

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Speaking in Tongues — “Speaking in tongues” is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:1-10, 30-31, 14:1-40). Speaking in tongues just means that someone has the ability to speak a known foreign language (such as Russian, German, Chinese, etc.) that they were never taught to speak.

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because *everyone heard them speak in his own language*. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, ‘Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And *how is it that we hear, each in our own language* in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we *hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God*” (Acts 2:4-11).

So speaking in tongues is nothing more than being given the miraculous gift of being able to speak in another known foreign language for the edifying and glorifying of God.

But what goes on at Pentecostal, Charismatic, and many other churches today is *much different* than what occurred in the 1st century church. Today’s “speaking in tongues” is usually totally nonsensical and does not glorify God at all. These modern “tongue speakers” are not only NOT speaking a known foreign language, but if the gibberish that comes out their mouths is indeed a language—then the only language that it could possibly be is that of DEMONS!

Acts 2:4-11 — And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, DEVOUT MEN, FROM EVERY NATION UNDER HEAVEN. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because *everyone heard them speak in his own language*. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And *how is it that we hear, each in our own language (dialect) in which we were born?* Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—WE HEAR THEM SPEAKING IN OUR OWN TONGUES THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF GOD.”

1 Cor 12:1, 4, 8, 10 — Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant... Now there are diversities of gifts... for to one is given the word of wisdom... 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*.

1 Cor 12:30-31 — Do all have gifts of healings? Do all *speak with tongues*? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts....

1 Cor 14:1-40 — Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 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. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who *speaks in a tongue* edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I wish you all

spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for *he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.*

But now, brethren, IF I COME TO YOU SPEAKING WITH TONGUES, WHAT SHALL I PROFIT YOU unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching? Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare himself for battle? *So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.* There are, it may be, so MANY KINDS OF LANGUAGES IN THE WORLD, and none of them is without significance (meaning). Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks will be a foreigner to me. Even so you, since you are zealous (eager) for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification (building up) of the church that you seek to excel. Therefore LET HIM WHO SPEAKS IN A TONGUE PRAY THAT HE MAY INTERPRET. *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the result then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.* OTHERWISE, IF YOU BLESS WITH THE SPIRIT, HOW WILL HE WHO OCCUPIES THE PLACE OF THE UNINFORMED SAY “AMEN” AT YOUR GIVING OF THANKS, SINCE HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SAY? For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified. *I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.*

Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however,

in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature. In the law it is written: "With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; and yet, for all that, they will not hear Me," says the Lord. Therefore TONGUES ARE FOR A SIGN, NOT TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE BUT TO UNBELIEVERS; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe. *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 (insane)?* But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is judged by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification (building up). IF ANYONE SPEAKS IN A TONGUE, LET THERE BE TWO OR AT THE MOST THREE, EACH IN TURN, AND LET ONE INTERPRET. BUT IF THERE IS NO INTERPRETER, LET HIM KEEP SILENT IN CHURCH, AND LET HIM SPEAK TO HIMSELF AND TO GOD. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. *And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion (disorder) but of peace,* as in all the churches of the saints. Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church. Or did the word of God come originally form you? Or was it you only that it reached? If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the com-

mandments of the Lord. But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant. THEREFORE, BRETHREN, DESIRE EARNESTLY TO PROPHECY, AND DO NOT FORBID TO SPEAK WITH TONGUES. [BUT] LET ALL THINGS BE DONE DECENTLY AND IN ORDER.

Rev 7:9 — After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and *tongues [languages]*, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands...