

Speaking in Tongues and the Gifts of the Spirit

Mandy Kistner- 2/10/08

Introduction:

- Let's ask the Lord for understanding concerning the gift of tongues and an impartation of His heart as a generous, loving God. **Prov. 2:3-7**- *"Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright..."*
- Speaking in tongues is a stumbling block. It separates the religious from the radical. It is the most debated spiritual gift in the entire Bible. It is offensive to the intellectual mind. Ask the Lord for spiritual understanding not just human wisdom concerning this wonderful gift.

The Basics of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

1. **Matthew 3:11**- *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."***Acts 1:5**- *"for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

- This is where the term "baptism of the Holy Spirit" comes from. It is a promise to believers that we will be immersed in the Holy Spirit. ("Baptizo" is the Greek word for baptize and means to immerse, submerge or to dip repeatedly).

2. **Luke 24:49**- *"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."* **Acts 1:4**- *"And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me."*

- The baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is also referred to as "the Promise of the Father." Jesus told His disciples in John 16 that when He departs from the earth that He will send the Holy Spirit to us and that is to our advantage that Jesus goes so the Holy Spirit can come. Even Acts 1:8 says, "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." The Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses and gives supernatural boldness to us! The Holy Spirit was promised by Jesus to not only dwell with us but to be IN us (John 14:17).

3. **Acts 2:1**- *"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled*

the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

- On the day of Pentecost, 120 believers were waiting in Jerusalem for what Jesus spoke about as "the Promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4). They were in an upper room and "continued with one accord in prayer and supplication..." (Acts 1:14). Then the Holy Spirit showed up as it describes in Acts 2:1.
- When the Holy Spirit was poured out, believers began to speak in tongues. That was the sign that they were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

4. Acts 3:33- *"Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."*

- Unbelievers both heard and saw the evidence that the Spirit was poured out, because the believers spoke in tongues.

5. John 14:12- *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."*

- Jesus also promises that we will do the works that He did as well as do greater works that Jesus did. Why? Because Jesus has gone to His Father... meaning He can now send the Holy Spirit to us!

Every believer can speak in tongues and flow in the supernatural gifts:

1. Mark 16:17-18- *"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*

- There is one requirement mentioned here to flowing in the supernatural. The requirement is to believe in Jesus! Therefore **ALL** believers can speak in tongues. It is available to all who believe. Those who have the Holy Spirit in them can flow in the supernatural gifts. However many will never flow in these gifts because of hindrances, such as unbelief, being taught against it, not desiring the gifts, etc.
- When you ask, you shall receive. If you truly have a desire for this gift, you will ask the Lord, and He will bless you with it. God is a generous God. He doesn't limit the gifts He gives. He loves to bless His people.

2. 1 Cor. 14:5- *"I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied..."*

- Paul is talking to the Church of Corinth and is expressing his desire for everyone to speak in tongues and to prophesy. Paul is conveying the message that **ALL** of the church can speak in tongues and prophesy if they desire it.

3. 1 Cor. 14:1- *"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy."*

- Paul also tells the church to desire spiritual gifts. God doesn't play games. Why would He tell us through His messenger, Paul, to desire that which we can't have? He tells us to desire the gifts, because He wants us to understand that we can have them.

- We are not only encouraged to desire spiritual gifts and prophecy, but to pursue love. God is love. He is the Author of it, and love is what is at the very core of His divine Being. We must pursue the Author of love as we pursue the spiritual gifts. When we do so, we won't become ignorant in our theology concerning the gifts of the spirit. God will help keep us on track as we make it our aim to pursue Him and do all things in the spirit of love, including operating in the gifts of the Spirit.

4. **1 Cor. 14:31-** *"For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged."*

- Paul also tells us that all believers can prophesy too! God is so great and generous! He even tells us that

we will do greater works than what He did when He was on the earth (John 14:12). What is greater than raising the dead or healing a blind eye or seeing radical conversions? We will do greater works. God is a limitless God. Let's take Him out of the box we have created for Him, and let's see with eyes of faith and believe that His supernatural power can work through weak human vessels like us.

Speaking in Tongues (in a church service / not in a church service):

1. **1 Cor 12:28-30-** *"And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?"*

- Look at the context of this passage. In those verses, Paul is talking about public ministry gifts that are manifested in the church. He is not talking about tongues as the initial sign of the baptism of the Spirit, nor is he talking about tongues as a devotional, private, prayer language. Not every person who speaks in tongues will give a message in tongues in front of a congregation. Not all will interpret or work miracles in a church setting either. However, that does not negate the fact that the gifts of the Spirit are for ALL who believe (Mark 16:17).

2. **1 Cor. 14:39-** *"Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues."*

3. **1 Cor. 14:23-** *"Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?"*

- This is why in the church setting where there is a large number of an unbelievers or uninformed believers who don't understand the gift of tongues, it should not be done. There are different expectations that individuals have when coming to church services verses attending a prayer meeting. People pray at prayer meetings. Our focus is upward – on God. Therefore we pray in tongues liberally because we pray to God not to man. The expectation of a church service is that the Word of God is preached and that there is

order. However, that doesn't mean that we should quench the Holy Spirit and forbid Him from moving in power and pouring out His Spirit.

4. **Acts 2:4-** *"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

- There was 120 believers gathered together in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost having a prayer meeting and waiting for "the promise of the Father," which is referred to as being "baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:4-5). The Day of Pentecost came and the Holy Spirit showed up in their prayer meeting, and they began to speak in tongues in their meeting. "They were ALL filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues..." (Acts 2:4). This is the Word of God. They weren't concerned about having people interpret during their prayer meeting and neither was God. The Holy Spirit was being poured out in a powerfully glorious way! He came as it was promised to them! Then a crowd showed up and some people heard them speaking in their own language. However, there were some who didn't understand the tongues, and those were the ones who became offended. Those onlookers made fun of the disciples and accused them of being drunk (Acts 2:13); this clearly shows that they did not understand the tongues. There was no interpretation there, and the Lord didn't rebuke the joyful 120 believers for speaking in tongues without interpretation. They weren't in a church service, but in a prayer meeting. God was overflowing with joy that they received the precious gift He desired to give them.

Why Pray in Tongues?

1. To edify ourselves.

- **1 Cor. 14:4-** *"He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church."*
- **Jude 20, 21-** *"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."*
 - Speaking in tongues builds you up in your inner man. It causes a supernatural process on the inside that builds faith. We must speak in tongues in faith, believing that we are truly building ourselves up and faith is being produced. Sometimes it may feel like nothing is happening and that you are aimlessly chattering. But POWER is being released from the inside! We must believe!

2. We are in holy competition with the Apostle Paul. ☺

- **1 Cor. 14:18-** *"I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all."*
 - Okay, really we are called to imitate Paul, who spoke in tongues more than all the Corinthians and they were a church proud of their gifts and especially of speaking in tongues. The majority of God's people with a significant healing ministry like John G. Lake or Smith Wigglesworth testify that speaking in tongues was a very important key to their ministry.

3. Speaking in tongues helps God get control of our tongues.

- **Psalm 12:3-4**- *"May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaks proud things, who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail; our lips are our own; who is lord over us?"*
 - When we yield our tongue to Jesus, He becomes the Lord over us. Those who refuse to yield their lips / tongue / speech to God, become the lord of their own lives which is very dangerous. We yield our tongues to God when we speak in tongues. This is a good habit to get into, since the tongue is by nature the most unruly member of our bodies, the most dangerous and the hardest to control. (James 3:8).

4. We are speaking God's divine secrets.

- **1 Cor. 14:2**- *"For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries."*
 - Sometimes we can get so hung up on the fact that we can't understand what we are saying when we are speaking in tongues. However, God understands perfectly and that is what really matters.

5. We are speaking the wonderful works of God.

- **Acts 2:11**- *"Cretans and Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own tongue the wonderful works of God."*

6. To pray perfectly.

- **Romans 8:25-27**- *"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 groaning which cannot be uttered. 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."*
 - The Holy Spirit in us helps us pray, and that could include praying in English or praying in tongues. The only way we can be sustained to speak in tongues is by the power of the Holy Spirit. When we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to pray, we are praying the perfect will of God into existence.

7. It enables us to pray without ceasing.

- **1 Thess. 5:17**- *"pray without ceasing."*
- **1 Tim. 2:8**- *"I desire that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."*
 - Let's constantly be in the spirit of prayer. Let's have faith and not doubt that Jesus is faithful to answer our prayers.

8. To receive POWER from on High!

- **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.”*
 - After the disciples received the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4), they were supernaturally emboldened. Read the book of Acts, and you will find numerous times where those who were baptized in the Holy Spirit spoke with boldness or had supernatural courage as well as moved in powerful signs and wonders.
 - Three thousand believers were added to the Kingdom of God on the Day of Pentecost! The Holy Spirit was moving in power! He convicted sinners and choose to use weak human vessels to accomplish His purposes, and a multitude got radically saved that day! (Acts 2:41). Glory to God! 😊