

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sermon: Spiritual Gifts, Part 4, Gift of Different Kinds of Tongues
Scripture Text: Acts 2:5–13
06/29/2014

Quote: When you speak to loud others cannot hear what you say.

Acts 2:5–13 (NKJV) ⁵ 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.”

1 Corinthians 12: 10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, *to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*

We have covered briefly:

1. The Word of Knowledge
2. The Word of Wisdom
3. The Gift of Prophecy
4. The Gift of Faith
5. The Gifts of Healings
6. The Working of Miracles
7. The Discerning of Spirits

Today we will look at two more Spiritual gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:10 **to another *different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.***

I started out to close the teachings on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit today ending with these last two. As it so often happens, I am afraid that in doing so there may be too many questions left unanswered. What some call the gift of speaking in tongues has become so ingrained, controversial, misunderstood and confusing that I must take a little more time than planned to cover it. Even still I will only be touching the surface and hopefully a little beneath the surface. There will remain a lot more information than I will cover.

My goal is not to discredit those that say they speak in ecstatic speech but as your pastor to remove as much ignorance on the subject and teach what God's word says about it as best I can.

Keep in mind that the series we are studying this year is the Holy Spirit not so much the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Too often we focus on the gifts and not the giver.

As you know by now that I do use a lot of different resources to develop my messages. The foundation and the primary resource is the Word of God. On the topic of "Speaking in Tongues"

I found what I consider to be the best work on the subject that I have ever read. The information provided is not so much different than what other commentaries and teachers are saying but the presentation and coverage to me is unequalled.

There is one statement that caused me to continue reading the material and that statement says. "So, what is the real truth about tongues? Can we go by experience and feelings or do we go by the Word of God? The only way to find the truth to these questions of course has to be the Bible and the Bible alone. There is no other way. Everything we need to know for our Christian walk can be found in the Word of God and if not clearly taught in God's Word, then we should not follow it lest we be deceived."

If you have known me in the ministry for any time you will know that I feel the same exact way. I thank God for leading me to this resource.

Resource is: <http://www.speaking-in-tongues.net/index.html>

To begin with let us try and define what we are talking about. There are two entirely different understandings of the term "speaking in tongues". One understanding is to mean speaking in a different "known" language and the other is the speaking in an "unknown" tongue, AKA angel tongue or prayer language. The second is tied together in that the language is a special language that only comes from the Holy Spirit and can only be spoken by a believer gifted by the Holy Spirit and not everyone can understand it.

Note that speaking in tongues is also known as glossolalia, Definition - glos·so·la·li·a - [glos-uh-ley-lee-uh, glaw-suh-] noun - incomprehensible speech in an imaginary [language](#), sometimes occurring in a trance state, an episode of religious ecstasy, or [schizophrenia](#).

What really is this "Spiritual Gift" from the Holy Spirit?

Our Foundation passage for the first set of Spiritual gifts recorded in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. says: **1 Corinthians 12: 10 (NKJV) ¹⁰...to another different (various), kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.**

"TONGUE" - 1A the language or dialect used by a particular people distinct from that of other nations.¹

That is why the NLT translates that verse to read:

1 Corinthians 12:10 (NLT) ¹⁰ ... Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said.

If there is any rock-solid foundation that refers to "speaking in tongues" is it in our focus passage for today. In that context it can only apply to speaking in a different known language.

Throughout recorded history there have been many occasions where people have spoken in what was called ecstatic tongues going back as far as 1100 B.C.

Several of the mystery religions of the Greco-Roman world record the same phenomenon of speaking in tongues. Some of those most often listed are the Mithra cult of the Persians; the Osiris cult originating in the land of the Pharaohs, and the lesser

¹ Strong, J. (2001). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

known Dionysian, Eulusinian, and Orphic cults cradled in Macedonia, Thrace, Greece and others.

Speaking in tongues (Ecstatic utterance) as seen in the Church today is a fairly recent phenomenon in Christianity. The 1st wave started around 1901 and was founded in the traditional Pentecostal movement by Charles Parham of Bethel College, Kansas.

Tongues as we see it today did not come about as a result of studying the Bible. It just out of the blue happened. It is *not* uniquely a Christian practice by any means. Various studies have revealed that speaking in tongues is present in non-Christian religions all around the world.

I will use only the word of God to cover this gift. I believe that the Holy Spirit gave this gift to the early church as a sign gift to authenticate the messenger and the message as well as to edify the body not the individual.

Right before our focus passage begins, we read in:

Acts 2:1–4 (NKJV) ¹ *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.*

Day of Pentecost. “Pentecost” means “fiftieth” and refers to the Feast of Weeks (*Ex. 34:22, 23*) or Harvest (*Lev. 23:16*), which was celebrated 50 days after Passover in May/June (*Lev. 23:15–22*). It was one of 3 annual feasts for which the nation was to come to Jerusalem ²

Christians were in a room in to receive the promise of Christ.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) 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.*”

To be His witness to the end of the earth would require them to witness in the language of those at the end of the earth (other nations that spoke different languages).

This gift was made necessary back in *Genesis chapter 11* as read in our responsive reading in part.

That need also ties in with the great commission *Matt 28*

Matthew 28:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

The gift to speak in multiple languages that were unknown to the Apostles was sorely needed.

What progress could have been made if they spoke in a language that only God and angels would understand?

² *The MacArthur Study Bible*. 1997 (J. MacArthur, Jr., Ed.) (electronic ed.) (1634). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

The wisdom of this gift was born out in our focus passage.

V6 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?

The following verses list the different countries verifying that they heard the gospel in a "KNOWN" language.

Hearing the Gospel in their own "tongue" spoken by Galileans got their attention.
V12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?”

Speaking in a different "tongue"/ language by supernatural means was a sign gift.
1 Corinthians 14:22 (NKJV) ²² Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers...

As a sign gift, it was to authenticate the messenger and the message. It was also used to authenticate the early church believer.

In Acts chapter 10 we read where the Holy Spirit prepared a meeting between Peter and Cornelius, a Gentile, and his household. Peter preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them and the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word" (Acts 10:44). The Jews with Peter were astonished because the Gentiles began to speak with tongues and magnify God.

This passage is sometimes used to justify the need for a Christian to speak in "Tongues" to verify that they have received the Holy Spirit. The tongues they refer to is "**glossolalia**", **ecstatic speech**.

Now if this form of speaking in tongues is a gift from the Holy Spirit then why are some churches giving classes to its' members to teach them how to speak in tongues. Sounds to me like they are taking the Holy Spirit out of the equation.

Was their speaking in tongue in the form of "ecstatic speech". In *Acts 11*, Peter returns to Jerusalem and is reprimanded by the brethren and APOSTLES for being among "uncircumcised men.

Peter recounts the events leading up to that meeting and tells what happened after.
Acts 11:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning.

What beginning? The day of Pentecost of course when they spoke in tongues (languages) unknown to them.

He drives that point home.

*Acts 11:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ If therefore **God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?**"*

I surmise that the "tongues spoken by the gentiles was not tongues of an ecstatic nature, so that weaken the argument that a true believer having the Holy Spirit should be able to speak in "tongues".

Don't let anyone tell you that you have been short changed by the Holy Spirit. Every believing Christian is given Spiritual Gifts and not all are given the same ones. Christ love us all the same.

1 Corinthians 12:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Message Scriptures: **Acts 2:5–13, 1 Corinthians 12: 10**, *Acts 2:1–4, Ex. 34:22, 23, Acts 10:44 Lev. 23:16, Lev. 23:15–22, Acts 1:8, Genesis chapter 11, Matt 28:19, 1 Corinthians 14:22, Acts 11:15, 1 Corinthians 12:11.*

END

Speaking in Tongues

Throughout recorded history there have been many occasions where people have spoken in what was called ecstatic tongues. Note most of these accounts predate Pentecost and were of non-Christian origin. Christians therefore cannot say with confidence that every occurrence of glossolalia must be an expression of the will of God even though many do subscribe to this view.

Tongues as we see it today did not come about as a result of studying the Bible. It just out of the blue happened. It should be of extreme concern to all Christians, because as already shown, it is not uniquely a Christian practice by any means. Various studies have revealed that speaking in tongues is present in non-Christian religions all around the world.

Some Christians believe that speaking in tongues is the fulfilment of the Latter Rain promised in Joel 2:28-29 and that it is the final manifestation of the Holy Spirit before the Second Coming of Christ. It is also commonly taught that you have not received the Holy Spirit and are not fully saved unless you have demonstrated the gift of tongues and it seems to be the only sought-after gift in the Church today

See: <http://www.bible-speaking-in-tongues.com/history-ecstatic-tongues.html>

The following are a few scriptures used to support this belief.

Mark 16:17 “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;”

Mark 16:20 “And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.”

Acts 10:46 “For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,”

1 Corinthians 12:30 “Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?”

*1 Corinthians 13:1 (NKJV) “**Though** I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.”*

*1 Corinthians 13:1 (NIV84) **If** (NIV, ESV, NLT, NAS) I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.*

1 Corinthians 13:8 “Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.”

"What Is the Spiritual Gift of Interpreting Tongues?"

Along with the gift of [speaking in tongues](#), another spiritual gift mentioned in the list found in [1 Corinthians 12:10](#) is the gift of interpreting tongues. The gift of interpreting tongues is the ability to translate a foreign language into the language of the hearers. The gift of interpreting tongues is always alongside the gift of speaking in tongues. It is a separate gift, but it is always used in conjunction with the gift of speaking in tongues.

A person with the gift of interpreting tongues could understand what a tongues-speaker was saying even though he did not know the language that was being spoken. This is what distinguishes the spiritual gift from the natural gift of being able to understand and speak a variety of languages. The tongues interpreter would then communicate the message of the tongues speaker to everyone else, so all could understand and benefit from the truth being spoken. The tongues were known languages, not ecstatic utterances. According to the apostle Paul, and in agreement with the tongues described in Acts, speaking in tongues is valuable to the one hearing God's message in his or her own language, but it is useless to everyone else unless it is interpreted/translated. Paul's concern is edification of the church ([1 Corinthians 14:5](#), [12](#)).

Paul's conclusion regarding tongues that were not interpreted is powerful: "But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue" ([1 Corinthians 14:19](#)). There is no benefit to others in hearing something they cannot understand. More importantly, there is no benefit, and much harm, done in churches where the speaking and interpreting of a tongue brings forth that which does not line up with Scripture or which cannot be verified in Scripture.

Paul was also concerned about order in worship. His concern was that everything is done for edification of the church. He goes on to say that there should only be two or three speaking in a tongue and one should interpret. If there is no interpreter present, then one should be quiet ([1 Corinthians 14:26-28](#)). The temporal nature of the gift of tongues assumes that the gift of interpretation of tongues was also of a temporal nature. If the gift of speaking in tongues were active in the church today, it would be performed in agreement with Scripture. It would be a real and intelligible language ([1 Corinthians 14:10](#)). It would be for the purpose of communicating God's Word to a person of another language ([Acts 2:6-12](#)), and it would also be in accordance with [1 Corinthians 14:33](#), "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

<http://www.gotquestions.org/gift-interpreting-tongues.html>