



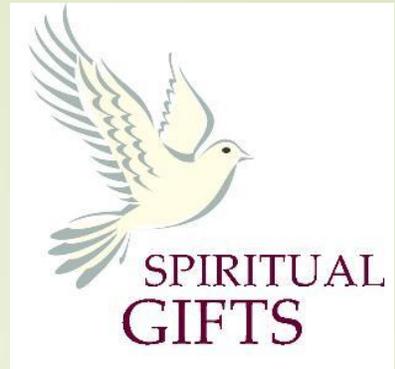
Spiritual Gifts #5

The Gift of Tongues and the Interpretation of Tongues



What We Have Learned So Far...

1. These are **spiritual** gifts from God (1 Cor. 12:1, 4) given by His **grace** (Eph. 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10)
2. They are for **all believers** in the church (1 Peter 4:10; 1 Cor. 12:7, 11, 18) to **perform functions** in the church (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-20)
3. They are neither **fruit of the Spirit** (Gal. 5:22-23) or **natural talents**
4. There are **4 lists** in the New Testament (Romans 12:6-8; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; 28-30) and each of them have their own theme



Support Gifts and Service Gifts

- In Ephesians we see Paul focus on the **support gifts** as the foundation of the church—apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers
- In Romans Paul mainly focus on the **service gifts**

With Hands	With Heart	With Mind
Giving	Faith	Leading
Serving	Exhortation	Teaching
Helping	Showing Mercy	Administration

- **Sign gifts**—to **authenticate** God's messenger through signs and wonders (2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:4)
- They would **cease** one day (1 Cor. 13:8-10)
- The gift of **miracles**—supernatural power from God
- The gift of **healings**—to authenticate God's messenger through healing
- Healing is **not guarantee** before our body resurrection, nor does every Christian will stay healthy every day
- God can heal at any time even without a faith healer. Nevertheless, God is **good** and has a **perfect plan** for us that may not include perfect health

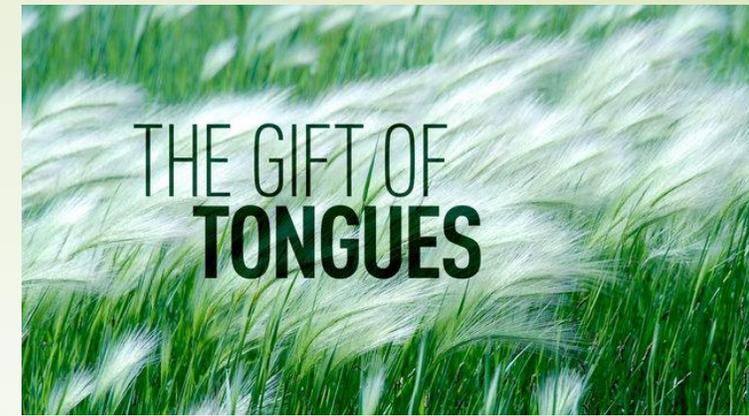


The Gift of Tongue and the Interpretation of Tongue



- These appears as the **least** important gifts (1 Cor. 12:28). The reason God spent an entire chapter on them is not because they are more important, rather because they caused problem in Corinth
- These tongue was known native languages in Acts chapter 2, and not language of angels (see 1 Cor. 13:1-3)
- The main purpose was for **evangelism** (1 Cor. 4:21-22)

Tongue as a Sign



- ▶ Tongues were used as a **sign** to unbelieving Jews and when they entered the assembly and hear people speaking in foreign languages it was a sign to them that God was doing a work in their midst, as Isaiah has described (Isa. 28:11-14).
- ▶ Of course as tongues cease as a spiritual gift (1 Cor. 13:8-10) does not mean that God cannot call on His people today to speak in a foreign language as a **miracle** for the purpose of evangelism (i.e. mission)

The Spirit Filled Life



living the
SPIRIT-FILLED
life

- Moreover, the ability to “speak in tongues” is not an essence of Holy Spirit filling (Eph. 5:18), nor an **evidence** of a deeper spiritual life. (1 Cor. 12:11; 30)
- The **filling** of the Holy Spirit is the ministry of the Spirit in a believer when he/she is **fully yielded** to the Spirit who dwells within (Eph. 3:16-19; 1 Thes. 5:19; Eph. 4:30). It is closely related to “walk” in the Spirit (Gal. 5:25)



Spirit Filled Living

When Tongue is Practiced



➔ Even if someone believe that biblical revelation has not been completed (which I disagree) and God is still giving his word through tongues today, Paul has given **clear guidelines** for the practice in 1 Cor. 14:

1. There must always be an **interpreter** (v.5, 9, 13)
2. It is mainly for the **unbelievers** (v.21-22)
3. There should **not be more than 3 persons** in one service, and they must take turn (v.27)
4. It must all be done **in order**, and not confusion (v.33, 40)



Conclusion

- ▶ Stay focus on the doctrine, rather than judging the people that either agree or disagree with it. We are call to love one another (Col. 3:12-15)
- ▶ Use the **truth** to interpret **experience**, and not taking experience to interpret the truth
- ▶ There is no shortcut in a Spirit-filled life except **walking in faith** (Gal. 2:20; Heb. 11)
- ▶ Tongue is a **distraction** in our church culture today (i.e. not in Reformation). We need to stay focus on the **Great Commission** and the **Greatest Commandment** instead.

