

THE PLACE & VALUE OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

I. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 - The gift that we will be talking about this morning is the “*Gift of Tongues.*”

A. There is a lot of confusion and division of this issue - We are the butt of a lot peoples jokes.

We are either considered dumb - Southern Seminary students helping us to move.

Or we are considered of the devil - I was asked to resigned from my position as youth minister.

Heard a story about a conservative Pastor who went up to Airport Vineyard in Toronto

Ephesians 6:11-12 states, “*Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil.*”

1. **Jesus said you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.**

a. Real truth has the power to liberate.

b. The enemy knows this and since he can't do anything against the truth.

1) He distorts the way God packages it by always attaching ribbons of controversy.

2) The Day of Pentecost - Some where amazed and some mocked

c. The more powerful the truth, the more controversy he surrounds it with.

d. No where is this more true then those things that surround the Holy Spirit.

2. The enemy only has two ways that he deals with God's truth.

a. The first way is that he tries to blinds us to certain truths in the word of God.

1) He will use our traditions, the way we were brought up, our prejudices or our emotional temperament

2) It's were he holds us back from the truth.

3) But because of our deep hunger and desire for the Lord Jesus we break free.

- **We discover the power of the Holy Spirit, we discover who we are in Christ, we discover our need for the Body of Christ, and we have a desire for spiritual gifts.**

- These new revelations both refresh and free us.

- **Which cause us to move out of our complacency into His conviction**

- Out of our mediocrity into His momentum.

b. Now what the enemy does is a different tactic.

- 1) Instead of holding us back, he now comes behind us and he begins to push us into the extremes of the truth.
- 2) **The enemy knows that we can get into error by either de-emphasizing certain aspects of God's word or by over-emphasizing them.**
- 3) Either way we negate God's word, one way you disrupt it, the other way you distort it.

3. There is nothing that our enemy attacks more than our prayer life.

a. He doesn't want us communicating with God.

b. Tongues is known as a "prayer language."

II. This morning, I want to establish in your thinking both the place and value of speaking in tongues.

A. Tongues has a place in three areas.

1. A Place in Scripture - it is in the Bible?

a. **Mark 16:17 - "And these signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues."**

1) kainos- new = of a new kind, previously unknown of or unheard of

2) **superior to that which is old or that which it replaces**

b. **Acts 2:4 - "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance."**

c. **Acts 10:44-46 - "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God."**

d. **Acts 19:6 - "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they {began} speaking with tongues and prophesying."**

e. **1 Corinthians 13:1 - "If I speak with the tongues of men (earthly) and of angels (heavenly), but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal."**

2. A place for self.

a. **1 Corinthians 14:1-2 - "For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men, but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries."**

“If you praise him in the private language of tongues, God understands you but no one else does, for you are sharing intimacies just between you and him.” The Message

b. 1 Corinthians 14:4 - *“One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself.”*

“The one who prays using a private “prayer language” certainly gets a lot out of it.” Message

3. A place among the saints.

- a. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14:5, *“Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues”* and in verse 18, *“I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all.”*
- b. **1 Corinthians 14:13-15 states.** *“Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. What is the outcome then? I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind also; I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the mind also.”*
- c. And 1 Corinthians 14:26-28 states, *“When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and let one interpret; but if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God.”*
- d. Finally, **1 Corinthians 14:39-40 states,** *“Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues. But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.”*

Tongues has a place in scripture, for self, and among the saints

B. Tongues has value in three ways.

1. Speaking in tongues will enable you to Edify yourself.
 - a. **As a student of the Bible and an admirer of Paul I have for a long time tried to understand what Paul’ Gospel is.**

Romans 16:25 - *“Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ.”*

- 1) **“His Gospel” was comprised of principles that he understood about God that made him as effective as he was.**

In Philippians 4, Paul states, *“I have discovered the secret of being content in every situation”*

- 2) **The reason why Paul was so effective as a Christian, is that he understood - 1 Cor14:4**

- *“He who speaks in tongues edifies and improves himself.” AMP*

- *“When a person speaks in tongues, he helps himself grow.” Gods Word*

- “A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally in the Lord.” NLT

3) Edify = oikodomeo = to build a house, to restore, to rebuild, to repair.

b. Paul had something at his disposal that enabled him to build up, restore, or repair what had been torn down.

- **Being stoned, he prayed in tongues**
- being whipped, he prayed tongues “More than you all”
- **shipwrecked, he prayed in tongues**

d. Praying in tongues enables us to pray according to the will of God

Rom 8:26-27 - “And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for {us} with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to {the will of} God.

1) With my mind I usually pray according to my will (Bless me this day)

2) With my spirit I pray according to His will (Burden me this day)

- Paul went through what he went through because he prayed in tongues.
- **Speaking in tongues got him into difficult situations and speaking in tongues got him out of those situations.**
- I go through what I go through because I pray in tongues

2. Praying in tongues enables you to Eliminate impurities from your mind and spirit.

a. John 7:38-39 states, “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive.’”

1) Rivers of Living Water, not muddy water, or Newsom water.

2) Praying in tongues will keep your water flowing pure and fresh.

3) Story of the hose in the yard

b. As a minister I'd go home with resentments, bitterness, irritations, lusts, hurts, fears and I would ask myself how I could get rid of these.

1) God has given us a gift whereby we can keep our spirit clean and free.

2) By speaking in tongues I can wash out all the impurities.

3) Someone asked me what I would do if someone asked me to speak in tongues

c. **Jude 20-21 substantiates this**

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God.”

“But you, dear friends, carefully build yourselves up in this most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit, staying right at the center of God's love, keeping your arms open and outstretched.” **THE MESSAGE**

3. Praying in tongues enables you to Equip the Church.

a. **Where to we get the faith to witness, to preach, to prophesy, to pray for healing, to discern spirits, to get a word of knowledge? By speaking in tongues**

b. 1 Corinthians 14:5 states, “*I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied.*” KJV

1) The “*rather that*” should be translated “*but rather, in order that.*”

2) It is called a “hina clause”

3) **In every other place in scripture it is translated either “in order that or so that.”**

2 Corinthians 1:4 - 2 Corinthians 9:11 - 2 Peter 1:4

c. **Tongues is the getting on place**

1) It will increase your faith to the point that you will be able to enter into all the other gifts.

2) **It is the least gift, that will lead you into the best gifts**

3) Certain tools are used more often than others, hammer, screwdriver, pliers.

4) **But there are some tools that can be used when all others fail. “Duct tape & WD-40”**

- Praying in tongues will hold things together until the other gifts show up.

- **Praying in tongues will lubricate the stiff and resistant areas of your life while the Spirit is changing and transforming you.**

5) When you don't know what to do to speak in tongues, when you do know what to do speak in tongues.

6) **I am not saying that speaking in tongues in the answer to everything, but it will help you find the answer to all things.**

Tongues hold value for edifying self, for eliminating impurities and for equipping the church