

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE
DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
SPIRITUAL GIFTS-PART 7-THE GIFT OF TONGUES
VARIOUS

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I. THE REVIEW OF TONGUES.

A. The Initiation Of Tongues In The New Testament.

- 1. The gift of tongues was first initiated into the New Testament by the Lord Jesus Christ. (Mark 16:15-17)**

- 2. The first use of tongues was an important part of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the first 120 believers at Pentecost who had tarried as Jesus had commanded them. (Acts 2:1-4)**

B. The Importance Of Tongues In The New Testament.

- 1. The Frequency Of Tongues.**
 - a. Day of Pentecost—Maximum of 120— Acts 2:4**
 - b. House Of Cornelius—Acts 10:46**
 - c. John The Baptist’s Followers—Acts 19:6**
 - d. The Corinthian Church—1 Corinth. 12, 13, 14**

So, that is four times in a span of 35 years and in only two books of the New Testament.

2. The Priority Of Tongues. (1 Corinthians 12 and 14)

- a. 12:1** - establishes that a Christian can possess a spiritual gift and still know little, if any, of the Biblical truth related to that gift.

- b. 12:28** - Of the gifts listed by Paul, tongues is listed lowest in priority.

- c. 14:1** - The spiritual gift that Paul directs the Corinthians to desire is not the gift of tongues, but rather prophecy.

- d. 14:19** - Shows how unimportant tongues is in comparison to the gift of prophecy.

So, the gift of tongues **was not** one of the most important spiritual gifts during the first 35 years of the Church.

C. The Importance Of Tongues In Church History.

Throughout the course of Church history the spiritual gift of tongues was not mentioned, not advocated, and not practiced by those looked at as being giants of the faith.

II. THE REASON FOR TONGUES.

A. From Biblical Observation.

- 1. Acts 2 – Tongues was good for drawing a crowd of Jews. (Acts 2:6)**

- 2. Acts 10 – Tongues was an evidence to the Jews that Cornelius, a Gentile, was saved. (Acts 10:44-48)**

- 3. Acts 19:1-7 – This gave Paul an opportunity to go into the synagogue and preach to those Jews who had seen the supernatural events take place. (Vs 8)**

B. Biblical Declaration.

- 1. Tongues Were Given For A Sign. (1 Cor. 14:22)**

- 2. Tongues Are A Sign For The Jew. (1 Corinthians 1:22; 14:21; Cf. Isaiah 28:11-12)**

- 3. Tongues were not for a sign to all the Jews, but to unbelieving Jews. (1 Corinthians 14:22)**
 - a. Deuteronomy 28:45-49**
 - b. Isaiah 28:11-12**
 - c. Jeremiah 5:15**

So, tongues are a sign to unbelieving Jews of the coming judgment of God from which they must be delivered by repenting of their sin.

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III. THE RESPONSE TO TONGUES.

A. Group #1–The Earliest Believers.

We know the 120 first believers used tongues correctly on the day of Pentecost. They were able, with God's help, to draw at least 3000 Jews to Simon Peter with the use of their newly acquired spiritual gift.

B. Group #2–Unsaved Jewish People.

Initial response–3000 saved on the day of Pentecost and thousands more in the short months that followed.

Long term response–By and large they rejected God's message.
(1 Corinthians 14:21)

Tongues has been mostly an ineffective tool for evangelizing Jews. But that's what it was for!

C. Group #3–Unsaved Gentiles.

Negative response. *1 Corinthians 14:23*

D. Group # 4–Christians Living Later In The First Century, When Most Believers Were Saved Gentiles.

(1 Corinthians chapters 12, 13 and 14 tell us.)

The Corinthian Church, composed almost exclusively of Gentile believers, knew almost nothing about spiritual gifts in general and the gift of tongues specifically.

IV. THE REALITY OF TONGUES.

A. As To Language.

Acts 2:4-11 is very clear on the day of Pentecost that "*other tongues*" were foreign languages.

In *1 Corinthians 14:21*, when explaining tongues to ignorant Corinthians who possessed the gift but didn't know what they possessed, Paul quoted from *Isaiah 28:11-12*.

B. As To Longevity.

1 Corinthians 13:8, Paul wrote, "*whether there be tongues, they shall cease . . .*" And the verb translated "*cease*" means to abruptly stop!

V. THE RESTORATION OF TONGUES?

God could very possibly restore the gift of tongues for use again in the Tribulation, but it is not likely. The gift could be mightily used to evangelize Jews and others around the world.

(i.e. Scripture says that God will send forth 144,000 Jewish evangelists to every part of the globe for 3 ½ years.)

VI. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHRISTIANS.

A. Christians Ought To Abandon Preconceived Notions.

Study the Word of God and these things for yourself!

B. Christians Ought To Advocate Unbiased Study.

Many, many people will not study the Word of God in an unbiased way. Instead, they will look for ways to support what they have already made up their mind they are going to believe.

C. Christians Ought To Appeal To God And His Word.

Much more weight should be given to what God says than to what we or others think or feel!

D. Christians Ought To Admit That Spirituality Is Not Related To Emotions Or Feelings . . . Or Even Gifts.

The Corinthians thought they were spiritual. They weren't. Many today think they are spiritual when they are not.

What passes for tongues today bears little resemblance to tongues found in the Bible. How can that be? A failure to study the Word of God! Allowing others to greatly influence us rather than what God says in His Word!