

My main ambition in life is to be on the devil's most wanted list.

Leonard Ravenhill

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Prayer Study #301

**GIFTS OF INSPIRATION (TALK LIKE GOD): PROPHECY,
DIVERS KIND OF TONGUES, INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES**

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These final three gifts of the Holy Spirit as listed in 1st Corinthians 12:8-10 are probably the most controversial of the nine gifts. Many mainline denominations are, for example, very suspicious of tongues, and some even think that speaking in tongues is of the devil. These prejudices and ignorance have nothing to do with scripture, but sometimes they are a result of well-meaning charismatics misusing these particular gifts in a way to draw attention to themselves. We must realize always that the Lord does not share His glory with anyone. Proverbs 25:27 tells us, *"It is not good to eat much honey; so for men to search their own glory is not glory,"* and Isaiah 42:8 says, *"I am the LORD; that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another..."* We should therefore never use spiritual gifts to make a reputation for ourselves or to try to gain glory for ourselves.

In spite of the human failures of those gifted in these areas and in spite of the controversy they initiate in some mainline denominations, these three gifts are extremely important. In fact, most of those passages in Acts which tell of the baptism in the Holy Spirit indicate that people spoke in tongues and prophesied when the Holy Spirit came upon them and filled them, thus believed by many to be the evidence that people have had this experience.

Prophecy

I have received direction and encouragement so many times in my life through the prophetic word that prophetic people have given me. At times these words have been almost life changing as I have waited for their fulfillment and seen them come to pass. I believe there is a great need in the Body of Christ today for prophetic words, especially from *nameless, faceless prophets*, who have no agenda except to bring glory to the Lord or to warn His people of things to come. Many, many scriptures, as well as Church history, make it very clear that prophecy did not end with the death of the last original apostle or with the canonization of scripture. Furthermore, we know that one of the signs of the last days is the prophetic word coming as a result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all flesh (Joel 2:28-32). We

will be discussing the scriptural evidence and need for last days' prophetic ministry in later handouts.

Before we get too far into prophecy, I want to explain the difference between the 5-fold ministry prophet and the gift of prophecy. Many have the gift of prophecy but are not prophets. To be a prophet is to operate in the 5-fold ministry office spoken of in Ephesians 4:11: "*And He gave some prophets...*" This is also mentioned in 1st Corinthians 12:28: "*And God hath set some in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers...*" Then Paul asks the rhetorical question: "...*Are all prophets?*"... (1st Corinthians 12:29). Of course, the answer is no! Nevertheless, all, who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, may have at times genuine prophet words and operate in the gift of prophecy, and still not be prophets.

Not every believer is called to be a prophet. It is a full time calling, and it is always confirmed by seasoned prophets and apostles. It is placed on a person's life at birth and given by Christ. Sometimes the manifestation might not come until years later, but the gift is given at birth. The job of the prophet, in the 5-fold ministry office, is, as all the offices working together are, *for the equipping or maturing of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the building up or edifying the Body of Christ.* The prophet consistently walks in the gift. The prophet's messages, however, since the Church Age began at Pentecost, do not hold the same weight as the Bible or of the Old Testament prophets, and no word of prophecy should ever violate scripture. Present day prophets are used to give judgments, promises, blessings, etc. They sometimes warn of wars and prophesy peacetimes. While they do give personal prophecies, their emphasis is on the corporate Body of Christ.

Prophets are always in control of their gift. 1st Corinthians 14:32 tells us that the spirit of prophecy is subject to the prophet. In other words, the prophet has control over when and if he gives the prophecy. Thus, disruption of a church service is not necessary, and I believe that those who interrupt an anointed teaching of the Word to prophesy are wrong.

While the 5-fold ministry office (of the prophet) is given to the Church by Christ, the gift of prophecy is given by the Holy Spirit to any believer who covets this gift. Generally, the emphasis of one with the gift of prophecy is on individuals in the Body and not on the corporate Body. The one with the gift of prophecy uses the gift to encourage, edify and comfort members of the Body. The gift can be activated in anyone who has been baptized in the Holy Spirit. People who minister in the gift of prophecy do so at any time the Holy Spirit chooses, but again this prophetic word is subject to the one prophesying and should be done decently and in order and at an appropriate time.

Prophecy, whether given by a prophet or one with the gift of prophecy, is for believers. The Word tells us in 1st Corinthians 14:22: *“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.”*

When you receive a personal prophecy or even hear a prophetic word for the Body, you should always test the prophecy by the Word of God. Additional safeguards are these: *Does the prophecy witness to the Spirit in you? Do your spiritual authorities confirm the prophecy? Are other spiritual counselors convinced that this prophecy is accurate?* Sometimes it is wise to “put the prophecy on the shelf” and just wait and let the Holy Spirit bring it about at the proper time, without you trying to help the Spirit. Trying to force the hand of God and make a prophecy come to pass by natural means often results in disaster. The Holy Spirit does not need our help, only our obedience.

I think that we could safely conclude that prophecy is the most important of the gifts of utterance and really one of the most important gifts of all, at least in Paul’s mind. In Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, chapters 11,12,13, and 14, prophecy is mentioned more than any of the other gifts (22 times). Paul also tells us in 1st Corinthians 14:39-*“Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.”*

Harold Horton relates what the words we render as *prophecy* literally mean: *“To ‘flow forth’ is the lovely meaning of the commonest Hebrew word, Naba. To ‘bubble forth, like a fountain’ says one. As the heart of the Psalmist when it was bubbling up or boiling over....To flow forth-tumble forth-spring forth! You that prophesy!-do not these Hebrew words exactly describe your precious fountain? Who would not covet thus to prophesy?”*

Horton is dealing with the Hebrew. The Greek word translated *prophecy* means to “speak for another,” to let your mouth be used for His message. Prophecy is never something that the human mind thinks up to say. True prophecy is from the Holy Spirit who uses your lips to speak in known languages the message He has for the Body or individual at that precise time.

The teachings from High Point Church in Macon, Georgia tell us what prophecy is not:

1. *“It is not preaching as some of the modern translations translate the word. Actually, there are a number of Greek words which are translated preach in the King James Version. These words, however, mean to make an authoritative declaration, to herald, to proclaim, to set forth, etc. The thought is that of giving out the Scriptures clearly and with authority.”*

2. *The gift of prophecy is open to all believers and we are told to covet to prophesy (1st Corinthians 14:39). BUT the gift of prophecy does not set one in the apostolic office as a prophet (Ephesians 4:1,11).*
3. *It is not used to condemn the “life style” (modes of dress, wearing of the hair, etc.) of those present. A prophet may conceivably sound forth a warning about such things and a pastor or teacher may set forth the Scriptures having to do with such, but the whole purpose of the gift of prophecy is edification, exhortation, and comfort.*
4. *It is not to be taken lightly but judged.*
5. *It never takes the place of the written Word for prophecy will cease (1st Corinthians 13:8), but GOD’S WORD ABIDETH FOREVER (1ST Peter 1:25). It is inconceivable that the Holy Spirit through the gift of prophecy will contradict the Word of the Living God. Whole movements have ship-wrecked because they have taken prophecy above the Word of God.*
6. *Often in the Old Testament the Word of Wisdom worked with prophecy in foretelling the future, but ‘neither prescience nor prediction is implied by the term in the Hebrew, Greek or English languages.’ (William Smith in his Bible Dictionary). So prophecy is NOT to be used to get guidance, for marriage, business ventures, missionary ventures, etc. This is not saying God may not use the Word of Wisdom to direct us at times, but the only safe procedure to follow is to ask the Lord to always confirm by His Spirit major moves by several witnesses to us.”*

THE PURPOSE OF PROPHECY (also from High Point teachings)

1. *“To edify the believers, that is to build them up (a far cry from tearing down and discouraging them) (1st Corinthians 14:4). It will be like a fresh breath from the risen Christ blowing new life into our tired spirits.*
2. *To exhort, meaning ‘a calling near.’ We will sense a new awareness of His unseen presence with us. (1st Corinthians 14:3)*
3. *To comfort, console, and give solace to the sobbing spirit until it sobs its last heaving sigh and rests as a child on the breast of its understanding parent. (1st Corinthians 14:3, 31)*
4. *To convict the unbeliever and make manifest the secrets of his heart. (1st Corinthians 14:24,25)*
5. *That believers may learn in the mysterious realm of the spiritual what they cannot grasp with the natural mind. (1st Corinthians 14:24, 25)*

We will be looking at prophecy more extensively in next week's teaching.

The Gift of Divers Kinds of Tongues or Speaking in Tongues

I have found through the years that the Gift of Speaking in Tongues is the most controversial of all the gifts. As I have said previously, this is mainly due to prejudices, taught by those who are afraid of the gift, and to ignorance. If we could gain a clear understanding of how important and useful "tongues" are, we would find our own lives in many ways revolutionized. I often find this particular gift set on the shelf by once fired up believers, and, it seems to me, little used consistently today by the majority of spirit-baptized believers. The Gift of Tongues is the most widely given gift by the Holy Spirit. Indeed many believe tongues are the initial evidence that one has been baptized in the Holy Spirit. Thus, if you do not speak in tongues, they believe that you are not baptized in the Spirit. There is some scriptural evidence for this. We will be discussing this later in this handout. Another group of sincere believers believe, wrongly I think, that if you do not speak in tongues you are not a true believer and will go to hell. And again there are those who believe that, if you do speak in tongues, you are going to hell. These latter two beliefs do not stand up to the test of scripture.

Tongues are first mentioned in the New Testament by Jesus Himself in Mark 16:17 in the only verse in the Gospels that speaks of tongues: **And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues...**

Again, because the information is so balanced and scriptural, I would like to quote extensively from the materials taught at High Point Church in Macon, Georgia. This information was written many years ago but is still very relevant:

"Now and then some smarty (?) makes the remark, 'When I received Jesus, I got a new tongue. My vocabulary completely changed!' Well, praise the Lord. He certainly deletes some words from our vocabulary and adds others in our native tongue, but Jesus said we would speak with new languages not new vocabularies.

The Purpose of 'Tongues'

- 1. Speaking with tongues often accompanies the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Many will say that this is true always. This I cannot say for there are those who have gracious and powerful ministries of healing*

and have other gifts of the Spirit who have not spoken with tongues. How could the Gifts of the Spirit be operative in their lives if they have not received the Baptism in the Spirit? Too, not to cast doubt upon anyone's gift, we have to admit that the devil also certainly knows all the languages of the earth. It seems best to me to encourage people to yield their spirits specifically and only to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to manifest Himself in any way in which He desires to do initially. However, at Pentecost they 'began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance' (Acts 2:4). Eight years later at Caesarea we read that on the Gentiles also 'was poured out the gifts of the Holy Ghost: for they heard them speak with tongues' (Acts 10:46). Twenty-three years after Pentecost at Ephesus 'the Holy Ghost came on them, and they spake with tongues' (Acts 19:6). When Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit 3 days after his conversion, there is no record that he spoke with tongues at that time. I personally feel that the ability to speak with tongues is in those who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and that with understanding and desire they enter into the use of this gift.

2. *That we may communicate directly with God from our spirits bypassing the mental realm. All of us have prejudices and mental blocks of one kind or another. We analyze, probe and question. And surely we need to be cautious, but when we communicate with God in another language from our spirits, we are able to 'pray through' problems our human intellect cannot even face nor fathom. As Paul says in 1st Corinthians 14:2. 'He that speaketh in a tongue speaketh not unto men but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries (divine secrets).' Here again I quote from Harold Horton, for he puts it so beautifully. 'The Gift of Tongues sinks a well into the dumb profundities of the rejoicing spirit, liberating a jet of long-pent ecstasy that gladdens the heart of God and man. Blessed fountain of ineffable coherence, of inexpressible eloquence! Have you never in the presence of Jesus felt inarticulate on the very verge of eloquence?....'*
3. *To magnify God: Some teach that tongues at Pentecost were to preach the Gospel. Actually the tongues came, then the multitude gathered and over-heard them speaking the wonderful words of God. Later when Peter began to preach he did NOT preach in tongues. In Acts 10:46 it is written of the house of Cornelius that they 'spake with tongues and magnified God.'*

4. *For our personal edification: Some say this is a selfish gift since we only edify ourselves with it. But if I'm not built up (edified), how can I build up another? See 1st Corinthians 14:4. This praying in my spirit (and singing in the spirit) for edification is not to take the place of praying and singing with the understanding for Paul said he would do both. See 1st Corinthians 14:14-15.*
5. *That along with the Gift of Tongues the whole church may be edified. Paul says that he who speaks in tongues should pray that he may interpret. This is for church meetings so that with the interpretation all may be benefited. See 1st Corinthians 14:5,12,13,26. If there is no one who can interpret he is to keep silence in the Church and speak to himself and God. See 1st Corinthians 14:28. If men will not be obedient to this Word they rebel against God and not tradition and bring confusion. (1st Corinthians 14:33)*
6. *That 'unbelieving believers' may receive a sign. Remember that in these chapters Paul is dealing with believer's meetings when the church has come together.*
Regulations: 1st Corinthians 14:23,26,33-Not for Unbeliever's
14:33 Control tongues
14:39 Does it edify? If not, throw it out.
14:20 Done decently and in order"

The Gift of interpretation of Tongues

(To continue on with the High Point Teaching on Tongues)

"All the Gifts of the Spirit were used in the Old Testament except Tongues and Interpretation. These were reserved for the Dispensation of the Holy Spirit and came into function with the Pentecostal outpouring. The two gifts are certainly closely related because Interpretation of Tongues would mean nothing apart from the Gift of Tongues. But do remember that Tongues when used for personal edification do not have to be interpreted because as Paul says his spirit was profited when he prayed in tongues though his understanding was not.

WHAT IS IT?

It is the giving forth of the meanings of a supernatural utterance in tongues. It is not from the mind of the interpreter but from the mind of God. It is not a translation but an interpretation of the tongues. A translation would be from one language to another in "equivalent terms." An interpretation would be an explaining of the substance of the message in the

tongues. This explains why sometimes the interpretation is longer (or shorter) than the message in tongues.

There are times when the interpretation that comes is an exact translation of the tongues, and someone in the meeting may know that language while the one interpreting never knows with his natural mind what the one speaking with tongues is saying. In one meeting a message was given in tongues and the language was French though the person speaking in tongues knew no French. Present in the meeting was an interpreter from the United Nations who wrote down the translation into English. Also present was a Frenchman. They both got identical interpretations.

Remember, too, that the natural temperament and training of the one interpreting will influence the choice of language. As Harold Horton says, 'The Lord equally entrusts His revelations to sanctified farm-hands and God-fearing, anointed philosophers. The farm-hand will deliver his message with the blunt forthrightness of an Amos; the philosopher with the refinement of an Isaiah. But remember that much correspondence with the sweet heavenly sanctities will transform the crudities of a Galilean bumpkin into the miraculous and exalted subtleties of the epistle of John.'

THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES:

To make the Gift of Tongues intelligible to the Church meeting so that all may be edified. 'I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied; for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the Church may receive edifying.' (1st Corinthians 14:5)

If we pray in a tongue, Paul instructs us to pray that we might interpret. See 1st Corinthians 14:12. It is unlikely that one would have the gift of the interpretation of tongues who did not also speak in tongues. This suggests, too, that there are times when one will speak in tongues and interpret his own tongues for a church meeting. Now and then one may be speaking in tongues privately to God and receive the interpretation of what we're saying."

Again, the above was from teaching from High Point Church. High Point was a little old framed church building in a poorer section of Macon. The church was Baptist and has retained its Southern Baptist membership. When the pastor received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, he was shunned for many years by the Baptist association. In latter years, he has been sought after by some of these same association members for his great knowledge and wisdom concerning the things of the Holy Spirit.

Two Types of Tongues

One of the most beautiful and well-loved passages of scripture is the Love Chapter, 1st Corinthians 13. We have read this passage for years and not seen some of the more subtle things that the Apostle Paul is trying to teach us. One of these is the fact that there are two types of tongues: Tongues of Men, which are known languages on the earth, and Tongues of Angels, which are heavenly languages not known on earth: 1st Corinthians 13:1-*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.* Most theologians believe that the tongues of angels cannot be interpreted by Satan, even though he was in heaven, and, I assume, would have known heavenly languages. Thus, he and the kingdom of darkness are thrown into confusion and cannot translate the tongues of angels, being prayed by spirit-baptized believers. Paul writes in 1st Corinthians in 14:2: *For one who speaks in an [unknown] tongue speaks not to men but to God, for no one understands or catches his meaning, because in the Holy Spirit, he utters secret truths and hidden things [not obvious to understanding] AMP.* This scripture seems to back-up that point but there is really no conclusive evidence.

The Prayer Language

Most make a distinction between the Gift of Tongues and the Prayer Language. A better distinction, perhaps, would be between the Gift with Interpretation and the Sign of tongues for personal edification. I don't see the term *Prayer Language* in scripture. My understanding is that the Gift of Tongues is used by the one with this gift to minister to the corporate Body or to specific individuals. In other words, the Gift of Tongues is used to edifies the Body. One's prayer language is his evidence or sign of the baptism in the Spirit, is unique for each individual and is used to minister to one's self, edifying himself, in the sense of Jude 20: *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.* The Bible, however, does not give us much evidence concerning this distinction. I believe Romans 8:26-27 speaks of the prayer language: *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 groanings 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 (Romans 8:26-27).

Making a distinction to a message in tongues and the prayer language, Pentecostal denominations see no violation of scripture when the whole congregation is praying in a prayer language without an interpretation. They do, however, strictly adhere to Paul's admonition not to give a message in tongues unless there is an interpreter present. Paul writes extensively on this in 1st Corinthians 14:10-28: *There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without significance. 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 for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification 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 conclusion 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 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 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," say 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? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted 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. 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.*

Must there always be an interpreter?

As mentioned above, Paul wrote in 1st Corinthians 14:27-28: *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.* I believe in sticking strictly to scripture as I understand it, and I must say frankly that I am on a slippery slope scripturally as I express the following opinion: I think that many who have not experienced the Baptism in the Holy Spirit misunderstand the above passage. Paul is talking about a message given by someone with the Gift of Tongues in the church service for the whole Body, which is interpreted by someone with the Gift of Interpretation. I do not think he is referring to those who pray in a prayer language to themselves and to God out loud (without an interpretation!) in the corporate body during corporate prayer times, as is frequently the case in Pentecostal churches where everyone prays at prayer time out loud in their prayer language. I also do not feel that this applies to a speaker who lays hands on someone and prays in the Spirit, without an interpretation, over a person in a church service. If the contrary was the case, then the Spirit Himself would be violating scriptural principles when He caused all present to pray out loud in other tongues on the Day of Pentecost. Of course, the Holy Spirit would never violate the Word of God.

Let me quickly add that this section is more opinion than scripture and is certainly open for debate and criticism.

Why Seek the Gift of Tongues?

The gift of tongues is still very much alive today, especially in the Pentecostal and Charismatic denominations, and I suspect that almost every church of any size in America today has at least one, perhaps closeted, “tongue talker.” In fact, years ago an elderly Southern Baptist missionary told us that almost all the missionaries on the field that she knew spoke in tongues. She said that they needed that experience to have the power to do the job they had been called to do. They just never bothered telling the Southern Baptist Convention.

I have already given you the High Point purposes or reasons for the gift of tongues. Many others have written on this subject. Kenneth Hagin, for

example, gives 10 reasons, and Dr. Bill Hamon has written a book entitled *Seventy Reasons for Speaking in Tongues*. I would like to close this section *Why Seek the Gift of Tongues?* with Ernest B. Gentile's writings. Gentile, an international conference speaker and noted author, gives us six reasons for seeking and using the Gift of Tongues. Below is his conclusion to an article, *Personal Pentecost*, which he wrote for *Charisma Magazine*. I have quotes him verbatim.

“Personal evidence: The Holy Spirit uses tongues as a miraculous, abiding sign. Miracle languages confirm the inner presence of the Spirit by using the body member most dependent on volitional, human intelligence—the tongue. **(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.* **Acts 10:44-47:** *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit, just as we have?”* **Acts 19:6:** *And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.*

Praise declaration: Tongues initiate a prophetic gush of inspired worship and causes the heart to soar in adoration and worship unattainable by human means, creating “the fruit of the lips.” **Isaiah 57:19a:** *I create the fruit of the lips...* **Hebrews 13:15:** *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.* **John 4:23-24:** *“**But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**”* **Philippians 3:3:** *For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.*

Impetus for the Great Commission: Tongues reaffirm our call to the nations and the urgency of the Great Commission. The baptism with the Holy Spirit ignites, through various languages, a burning passion to proclaim Christ to every ethnic group. **Matthew 28:18-20:** *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. Mark 16:15-17: And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues...” Luke 24:47-49: “...and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. 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.”

Uniform experience: The expression of tongues at the time of Spirit baptism authenticates the experience as genuine and gives evidence that it is the same as that of believers everywhere. It reverses Babel’s curse of separation and instead initiates unity. **Genesis 11:7-8:** *Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called Babel because there the LORD confused their language of all the earth.” Acts 10:46:* *For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God... Acts 11:15-16:* *And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, “John indeed baptized with water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 15:8:* *So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us.*

Spirit-inspired prayer. The miraculous gift of tongues, which is activated by the Holy Spirit, brings glorious new dimension of prayer in to our lives. Though of course we should pray in our native languages as well, praying in tongues allows us to relate to God through our spirits rather than our minds. **Romans 8:15:** *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”* **1st Corinthians 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.* **Ephesians 6:18a:** *...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit... Jude 20:* *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.*

Same-Spirit continuity: Speaking in tongues authenticates the continuing, abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in both the individual and the body of Christ. Miraculous tongues continue as a convincing witness and evidence of the Spirit of Pentecost wherever the Gospel is preached. **Mark 16-17:** *And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues.*

Conclusion on Tongues

Most often praise opens our heart to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. As we invited Jesus to baptize us in the Holy Spirit and began to praise and worship Him, He will show up. Then, all of us who have received the Baptism of the Spirit from Jesus can release our tongue to God. We may start off with just a word or two, but don't let Satan convince you that you're making up the sounds. Open your mouth and begin to speak, trusting the Spirit to bring forth His language from your inner being: *They began to speak as the Spirit gave them utterance* (Acts 2:4). This release of the Spirit of God through your tongue (*the bridle of the body*-James 3:2), will help release the Spirit to flow through you with other gifts of God's power.

We have covered these verses elsewhere, but I want to list them again because knowing what the Word says about this subject is so important.

Scriptural References to Tongues

Mark 16:17: *And these signs shall follow those who believe: In my name shall you cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues...*

Acts 2:3-4: *And there appeared unto them cloven tongues as of fire, and it 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.*

Acts 2:11: *...we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.*

Acts 10:46: *For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God...*

Acts 19:6: *And when Paul had laid hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.*

1st Corinthians 12:8-10: *For to one is given, by the Spirit, the word of wisdom; to another, the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another, faith by the same Spirit; to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another, the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another, discerning of spirits; to another, various kinds of tongues; to another, the interpretation of tongues.*

1st Corinthians 12:28-31: *And God hath set some in the church: first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; after that miracles; then gifts of healing; helps; governments; diversity of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts, and yet show I unto you a more excellent way.*

1st Corinthians 13:1: *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.*

1st Corinthians 13:8-10: *Love never fails, but whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*

1st Corinthians 14:5: *I would that ye all spoke with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied; for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.*

1st Corinthians 14:6: *Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues [without an interpreter], what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation or by knowledge or by prophesying or by doctrine?*

1st Corinthians 14:18-22: *I thank my God I speak with tongues more than ye all; yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than [speak] 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, will they 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.

1st Corinthians 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?*

1st Corinthians 14:39: *Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.*

HIS LOVE HAS NO LIMIT

His love has no limit.
His grace has no measure.
His power has not boundaries,
Known unto men.
For out of His infinite riches,
In Jesus,
He giveth and giveth and giveth again.