

PRAYER STUDY # 58

“Speaking in Tongues”

While we do not “push” tongues here, we recognize speaking in tongues as one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and feel that we need to know what the Bible, not the tradition of men, says about this important gift. The word used in the New Testament is *Glosea*, the tongue, by implication a language, specifically one naturally unacquired (from STRONG’S CONCORDANCE.)

1st Corinthians 12:1-*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.*

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

Acts 2:1-13-*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven like a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together and were confounded, because every man heard them speak in their own language. And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these who speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia. Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and sojourners of Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans, and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. And they were all amazed, and were perplexed, saying one to another, What meaneth this? Others, mocking, said, These men are full of new wine.*

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 14:39-40-*Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.*

1st Corinthians 12:31-*...covet earnestly the best gifts; and yet I show unto you a more excellent way.*

Why Tongues?

(taken from writings by Kenneth Hagin)

1. Tongues are an initial sign of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
2. Tongues are for spiritual edification(i.e. they build one up spiritually). *He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself.* 1st Corinthians 14:4 *For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.* 1st Corinthians 14:2 *For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.* 1st Corinthians 14:14
3. Tongues remind us of the Spirit's indwelling Presence. *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever. Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him, but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*
4. Praying in Tongues is praying in line with God's perfect will. *Likewise the Spirit also helped our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.* Romans 8:26-27
5. Praying in Tongues stimulates faith. *But ye, beloved, building up yourselves in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.* Jude 20
6. Speaking in Tongues keeps us free from all the ungodly and profane talk around us. *But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church, and let him speak to himself and to God.* 1st Corinthians 14:28
7. Praying in Tongues gives spiritual refreshing. *But with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, "This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing," yet they would not hear.* Isaiah 28:11-12
8. Tongues can be used for singing praises. *What is it then? I pray with the spirit, and I pray with the understanding also. I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.* 1 Corinthians 14:15-17

Also, tongues are a sign to unbelievers . Paul wrote to the Corinthians in 1st Corinthians 14:22, "Wherefore, tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not...." Praying in tongues enables us to pray for the unknown and brings our tongue under subjection to the Spirit. I would encourage all of you to study 1st Corinthians 12,13, & 14, especially Chapter 14, if you are interested in this subject.