“The Spiritual Gift of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues”



1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 14:1-40

The more we learn and understand about the Holy Spirit and His Gifts the more effective we can become in these last days.

There are different spiritual gifts that have been distributed by the Holy Spirit to each member of the Body of Christ.

1. Apostle Paul list Nine Spiritual Gifts in (1 Corinthians 12:7-10)
2. Apostle Paul list Seven more Spiritual Gifts in (Romans 12:3-8)

- **Purpose**: To teach us the importance of each spiritual gifts and how the Holy Spirit uses each of them to benefit the Body of Christ as a whole.
- **Goal:** To mature us in our understanding of spiritual gifts so that our lives can be useful for the Kingdom of God.
- **Spiritual Principles:** Authority, Agreement, Stewardship, Obedience, Faith, Grace, Prayer

Review The Spiritual Gifts in the (1st) Category: (1 Corinthians 12:8-10, Colossians 2:1-4)

1. **Revelation Gifts** – "To Know." (1 Corinthians 12:8, 10)

- **The Word of Wisdom** – The supernatural revelation or insight manifested by the Holy Spirit to a believer of how to apply that knowledge. The Holy Spirit reveals part and not the entire wisdom, knowledge, revelation and counsel of God to a believer.
- **The Word of Knowledge** – The supernatural revelation, insight, or knowledge by the Holy Spirit that is being manifested through a believer. The Holy Spirit reveals part, not the entire knowledge or counsel of God.
- **The Discerning of spirits** – The supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit that gives a believer insight and ability to see or hear into the spirit realm or spirit world through the inner work of the Holy Spirit.

Review The Spiritual Gifts in the (2nd) Category: (1 Corinthians 12:7-10, Romans 12:6-8)

2. **Demonstration Gifts or Power Gifts** – "To Do." (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)

- The Gift of Faith – The supernatural ability of the Holy Spirit enabling and empowering a believer to believe and trust God to do the impossible.
- **The Gifts of Healings** – The supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit divinely operating through a believer's life to heal the sick and all manner of diseases.
- **The Gift of Miracles** – The acts of the Holy Spirit supernatural power, mighty force, or wonderful works divinely operating and manifesting through a believer life.

Today we will continue discussing and examining the **Spiritual Gifts in the (3rd) Category:** (1 Corinthians 12:10-11, 27-31, 1 Corinthians 14:1-40)

3. **Inspirational Gifts or Vocal Gifts** – "To Speak."

- **The Gift of Prophecy** – The supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit which enables a believer to speak an inspired word, message or prophetic revelation to the church (a gathering of believers) or to an individual.
- The Gift of Tongues or Different kinds of Tongues
- The Interpretation of Tongues

There has been many arguments and disagreements among believers on the subject of **"Speaking in Tongues"**.

1. Some believe that speaking in tongues is not of God, but of the devil.
2. Some believe that it's only for a chosen select or specific religious group.
3. Some believe that it went out with the last Apostles in the Bible.
4. Some believe that it serves no purpose at all either privately or publicly.

Through the study and examination of the Spiritual Gift of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues and Speaking in Tongues, we will learn how needful and beneficial it is to both public ministry and private devotion. (1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:1-40)

Breakdown of the Spiritual Gift of Tongues **(Publicly)** and Speaking in Tongues **(Privately)**:

- **Purpose** – "The reason God gave us this gift."
- **Problem** – "Misunderstanding and abuse of the gift."
- **Principle** – "How the gift is used by the Holy Spirit."

Statements About the Spiritual Gift of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues. (1 Corinthians 14:1-40)

1. **The Spiritual Gift of Tongues** is supernaturally manifested by the Holy Spirit that enables and empowers believers to speak, pray, or sing in unknown language or tongue. (1 Corinthians 14:2-5, 13-15)
2. **The Spiritual Gift of Tongues** is a supernatural utterance from the Holy Spirit that flows through the voice of a believer, but without the assistance of their mind, emotions or intellect.
3. **The Interpretation of Tongues** is a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit operating through a believer's life empowering them to interpret what was spoken through the Gift of tongues, so that the church (gathering of believers) can be edified with a direct message from God. (1 Corinthians 14:26-28)
4. **The Spiritual Gift of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues** is not a language that is known to man. It cannot be obtained from human ability, natural knowledge, or human influence through some type of learning or studying gained through education.

- **The Galileans and many Jews** witnessed a wonderful work of God (Acts 2:5-13). The Holy Spirit manifesting Himself supernaturally and empowering them to speak in a foreign language in which they never studied or gained through learning. No human translator was needed.

5. The joy is that every born-again believer has the privilege of speaking in tongues, praying in tongues or praying in a heavenly language which is the most perfect prayer, due to the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Examples in the New Testament of the Holy Spirit with the Evidence of Speaking in Tongues.

1. During Jesus earthly ministry, He spoke to His disciples about the Holy Spirit whom those believing would receive. (John 7:37-39, 14:15-18, 25-27, 16:5-15)
2. After Jesus resurrection, He appeared among His disciples to commission them and fill them with the Holy Spirit. (John 20:19-22)
3. After Jesus resurrection, He appears before His disciples with clear instructions to wait in Jerusalem until they are endued with power from on High. (Luke 24:44-49)
4. Jesus presented Himself alive to His Apostles for forty days and speaking of the things of the Kingdom of God and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:1-8)
5. The Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were with one accord in prayer and supplication in one place when they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)
6. Ananias laid hands on Saul (known as Paul), he received his sight and was filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17-18). Paul in his letter to the church at Corinth where he wrote about his personal experience of speaking in tongues (1Corinthians 14:18).
7. Peter preached the gospel to Cornelius (Gentiles) and his household, they believed and saved, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke with tongues and were water baptized. (Acts 10:44-48)
8. Paul during his travel came to Ephesus and there comes across some disciples who had not heard about the Holy Spirit. (Acts 19:1-7)

There are (7) Seven Important things we should understand about Speaking in Tongues.

1. It is a supernatural act of the Holy Spirit.
2. It is still beneficial for the life of every believer whether privately or publicly.
3. It is one of the signs that follows believers. (Mark 16:15-18)

4. It is one of the initial evidences of the Infilling Presence or Baptism of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life. (Acts 2:1-4)
5. It is the perfect prayer, because the Holy Spirit is praying through our spirit. (1Corinthians 14:14)
6. It is an inspired utterance from the Holy Spirit where believers can speak in a language that they have never learned.
7. It is not a sign that a believer does not have the infilling presence of the Holy Spirit in their life.

What are the Benefits of Speaking in Tongues or Praying in the Spirit?
(1 Corinthians 14:2)

- **<u>During personal or private devotion.</u>**

1. The believer supernaturally communicates directly to God. (1 Corinthians 14:2)

- The Holy Spirit prays through our spirit mysteries **(or secrets)** in an inspired utterance that no one understands but God.

2. The believer is edified spiritually. (1 Corinthians 14:4, Jude 20)

- The word "**edify"** means to build oneself up. (1 Corinthians 14:4)
- To **"pray in the Spirit"** means to pray with the power, help, guidance, assistance and influence of the Holy Spirit, but without any human interference. (Jude 20)

3. The believer's spiritual armor is empowered by prayer. Two ways the Holy Spirit empowers of lives through prayer. (Ephesians 6:18, John 14:25-26)

- Praying in the Holy Spirit and being in a constant spirit of prayer for all the saints of God. (Ephesians 6:11-18)

- Praying the Word of God over our lives and making intercession for others. (John 14:25-26, 1John 5:14-15, 1 Timothy 2:1-2)

4. The Holy Spirit helps the believer connect and to commune with God through prayer. (Romans 8:26-27)

1) He helps the believer in prayer by guiding or act on their behalf in weaknesses. "For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought." (vs. 26)

- **"In our weaknesses or infirmities"** – The Holy Spirit helps the believer to pray by bearing them up spiritually. (vs. 26)

- The Holy Spirit helps to quiet the believer mind and spirit during prayer, when they are struggling due to distractions, wandering thoughts, sufferings, emotional stresses and pressure of life. (vs. 26)

2) He Himself make intercession for the believer with groanings which cannot be uttered. (vs. 26)

- **"Make intercession"** – The Holy Spirit Himself prays through us and for us.

- **"With groanings"** – The Holy Spirit prays through our spirit with a "sigh too deep for words."

- **"Cannot be uttered"** – The Holy Spirit prays through us with words that are impossible to express or articulate through normal speech.

3) He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (vs. 27)

- The same God who searches the heart of the believer – "He knows the mind of the Holy Spirit."

- The perfect prayer is prayed for the saints because there's agreement between both God the Father and the Holy Spirit (according to His will).

5. The believer prays the perfect prayer whether it's a prayer of intercession or prayer of praise and worship because of the Holy Spirit praying through them.

<u>During public ministry</u> (church, gathering of believers). "The Gift of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues" (1 Corinthians 12:27-31, 14:6-40)

1. Apostle Paul states that all believers are a vital part or member of the body of Christ and each individual member has a functioning gift that is distributed to them by the Holy Spirit to serve the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:27-31)

- Paul states that God has both appointed and gifted each member in the church. **<u>He lists some of them: (vs. 28)</u>**
- Paul ask the question, "Do all members of the body of Christ have the same gift?" Are all apostles, all prophets, all teachers, all workers of miracles? Do all have the gifts of healings, do all speak with tongues and do all interpret? (vs. 29-30)
- **The answer is No**. God has not gifted all believers with the same gift. (vs. 29-30)

2. Apostle Paul makes it clear that all believers can speak and pray in tongues, but not every believer has the gift of tongues and interpretation. (1 Corinthians 14:2-16)

1) Apostle Paul confronts their misunderstanding and abuse of the Gift of Tongues and Gift of Prophecy. (vs. 3-5)

- When a believer is inspired by the Holy Spirit to speak in tongues or pray in the Spirit publicly, it will be followed by an interpretation in the native language of the hearer.
- Speaking and praying in tongues is a vital gift for members of the body of Christ both for private devotion and public (secular or church ministry).

2) Apostle Paul's concern was that these believers were exercising speaking in tongues without interpretation in a public worship service (church setting or gathering of believers). (vs. 5-13)

- The Holy Spirit uses this vocal gift of tongues in the same manner as the gift of prophecy – **"to edify"** the church when it is interpreted. (vs. 5-13)

3. Apostle Paul sent an urgent message to these believers who had become so divided over the gift of prophecy and tongues within the church. (vs. 20)

- Paul wanted these believers to operate in love, maturity and understanding of the gift of prophecy, gift of tongues and interpretation. (vs. 20)
- The Believer must not be immature children in their understanding. (vs. 20)
- The Believer must be babes (children) or immature in malice (matters of evil, wickedness). (vs. 20)
- The Believer must be mature (men) in their understanding of gifts in order to serve others effectively. (vs. 20)

4. Apostle Paul quotes **Isaiah 28:11-12**, as an example and sign to unbelievers. (vs. 21-25)

- "The rebellious and unbelieving Israelites were defeated by the Assyrian army who spoke in a language they could not understand, yet they refuse to believe and hear God." (Isaiah 28:11-12)

1) The Holy Spirit uses the **"Gift of Prophecy"** to edify, exhort and comfort believers assembled in the church. (vs. 4)

2) The Holy Spirit uses the **"Gift of Tongues"** as a supernatural sign to unbelievers assembled in the church. (vs. 22)

- To expose unbelievers of their unbelief in the very existence of God.
- To warn unbelievers of God's Judgement that awaits them.
- To witness to unbelievers of the resurrection Jesus Christ and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:29-33, Romans 8:9-11, Ephesians 1:19-20)

3) The Gift of Tongues without the Interpretation can cause confusion among unbelievers within a church (gathering of believers). (vs. 23-25)

- If all believers speak in tongues during a church service, and those who are unbelievers and without understanding of the gift, they will think we are some crazy babbling Christian. (vs. 23)

- If all believers prophesy during a church service, and those who are unbelievers or without understanding of the gift, they are convinced by all of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ and convicted by the Holy Spirit through the gospel message of Jesus Christ. (vs. 24)
- When the purpose and understanding of both the **"gift of prophecy and gift of tongues"** exist within a church (gathering of believers and unbelievers), the results will be edification and salvation. (vs. 25)

- **Guidelines for the Gift of Tongues and Prophecy in the Church**. (1 Corinthians 14:26-40)

1. Apostle Paul's letter to the Corinthian church was not to prevent or discourage them from speaking in tongues or prophesying in the church, but to bring correction and understanding in regards to the gifts in a public church service. (vs. 26)

2. Apostle Paul addresses the situation in his letter to the Corinthian church because these believers were all speaking in tongues, praying in the Spirit, prophesying, and singing songs all at the same time, which caused confusion and disorder. (vs. 26)

- Paul says, "Whenever you come together for public church service, I am aware that each of you has… (vs. 26)
- **A psalm** – a hymn, song, music, instruments or singing.
- **A teaching** – a doctrine or word of instructions.
- **A tongue** – unknown or unlearned language.
- **A revelation** – spiritual insight or enlightenment.
- **An interpretation** – translation.
- Paul makes it perfectly clear, that all things be done for **"edification"** in the church where both believers and unbelievers are gathered together. (vs. 26)

1) **"All"** were not operating by the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit.
2) **"All"** were operating in the <u>flesh</u> and without the Holy Spirit.

- In a spirit of pride, puffed up and boastfulness.
- In a spirit of self-centeredness.
- In a spirit of super-spirituality.
- In a spirit of division.

3) **"All"** gifts must operate in love, humility, grace, respect, unity, dignity, and for edification.

3. Apostle Paul gives instructions of how to exercise the gift of tongues during a public church service. (vs. 27-28)

1) There should be two or at the most three people who are allowed to speak in tongues each in turn (not at once or at the same time). To prevent disorder and confusion. (vs. 27)
2) There should be one who interpret. (vs. 27)
3) If there were no interpreter present, the believers must "keep silent" (hold peace, keep close, in secret) in the church, and speak or pray in tongues to himself and to God. (vs. 28)
4) There should never be an excuse for acting in an uncontrolled manner during a public church service.

- The Holy Spirit never interrupts Himself and He never violates the Word of God.
- The Holy Spirit never overpowers a believer to the point where they begin to act uncontrollably and in a disorderly manner during a church service.
- Most seek attention and the desire to put themselves and their gifts on display during a church service.
- In a public church service, it is out of order to speak out in a loud tongue during the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.
- It is okay, to exercise speaking in tongues and praying in the Spirit out loud during corporate intercessory prayer or any prayer service, where believers are gathered together in the church.
- It is okay, to sing in tongues or sing in the Spirit out loud during corporate praise and worship, but not during the preaching and teaching of the Word of God. (vs. 15)

4. Apostle Paul gives instructions to the prophets exercising their gift of prophecy during a public church service. (vs. 29-33)

1) There should be two or three prophets who are allowed to speak during a public church service. (vs. 29)
2) The **"others"** were to <u>judge or discern</u> what was being spoken or proclaimed. (vs. 29)

3) If one of the prophets were proclaiming a word from the Lord, the others should keep silent and listen to see if any other divine revelation or insight is given by the Holy Spirit to share with the church. (vs. 30)
4) The prophets were all allowed to prophesy, but not at the same time. They were each allowed to share a divine revelation, message or insight from God. (vs. 31)

- That **"all"** may learn.
- That **"all"** may be encouraged.

5) The spirits of the prophet are "subject" to the prophets. (vs. 32)

- The word **"subject"** means to obey, put under, subdue unto, be under obedience, be put in subjection, submit self-unto.
- The Holy Spirit never overpowers the spirit of a gifted believer where they begin to act uncontrollably and in a disorderly manner.
- In a public church service, it is out of order to **prophesy** out loud during the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.

6) God is not the author of "confusion" but of "peace" as in all the churches of the saints. (vs. 33)

- The word **"confusion"** means instability, loud or noisy commotion, disorder, and chaos.
- The word **"peace"** means prosperity, rest, quietness, harmony, and unity.
- God's divine nature and character is love and peace (Ephesians 4:1-6), and the Fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- Paul sends a strong message to the Corinthian church that any instability, loud or noisy commotion, division and disorder in your church services is not of God, but of self.

5. Apostle Paul addresses the issue of abuse of the gift of tongues and prophecy among women in the Corinthian churches. (vs. 34-35)

1) The Triune God. There's only One God who organized Himself in three ways:

- God – The Father of Creation. (Genesis 1-2)
- God – The Son of Redemption. (John 3:16, Colossians 1:13-15)
- God – The Holy Spirit grace and power actively working in the believer's life. (Acts 1:8)

2) God is a <u>God of order</u>. God established order for His Kingdom, His church and the family institution, so they could thrive in His love, unity and prosperity. (1 Corinthians 11:3, Ephesians 5:22-33)

- The head of every man is Christ.
- The head of the woman is man.
- The head of Christ is God.
- The Head of the Church is Jesus Christ and He has supreme authority over everything. (Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:16-18)
- God has given all humanity dominion (stewardship, managers, administrators) over the works of His hands. (Genesis 1:26-28)

3) Paul's message to the Corinthian churches is order both in the churches and in the family home. We must be careful not to take his words out of context. **So, what is Apostle Paul not saying?**

- Paul is **<u>not</u>** saying that the disruption and disorder in the churches was only caused by women alone, but some were and those who were refused to submit to their husbands.
- Paul is **<u>not</u>** saying that a woman should not be allowed to use and share her gifts entrusted to her by God within the church.
- Paul **<u>is saying</u>** that a woman can use and share her gifts within the church if she submits to the spiritual authority of her husband and church leadership. (Acts 2:16-18, 21:8-9)

4) Paul's letter addressed these top needs that were lacking among the Corinthian churches.

- To know and understand the purpose of their gifts.
- To edify and build up the people's lives within the church.
- To bring decency and order back into the church.
- To bring sinners to repentance and belief in Jesus Christ.
- To bring glory and honor to God.

6. Apostle Paul is aware that some would oppose his instructions and question his authority and knowledge of the subject matter. (vs. 36-38)

- <u>Paul asked (2) questions to address their prideful attitude and behavior</u>: (vs. 36)

1. Or did the word of God come originally from you? (vs. 36)

2. Or was it you only that it reached? (vs. 36)

1) Paul makes it clear to these believers in these churches that you are not the Originator (Author or Producer) of God's Word." (vs. 36)

2) Paul makes it clear to these believers in these churches that the Word of God applies to everyone, regardless of their spiritual gifts or spirituality. (vs. 37)

3) Paul rejects their prideful belief and attitude that the instructions from God's Word didn't apply them and their failure to acknowledge the command or instructions from God's Word was unacceptable. (vs. 38)

- Theses believers in these churches had an issue with Paul's instructions given to them, even though it was according to the Word of God and not his own personal opinion or interpretation.
- Their prideful belief and critical attitude deceived them into thinking that they were more knowledgeable and had their own instructions, personal revelation, and insight from God on the subject matter.
- **Always remember**, that God is under authority of His spoken Word. He will never violate or contradict the command of His Word for any believer or any church. (Genesis 1:1-31, Psalm 138:1-2, John 14:23, Romans 3:1-4, Hebrews 1:1-4)
- **Always remember**, that God shows no partiality (favoritism) or bribes because of a person's title, position, gifts, talents, education or money. (Deuteronomy 10:17)

7. Apostle Paul gives (3) three exhortations in his final conclusion. (vs. 39-40)

1) Desire earnestly to prophesy.

- The word **"desire"** means to covet earnestly, earnest seeking, be zealous, ambitious for and a passionate longing for.

2) Do not forbid to speak with tongues.

- The word **"forbid"** means to prevent by word or action, hinder, keep from, to suffer or withstand against.

3) Let all things be done **decently** and in **order**.

- The word **"decently**" means to act in a fitting or honorable manner, respectfully and proper conduct, with control and restraint.
- The word **"order"** means to operate in and under authority or position of rank, to follow commands or instructions, to display character and dignity.

- The Holy Spirit’s presence and power never shows up in a public church service where there is disorder, division, and confusion.