

## THE GIFT OF TONGUES

**Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:27-31; 14:1-40**

**Introduction:** There is much division today among Churches over "tongues." Some Churches major on "tongue speaking" while others avoid even teaching about tongues. The Holy Spirit nor His gifts were ever given to cause division among believers. When the gift of tongues is abused and divisive, then something is very wrong. Sin has come into the body of Christ. Just what is the gift of tongues all about?

### I. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT TONGUES

1. "Glossolalia" is mentioned in the New Testament in only two of the books: *Acts and 1 Corinthians*.
2. *Acts* describes the Pentecost events:
  - A sound of violent wind and tongues of fire upon everyone.
  - Everyone filled with the Holy Spirit.
  - All spoke in KNOWN tongues.

### II. "UNKNOWN" TONGUES ARE FIRST MENTIONED IN FIRST CORINTHIANS

1. Corinthian tongues were different from that described in Acts.
2. For the Corinthian tongues, interpreters were required.
3. Not every believer spoke in "unknown" tongues.
4. Tongues IS NOT the sign that one has been baptized with the Holy Spirit.
5. "Charismatic" is a term used today to describe those who speak in tongues and means "grace-gift."
  - Every believer has been given a "grace-gift" and is therefore also "charismatic."
6. Every believer will receive a DIFFERENT gift.

### III. A LOOK AT THE GIFT OF TONGUES

1. Pentecost tongues were different from the Corinthian tongues and the tongues of today.
2. Tongues is a gift OF the Holy Spirit and not a FRUIT for every believer bears the same fruit.
3. Corinthian tongues is clearly one of the less important gifts of the Holy Spirit.
  - It doesn't benefit anyone except the one speaking in the tongue.
4. Tongues is not necessarily a sign of the baptism of the believer into the body of Christ.

5. The gift of tongues may easily be abused and dangerous:
  - Causes spiritual pride, divisiveness, pre-occupation, can be taken as a short cut to spiritual power and maturity and it is easily counterfeited.
6. Tongues is a means of privately praising God.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. There is a real, genuine gift of tongues - sometimes it is temporary, sometimes it is permanent.
2. God uses tongues at certain times in certain places, such as mission frontiers, etc., as well as in established Churches.
3. Prophets prophesied that in the last days the Holy Spirit would manifest Himself in unusual ways.
4. Tongues is not to cause division as any of the other gifts are not to cause division either.