the tongues of Acts 2 and 1 Corinthians 14.
- 2. In Acts 2 they were understood languages and in 1 Corinthians 14 no one understood.
- 3. In Acts 2 they spoke to men and in 1 Corinthians 14 they spoke to God.
- 4. In Acts 2 there was no interpreter needed unlike in 1 Corinthians 14.
- 5. In Acts 2 all spoke in tongues, whereas in 1 Corinthians 12 only a few spoke.

B. The purpose of the two different tongues.

- 1. In Acts 2 the tongues were a sign that Jesus had been glorified. They were signs for unbelievers.
- 2. In Corinthians the tongue was for a believer edifying himself by speaking to God in private or in the church if an interpreter was present.
- 3. There is no reason to believe that any of the gifts have ceased today with the exception of apostleship by virtue of its definition.
- 4. There are various kinds of tongues: of men and of angels.
- 5. Those who speak in tongues do so because it is sovereignly given. It is not a prerequisite for salvation.

C. Observations on tongues.

1. If one could not control whether he spoke in tongues, it would not be logical that one is commanded to stop in Scripture at certain times.
2. The speaker would not forbade tongues in private because it is a gift, Paul said he wanted believers to do this, and Paul thanked God that he spoke in tongues more than all of the believers.
3. Tongues is not necessarily a sign of spirituality nor Christian conversion - other religions use them. Abuse does not mean they are however not to be used.
4. It is important to maintain a balance about tongues and not flaunt the gift.
5. It is dangerous to induce speaking in tongues.
6. A ministry may forbid tongues if it is aside from its particular calling.
7. Other dangers: fanaticism and a hard heart, overemphasizing the gift at the Giver's expense, thinking one is more spiritual because he has a gift or two, counterfeits by Satan, disobeying the rules set aside by Scripture, and not recognizing the difference between the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit.
8. One cannot interpret the Bible by experience. He must interpret experience by the Bible.

Application questions

1. What is a proper view to hold concerning the gifts of the Spirit? Why is it important to not make the gifts the heart of any ministry?

2. Why speaking in tongues not necessarily evidence of a Christian's spirituality?

3. What is your belief about the issue of tongues? How would you approach someone who disagrees with you in light of this message?
