

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Gift of Tongues

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Now we come to the second Utterance Gift. This Gift is called the Gift of Tongues. There's lots of confusion and even ridicule concerning this precious Gift of the Holy Spirit. This should not be so. This Gift is clearly outlined in the Bible.

Think about this. There is only one subject in all of Scripture that has an entire chapter devoted exclusively to it. That is the subject of other Tongues. The entire fourteenth chapter of First Corinthians teaches on no other subject but the speaking with other Tongues. If this subject is that important to Holy God, no one should ever oppose it for any reason. Those who do, find themselves opposing Almighty God.

The Gift of Tongues is a supernatural utterance inspired by God and spoken in an unknown, Heavenly language, or at least a language that is unknown to the speaker. Some have been known to speak other earthly languages, which they were not trained in. However, speaking in an unknown Heavenly language is most often the case.

This Gift came into the Earth on the Day of Pentecost. Pentecost means "Fifty." The Day of Fifty came fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead. On that day there was a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit, which was promised by Jesus. (John 7:37-39; 15:26; 16:7; Acts 1:8) At that time the Earth was filled with the roaring sound of a tornado. People came running from every direction to see what was happening in Jerusalem. When they arrived they found that 120 of Jesus' Disciples were engulfed in Holy flames of fire and were speaking in languages they had never spoken in before. (Acts 2:1-4)

Everything written in the Book of Acts is a blueprint for the New Testament Church of all ages. Therefore, the pattern the whole Church should follow is to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and speak in supernatural Tongues.

One may ask, "Well then, why do so many Believers reject this supernatural experience?" The Prophet Isaiah answered this question about 800 years before it was even asked.

"For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. ...This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear." (Isaiah 28:11,12)

Many who truly love Jesus regretfully reject this experience as Isaiah prophesied they would. Such an unfortunate indictment of Holy Scripture!

Through this Gift one may commune with God in ways that only God understands. It is actually the Holy Spirit praying through the Believer. (1 Corinthians 14:2; Romans 8:26-28) I always say, "If the Holy Spirit is allowed to pray through an individual, that prayer will never go unanswered."

This Gift was vitally important to the Apostle Paul. He said, "I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also." (1 Corinthians 14:15)

He also said, "I thank my God I speak with tongues more than ye all." (1 Corinthians 14:18)

If Paul spoke that much in other Tongues we should all take the hint and at least incorporate some praying in the spirit (Tongues) into our daily praying with our understanding.

Through this Gift one can confidently pray during a crisis when they would not know how to pray otherwise. Again, the Holy Spirit is actually doing the praying through them. (1 Corinthians 14:2; Romans 8:26-28) He knows all things and, therefore, knows exactly where one's faith needs to be directed when the Believer does not.

This Gift in operation also brings joy and wisdom to the Believer who yields to it during times of confusion, depression or sorrow. Although one certainly does not have to be confused, depressed or sorrowful to pray in other Tongues, receiving its benefits. For decades I have prayed in Tongues under my breath off and on during the day just to keep my spiritual battery charged up and energized. (Jude 20) It really works!

If you are Born Again, ask God to baptize you with the Holy Spirit as evidenced by the speaking with other Tongues. You'll find help receiving this precious Gift of God by clicking on "Receive the Holy Spirit. One Good Thing Leads to Another."

There is an operation of the Gift of Tongues that is for use only in the Believer's private and corporate prayer life. There is another operation of the Gift of Tongues that is a special and a separate Gift that is intended for use only in public gatherings.

We will briefly touch on how to interpret both kinds of Tongues in the tenth and final lesson of this series, "The Interpretation of Tongues."