

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

1 COR 14:18 "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:"

MK 16:17 "And these signs shall follow them that believe; **In my name** shall they cast out devils; **they shall speak with new tongues;** "

Jesus prophesied that "new tongues" would come. (Mk 16:17) One of the greatest contentions in Christendom has been the "tongues" of Acts. I have heard some say it was only for that era. I have heard others say, "It is from the devil". If we believe it is imperative to fulfill Bible prophecy we must embrace "new tongues" wholehearted without fear or doubt. This end-time sign is from God Himself. If Jesus said "they shall speak", then all believers need to speak in "tongues".

ACT 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In the "upper room" in Jerusalem a 120 disciples had gathered from every nation (Acts 2:5) in a unified body. (Act 2:9-11) Suddenly, from heaven there came a sound like a mighty wind and cloven tongues of fire sat on them all. (Act 2:1). Instantly they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with "other tongues". These disciples began to speak in other languages they had never learnt. These languages were recognisable by others in the midst. Considered Galilaeans (Act 2:7) many had a different "mother tongue" (Act 2:8) but understood all the new languages spoken that day. This miraculous speaking with other tongues is what causes such disunity in the body of Christ. Present day Christians have the same access to being filled with the Holy Spirit and to the speaking of "other tongues".

ACT 10:44-46 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out **the gift of the Holy Ghost**. 46For **they heard them speak with tongues**, and magnify God.

ACT 19:6 And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, **the Holy Ghost came on them;** and **they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**

The "speaking of tongues", [not the gift of tongues] **are our personal "unknown" tongues.** The believer may use them whilst praying or during times of praise and worship.

“Tongues” were the evidence of the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Act 10:45-46)
The Holy Spirit gifts also come with the “tongues” (Act 19:6)

ACT 19:6 And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and **they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are activated by faith. (1Cor 14:31-32, 39; 12:31)

1 COR 14:4 He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

Paul preferred that believers prophesied. (1Cor 14:1)

Paul believed that all believers should prophecy. (1Cor 14:31, 39)

Unlike the gift of tongues, in which a message is brought to the church; tongues should be reserved for our personal prayer times. It is not a license to demonstrate to others that we have received the gift of tongues.

1 COR 14:14 For **if I pray in an *unknown* tongue, my spirit prayeth**, but my understanding is unfruitful.

We should not use other tongues whilst preaching or testifying or during any other activity of exhortation. Tongues should not be used to excess in public prayer meetings where there are those that have not been in-filled by the Holy Spirit and have experienced speaking in tongues. Wisdom decrees that we should not make other believers feel uncomfortable.

1 COR 14:6 Now, brethren, **if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you**, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

1 COR 14:19 Yet in the church **I had rather speak five words with my understanding**, that *by my voice* I might teach others also, **than ten thousand words in an *unknown* tongue.**

1 COR 14:15 What is it then? **I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also**: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. 16Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, **seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?** 17For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

1 COR 14:2 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.

I must state it again that during a prayer or church meeting it is a wise practice not to pray in “unknown tongues” too much, as most believers are unable to understand the tongues spoken during our prayer to God. (1Cor 14:16-17) When in the presence of unbelievers it may be necessary to reframe from the use of tongues. The edification of the church body comes before self-edification. We can always build up our own faith using tongues at home.

1 COR 14:23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in *those that are* unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

However, the scriptures are clear on the use of tongues. Never forbid it!

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

Now let us bring some clarification on the gift of tongues.

1 COR 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath **a tongue**, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. **27If any man speak in an *unknown* tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and *that* by course; and let one interpret.** 28But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

Paul clearly states that tongues may be used as a part of the church service. “a psalm, a doctrine or teaching, a tongue”. Then Paul says in the same verse (26) “hath an interpretation”. There must be an interpretation given after the use of the gift of tongues. (v.27) If there is no interpreter of the tongues, then the person speaking the tongue must be silent. (v.28)

1 COR 14:40 Let all things be done decently and **in order.**

1 COR 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but ***that* the members should have the same care one for another.**

1 COR 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, **and members in particular.**

Many unbelievers pride themselves on disorderly conduct during leisure times. This is their way of “having fun” or as some would say “burning off steam”. Our western lifestyles seem to be encouraging disorder of conduct. However those who consider themselves crucified “in Christ” should no longer have a need to let off steam in the manner that the “world” does. Similarly, when it comes to our spiritual behavior in church services, leaders need to encourage “ordered worship”. The order we need is a Pentecostal order. It is found in the book of ACTS. Paul also gives the necessary disciplines in his teachings in (1 Corinthians Chapters 12 and 14). These guidelines are written that we can get the best spiritual outcomes from our church services.