

Lesson 17:

A. Reasons gift of tongues is known languages

- The Gift of Tongues was a divinely bestowed supernatural ability to speak in a human language that had not been learned by the one speaking. According to the Apostle Paul, when believers exercised the gift of tongues in church, they were to speak one at a time, and only two or three were to speak in a given service.¹

1 Corinthians 14:27 If 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.

- Furthermore, when tongues were spoken in the church, they were to be interpreted by someone with the gift of interpretation so that the others might be edified by the God-given message.

1 Corinthians 14:5 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.

1 Corinthians 14:13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue pray that he may interpret.

1 Corinthians 14:27 If 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.

- Tongues did not serve as a private prayer language, but rather—like all spiritual gifts—as a means by which one might serve and edify the body of Christ. In other words it was for the Church.

1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

B. “Tongues of Angels” – discussed

- The tongues of angels as mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13:1 is the ability to speak more perfectly.
1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.
- In every instance in the Bible where an angel speaks to a man, he always speaks in a language known to the man, not some heavenly language unknown to man.

Examples:

Daniel 9:21-22 Yea, whiles I *was* speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. 22 And he informed *me*, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

Luke 1:26-28 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name *was* Mary. 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art* highly favoured, the Lord *is* with thee: blessed *art* thou among women.

Acts 12:7-8 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *his* hands. 8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

- The only other utterance in Scripture that speaks of an unknown language is that spoken of as *groanings* from the Holy Spirit:

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth 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.

Of course, there is some debate of what these “*groanings*” are supposed to be. I don’t think it should be a mystery. The word “*groanings*” comes from a Greek word which means “*to sigh*.” So, these groanings which cannot be uttered are those deep inward expressions which we cannot seem to form words for. We can become so burdened or overwhelmed that we just cannot use words to describe our inner anguish. That is when the Holy Spirit steps in and intercedes for us. And, the Bible says that He does this because we “*know not what we should pray for as we ought*.” Let’s face it, sometimes we are just big dummies when it comes to spiritual matters. So, we need help from the only One who can give it to us – the Holy Spirit.

- **One of the basic rules in the interpretation of Scripture:** Never attempt to interpret a clear passage of Scripture in light of another passage that is obscure.

For example: The Bible clearly indicates in several places that speaking in tongues is a known earthly language. Why would we take one passage of Scripture such as Romans 8:26 and base our entire theology concerning prayer and language on that passage?

C. The remaining gifts for today

1. The gift of an apostle

- Definition of Apostle: ***He that is sent with authority***. Of course, there are no more apostles such as there was in the days of Jesus, such as James, John, Peter, and Paul, etc. The office of Apostle was for the early New Testament Church; however, in the sense of the definition of Apostle, we call men “missionaries” today and not Apostles.
- Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
- Besides the 12 Apostles that we think of (disciples) there were other Apostles called after the ascension of Christ:
 - Acts 14:4 But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles.
 - Acts 14:14 Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out,
 - Romans 16:7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

2. The gift of a prophet

- 1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.
- Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
- Definition of the Gift of Prophecy: ***the gift and motivation to preach***.

- Acts 15:32 And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.
- Today's prophets do not receive new prophecy from God, as we have the complete canon of Scripture.

3. The gift of an evangelist

- Definition of evangelist: *supernatural ability to preach to lost sinners about their unsaved condition, their certain judgement, their eternal destiny, and their need for salvation.*
- Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
- 2 Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.
- Characteristics of an evangelist: require great physical stamina, traveling, long hours, away from home, in many places.
- Acts 21:8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

4. The gift of a pastor

- Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
- Qualifications of a pastor - 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, 1 Peter 5:1-4, Acts 20:17-28
- Definition: Shepherds God gave to oversee the flock.
- Speaking of the Pastor/Shepherd: **Hebrews 13:17** Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.
- **Qualifications of Pastor: 1 Timothy 3:1-7** This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
- The pastor should exercise leadership and refuse to compromise convictions.

5. The gift of a teacher and of teaching

- Romans 12:7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;
- The supernatural ability to instruct others in the Word of God in a clear and understandable matter.
- Definition of teacher: *One who teaches concerning the things of God, and the duties of man.*
- Characteristics: Romans 12:11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

- 2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

6. The gift of prophecy

- Found in the Bible: 1 Corinthians 12:10, 1 Corinthians 14:1-6, Ephesians 4:8-11.
- Definition of the gift of prophecy: The spiritual gift of prophecy today is *the motivation to proclaim the Word of God, to speak out against sin and error*. It is the God-given ability to be persuasive in preaching the Word of God to use the Word of God to bring things to light things concealed, to be able to bring a man's conscience into the light of God's presence.

7. The gift of exhortation

- Romans 12:8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.
- Definition: *The ability to encourage, stimulate, prompt others in the Church to spiritual growth, encourage others to have a close walk with the Lord.*
- **Barnabas** had the gift of exhortation: Acts 11:22-24 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. 23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. 24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.
- **Priscilla and Aquilla:** Acts 18:24-26 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, *and* mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom **when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.**
- **Judas and Silas:** Acts 15:32 And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.
- **Paul the Apostle:** Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.
 - 2 Corinthians 9:5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.
 - Also, in: 1 Thess 2:11, 1 Thess 4:1, 1 Thess 5:14
- **Peter** - 1 Peter 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:
- **Jude** - Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

¹ John MacArthur