



Speaking In The Tongues of Men and Angels

What Does The Bible Say?

A Biblical Study by
Robert Vilardi

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Mark 16:15

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Why Speaking in Tongues?

During one of our bible studies the conversation came up about speaking in tongues and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Is it really from God? Do you need to have it? Should you, have it? What does the bible say? In an attempt to settle this issue within our study group, I thought I would put together a little study on speaking in tongues and the other gifts of the Spirit. Here is what I found. I hope that it is a help to you in your Christian walk.

1 Corinthians 13:

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. First off, it appears that the gift of tongues was available after Jesus was crucified and resurrected. Did you know that angels have their own language (tongue) and Believers can speak in that language as well?

Speaking in tongues and other gifts of the spirit have always been a source of contention between different denominations of the Church. Almost every bible believing Christian agrees that these gifts “were” active when the Apostles were alive, however, some believe that these gifts are no longer needed today. Does scripture back that up?

Variations on this division:

There are many Christians that believe speaking in tongues is the main gift and that the other gifts of the Holy Spirit may or may not be manifest in all Believers. Does scripture back this up?

What the Scriptures Do Say:

Reading through the scriptures, it appears that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are still active today and while some Believers may have a special anointing in a particular gift, the gift of

speaking in tongues as well as all of the other gifts are available to all Believers at all times.

If you really want to shake things up, wait until you read Paul's writings on the gift of Prophecy.

Today, the phenomenon of speaking in tongues is spread world-wide throughout the Church regardless of nationality, country borders or denomination (yes, there are professed Baptists that speak in tongues). Speaking in Tongues remains without question, the single biggest issue that has caused a split among the various denominations of the Christian Church.

So, What's Changed?

Many of today's scholars and lay-students of the Word believe that those gifts are no longer in effect today. Those who speak in tongues and flow in the other gifts of the Holy Spirit would argue that "Every good thing given, and every perfect gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of lights [the Creator and Sustainer of the heavens], in whom there is no variation [no rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning [for He is perfect and never changes]." (James 1:17 AMP). In short once God gives a gift, He does not take it back. That one sentence there will shake up your Christian world if you take it all the way back to the time of Adam and Eve.

Nay Sayers

Those that do not believe in speaking in tongues point to 1 Corinthians 12:29-30. "All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? All do not have gifts of healings, do they? *All do not speak with tongues, do they?* All do not interpret, do they?"

If you read that passage as a standalone, the answer is a resounding NO, however, doctrine cannot be built on one scripture and scripture should not be taken out of context. So, are there other scriptures to support that speaking in tongues is no longer for today's Believer? The answer, no but read on.

While there are several scholarly opinions that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are no longer in use, some even claiming that tongues are evil, they appear to be a matter of conjecture as other than the 1 Corinthians 12-29-30, which at first seems to support this, there are no other scriptures to back that up. Yes, you read correctly, not a single other scripture. On the other hand, the bible is filled with scriptures that are found in both the old and new testament that support the premise that God is a man of His Word and has not changed His mind nor revoked His gifts. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (Romans 11:29). Below are a few others.

Psalms 89: I will not violate My covenant or alter the word that went forth from My lips.

Psalms 102:27: But You are the same and Your years have no end.

Malachi 3:6: “For I the LORD do not change. So, you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.”

John 4:24: “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 10:30: “I and the Father are one.”

Ephesians 4:8: Therefore, He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”

Hebrews 13:8: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

James 1:17: “But whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God, the Creator of all light, and He shines forever without change or shadow.”

1 Peter 1:24-25: “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you.”

What are gifts of the Spirit?

9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

In addition to the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit, (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) the Bible also tells us that there are 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit. While our purpose here is specifically aimed at the gift of speaking in tongues it is important to know that there are numerous other gifts available to ALL Believers.

- 1. The Word of Knowledge:**

Having knowledge about something that you have no ability or means of knowing based on your human intelligence. It is a supernatural conviction, impression, insight or understanding of circumstances by revelation that comes by without assistance from any human resource.

2. **The Word of Wisdom:**
It gives you the ability and understanding to see things from God's perspective and how to apply the word of knowledge.
3. **The Gift of Prophecy:**
This gift of the Holy Spirit is one that the scripture instructs us to desire more than the others, "desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy and earnestly desire to prophesy..." (1 Corinthians 14:1, 39). Prophecy is a direct Word from The Lord that is to be given to someone else to edify *them* and build *them* up. Yes, you can prophesy over yourself.
4. **The Gift of Faith:**
Our faith grows as we continue to walk with The Lord. It is what saves us! "You are saved through faith" (Ephesians 2:8). Faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for (Hebrews 11:1), knowing that we cannot accomplish them on our own. Faith is the substance that causes us to move into miracles and wonders in the name of Jesus.
5. **The Gifts of Healings:**
There are different kinds of healings. "...to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:9). The scripture says "gifts," plural. These gifts equip you in various ways to access healing for yourself, or others, all done in the name of Jesus. Scripture tells us that it is possible for this gift to be transferred onto objects. "... so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured, and the evil spirits left them. (Acts 19:12)
6. **The Working of Miracles:**
Miracles are seen throughout the entire Bible, from Moses parting the Red Sea to Peter raising Tabitha from the dead (Acts 9:40-42). Since God is the same

yesterday, today, and forever, one would have to conclude that He is still in the business of working miracles. Unexplained by nature as is the word of knowledge, this gift is manifested not by human efforts, but by the Holy Spirit.

7. **The Discerning of Spirits:**

This gift is the ability to distinguish, discern or judge an environment, person, statement, or situation to see (discern) if a truth, a lie, or evil spirit is operating in someone's life. It is like pulling back the curtains and exposing what lies behind, helping the person to experience a breakthrough from bondage.

8. **Different Kinds of Tongues:**

This gift is a supernatural ability to speak and pray in a tongue that you do not naturally know. This can include speaking any language such as Spanish, German, Arabic, Angelic, or any other dialect unknown to you. It can also include direct conversation with God as well as groanings too deep for words. (Romans 8:15, 26) in an unknown language. Tongues is also spoken forth in prayer among Believers, or in an assembly where God anoints another Believer(s), with the gift of interpretation, to interpret the word spoken into the native tongue of the congregation. (1 Corinthians 14:2, 13-14).

9. **The Interpretation of Tongues:**

This is a gift that allows the tongue that was spoken to be interpreted. This can either be for yourself (1 Corinthians 14:13-14) or for the Church (1 Corinthians 14:27-28). It can also be an interpretation of an unlearned common language to you such as Spanish, German, or Arabic.

Should we seek after these Gifts?

Paul tells us that we should seek after and desire these spiritual gifts. As “they are not only for us but for the profit of all.” (1 Corinthians 12:7). Again, we are specifically addressing speaking in tongues, but Paul tells us we should “desire the other gifts especially the gift of prophesy.

“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.” (1 Corinthians 14:1)

desire earnestly to prophesy.”
(1 Corinthians 14:39)

“Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophecies.” (1 Thessalonians 5:19)

Stir Things Up:

Paul also tells us that we should “stir up” these gifts of the Holy Spirit. You can only stir them up if you use them. Many Believers have been prayed for to receive the gift of speaking in tongues but don’t practice it. Most people’s reasoning is that they feel like they are copying someone else. I don’t know about you but that is how I started to speak English. Eventually, I increased my vocabulary and even learned other languages.

“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things, give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.”
(1 Timothy 4:14-15).

“Therefore, I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”
(2 Timothy 1:6)

Do Christians Really Need to Know This Stuff?

Paul tells us the following: “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols; however, you were led. Therefore, I want you to understand that no one *speaking in the Spirit* of God ever says; “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
(1 Corinthians 12: 1-7)

Many confuse this verse to mean that the Holy Spirit may or may not give you a certain gift. That is an incorrect interpretation of what Paul is saying. If that were the correct interpretation than only some Christians would have faith as it is one of the gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:9. However, we know that it takes faith to believe in Jesus. It takes faith to believe that He hears you when you pray. It takes faith to receive answers to your prayers. Why would God give you the gift of faith but not the other gifts? And what about Hebrews Chapter 11? Faith in Jesus is THE cornerstone of Christianity.

Then He touched their eyes and said, “According to *your faith* let it be done to you”
(Mathew 9:29)

We know that there are some people who have the gift of incredible faith, able to move mountains. The same holds true for the other gifts. Take wisdom for example. Simply reading the bible and getting to know Jesus will make you wiser but King Solomon was given a specific divine gift of wisdom. You may be able to teach school children, but some people have a specific gift to teach them and actually enjoy doing it. Imagine that...

Chapter Two

What does the Bible Say?

Throughout the bible (new and old testament) there are scriptures about speaking in tongues. Putting them all into context helps bring them into the light.

John 4:23-24

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must *worship in spirit* and truth."

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."

Backstory:

Some might say "Oh, worshiping in the Spirit means with the right attitude". Others could argue that since God is a spirit, speaking in tongues IS worshiping the Father in the Spirit and with the right attitude.

As keenly noted, and pointed out by Evangelist Perry Stone, the promise Paul mentions in Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." goes part and parcel with Romans 8:26-27, "Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness and gives us power. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And He who searches hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." To get the benefits of 8:28, you need 8:26-27.

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, whereby we cry, "Abba! Father!"
(Romans 8:15)

Sometimes we just don't know what to pray for or how to pray for it. Praying in the Spirit (in Tongues) transcends our heads and gets our mind and our emotions out of the way.

OK, OK, Jesus had a lot to say about the various gifts, but did He say anything specific about speaking in tongues?

Mark 16:17

“And these signs will accompany those who believe; in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues.”

Back Story:

Jesus didn't say a percentage of Believers would cast out demons and speak in new tongues. He said those who believe would do it. Are you a Believer? If so, you are included with these accompanying signs.

Some would say, Well, Jesus meant “only” speaking in known languages like Spanish. Scripture clearly disagrees with that “only” concept but let's say it did. As a Believer, why aren't you speaking in those languages? I know of several people who have gone to other countries not knowing the language who have done just that.

He who has believed [in Me] and has been baptized will be saved [from the penalty of God's wrath and judgment]; but he who has not believed will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will *speak in new tongues*; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will get well.” (Mark 16:16-17). These are the signs of those who are Believers.

The day of Pentecost - 30 AD

On the day of Pentecost, 120 people spoke in other tongues. Per the instructions of Jesus, the next step was for them to wait until they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which we now know came with speaking in tongues.

This was the blueprint that was laid out. Throughout the book of Acts, after salvation through faith in Jesus, the next most important thing for any new convert is to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Speaking in tongues was manifested when people were baptized with the Holy Spirit. If not, why would Paul give an entire chapter on the gifts of the Spirit and the etiquette of speaking in tongues?

Acts 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to *speak in other tongues* as the Spirit gave them utterance (diverse tongues).

Backstory:

Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Peter's Sermon at Pentecost:

Acts 2:44-45

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who were listening to his speech. The Jewish Believers who came with Peter were amazed that the Holy Spirit had been poured out as a gift also to people who were not Jews.

Ask yourself this question. How did they know they were filled with the Holy Spirit?

Backstory:

Acts 10:46-47

They heard them speaking different languages and praising God. Then Peter said, "How can anyone object to these people being baptized in water? They have received the Holy Spirit *the same as we did!*"

Yes, Peter said; “the same as we did”. Some would argue that the tongues here were existing languages previously unknown by the speaker. OK, is there a problem with that? The speakers obviously didn’t have prior experience or knowledge regarding the language they were speaking in. How do you know that when you speak in tongues it isn’t a dialect of an existing language that you are not aware of?

Some 30+ years later Gentiles get the Holy Spirit - approximately - 40 AD

Acts 8:14

The apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted the word of God. So, they sent Peter and John to the people in Samaria. When Peter and John arrived, they prayed for the Samaritan Believers to receive the Holy Spirit. These people had been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, but *the Holy Spirit had not yet come down on any of them*. This is why Peter and John prayed. They had received the word but did not have the Spirit. Tongues were a visible sign that Christ’s came for both the Jew (Acts 2) and the Gentile (Acts 10).

Backstory:

How did they know that the Holy Spirit had not come down on any of them? And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” John The Baptist said we would to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and with Fire (Luke 3:16-18). On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began *speaking in tongues and prophesying*. (Acts 19:3-6).

Hmmm, speaking in tongues AND prophesying, very interesting.

Acts 8:17

When the two apostles laid their hands on the people, they received the Holy Spirit. They became Believers when they received Christ as their Savior, but they received the Holy Spirit when Peter and John laid their hands on them. So, there is a difference between the two.

Peter tells us that; “According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be “born again” to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”. (1 Peter 1:3).

1 Peter 1:23

For through the eternal and living Word of God you have been born again. And this “seed” that He planted within you can never be destroyed but will live *and grow* inside of you forever.

How do we know that speaking in tongues was the proof of receiving the Holy Spirit? Read on...

Acts 8:18

Simon (not Peter) saw that the Spirit was given to people when the apostles laid their hands on them. So, he offered the apostles money. He said, “Give me this power so that when I lay my hands on someone, they will receive the Holy Spirit.”

How did Simon know that they had received the Holy Spirit? You can't see Him. He (The Spirit) is invisible. There was an obvious outward physical demonstration of receiving the Holy Spirit.

As mentioned previously, When the two apostles laid their hands on the people, they received the Holy Spirit. **Acts 8:17**

To Speak Or Not To Speak - Paul and Speaking in Tongues:

In 1 Corinthians, Paul wrote an entire chapter on speaking in tongues. It must have been important.

The Backstory:

There were those in the Corinthian church that were speaking out in tongues “publicly” in their gatherings and no one was interpreting what they said. Paul responded by asking, “What good is that if when you all get together speaking in tongues if nobody understands anything that people are saying. There needs to be an interpretation! People who don’t speak in tongues will be completely confused without an interpretation.” (See 1 Corinthians 14). If you speak in tongues in a public gathering (where unbelievers may be present), it is not love for them if you speak in tongues without someone who can interpret. However, speaking in tongues with other Believers privately is ok.

A Clearer Interpretation

So, Paul’s question; “Do all speak in tongues?” 1 Corinthians 12:29-30, as originally asked at the beginning of this study, the answer is plainly no but the reason behind it can now be understood. The unbelievers did not and many of the new Christian converts who had not received the Holy Spirit did not either. This entire chapter about the gifts is a lead up to the real issue, to have love one for another. Love is the foundation of Christianity, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’ and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27.

Did Paul forbid speaking in tongues? On the contrary, Paul says; “So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.” 1 Cor. 14:39. Paul actually warns against quenching the Spirit; “Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances” (1 Thessalonians. 5:19).

Prayer Language:

Is the gift of tongues meant for every Believer?

“I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.” 1 Cor. 14:18. This is what Charismatics and Pentecostals call their prayer language. It is when you speak directly to God.

If everyone didn't speak in tongues, Paul would have said, I speak in tongues more than *some* of you or more than most of you or those who do? No, Paul included everyone by saying; "I speak in tongues more than ALL of you.

How did Paul get the Holy Spirit?

In 35 AD Luke tells us the following.

The Backstory:

Acts 9:10

Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My name." So, Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened.

1 Corinthians 14:2

Love should be the goal of your life, but you should also want to have the gifts that come from the Spirit. And the gift you should want most is to be able to prophesy. I will explain why. Those who have the gift of speaking in a different language

are not speaking to people. They are speaking to God. No one understands them—they are speaking divine secret things through the Spirit. But those who prophesy are speaking to people. They help people grow stronger in faith, and they give encouragement and comfort. Those who speak in a different language are helping (edifying) themselves. But those who prophesy are helping (edifying) the whole church. Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. Edify means to build up, construct, instruct, or improve.

I thank God that I speak in [unknown] tongues more than all of you; nevertheless, in public worship I would rather say five *understandable* words in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue [which others cannot understand].

In this case, Paul is talking about speaking in tongues privately or together with Believers (he does it more than everyone else). Speaking in public, without an interpreter is what Paul is emphasizing in this verse. Again, the entire chapter is about Love. Not speaking in tongues publicly is the loving thing to do for those who do not believe or are not yet filled with the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit.

Jude 1:20

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. How does one pray in the Holy Spirit if not by speaking in tongues?

1 Corinthians 14:15

What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

1 Corinthians 14:23

If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?

Acts 19:3 (from Acts 2 to Acts 19 is 20 years)

And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

Did you receive the Holy Spirit**The Backstory:****Acts 19:1-6**

While Apollos was in the city of Corinth, Paul was visiting some places on his way to Ephesus. In Ephesus he found some other followers of the Lord. He asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” These followers said to him, “We have never even heard of a Holy Spirit!” Paul asked them, “So what kind of baptism did you have?” They said, “It was the baptism that John taught.” Paul said, “John told people to be baptized to show they wanted to change their lives. He told people to believe in the one who would come after him, and that one is Jesus.” When these followers heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Paul laid his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came on them. They began speaking different languages and prophesying.

Final Thoughts:

Moving in the gifts of the Spirit gives you power.

“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing by any means shall hurt you.” (Luke 10:19)

“And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:39)

Paul tells us that; “we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

His statement appears to be more obvious today than in previous times of history. Since we wrestle against those powers, the manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit is a must for the sake of survival.

I look at it this way, speaking in tongues as well as the other gifts of the Holy Spirit are like a giant banquet from God. You can eat the main course only, which is belief in Jesus, for scripture tell us the “Whosoever shall call on the name of The Lord shall be saved” (Joel 2:32), or you can also enjoy the entire buffet from the appetizers right on through to dessert which includes all the gifts and fruit of the Spirit as well as a deeper relationship and understanding of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Reasons for Not Speaking in Tongues:

A lot of people feel like they are just mimicking someone else’s prayer language when they speak in tongues, so they are either embarrassed or they begin to doubt that it is happening or meant for them. When babies learn to talk, they start out by copying the words that they hear but eventually learn how to put them in sentences. Speaking in tongues is similar to that.

Others say they are waiting for lightning or tongues of fire to appear on their heads before they will believe that God is really giving them this gift. I have met and heard of people who have had various experiences when they received the gift of tongues, but most people don’t get struck by lightning or have any other visible sign. If you have an issue with receiving or not receiving an outward sign, all I can say is take

it right up to the top and give it to God. James says that He will give wisdom to anyone that asks. (James 1:5)

More Than Tongues:

I would also point out that according to scriptures, Jesus gave us power to use the gifts of the Spirit.

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (Luke 10:19)

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be ^[a]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Faith in the Power of God:

And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (1 Corinthians 2:4-8)

On a personal note, my understanding of the scriptures is that God gave us all free will and while He has hopes and dreams for us similar as to the way we have hopes, dreams and aspirations for our children, at the end of the day the choice is ours. We can have as much or as little of His abundant life as we have the faith to choose.

List of all scriptures used:

Acts 1:8

Acts 2:1-4

Acts 2:6

Acts 2:8

Acts 2:11

Acts 2:44-45

Acts 8:14

Acts 8:17-18

Acts 9:10-19

Acts 9:40-42

Acts 10:46-47

Acts: 11

Acts 19:1-6

Acts 19:12

1 Corinthians 2:4-8

1 Corinthians 12:7

1 Corinthians 12:9-11

1 Corinthians 12:28-30

1 Corinthians 13:1

1 Corinthians 13:8

1 Corinthians 14:1

1 Corinthians 14:2-5

1 Corinthians 14: 13-15

List of all scriptures used continued:

1 Corinthians 14:18-19

1 Corinthians 14:22-23

1 Corinthians 14:27-28

1 Corinthians 14:39

Ephesians 2:8

Ephesians 3:16,19

Ephesians 4:8

Ephesians 6:8

Ephesians 6:12

Galatians 5:22

Luke 3:16-18

Luke 10:19

Luke 10:27

Hebrews 11:1

Hebrews 13:8

Isaiah 28:11

James 1:5

James 1:17

John 4:23-24

John 10:30:

John 13:35

Jude 1:20

Malachi 3:6:

List of all scriptures used continued:

Mark 16:14-20

Mathew 9:29

1 Peter 1:23-25

Psalm 89:34

Psalm 102:27:

Romans 8:15

Romans 8:26-29

Romans 11:29

1 Thessalonians 5:19

1 Timothy 4:14-15

2 Timothy 1:6

The Challenge:

As I mentioned previously, a lot of people don't speak in tongues because they think they are just copying someone else. Something to think about is that Jesus did not go out and start His ministry until after He was baptized in the Jordan river and the Holy Spirit came down upon Him.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River. He came to John, wanting John to baptize Him... So, Jesus was baptized. As soon as He came up out of the water, the sky opened, and he saw God's Spirit coming down on Him like a dove. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the one I love. I am very pleased with Him."

(Mathew 3:13, 16-17)

It appears that according to the scriptures, the importance of being baptized in the Holy Spirit is paramount.

With that said, here is the challenge. If you have already been prayed for to receive the Holy Spirit and do not have the manifestation of speaking in tongues, then go into your prayer closet and start speaking. If you think you are making a fool of yourself, no one is there to hear except you and God. If no one has prayed for you, you can go into your prayer closet and ask God to give you His Holy Spirit and then start speaking. Remember, Paul tells us in Corinthians that speaking in tongues is an outward sign and is in no way considered the only or greatest gift. As Spirit filled Christians, we have it all.

About Bible Senders

Bible Senders is a non-profit organization started in late 2007. We put up a one-page website, asking people to donate new and used bibles and offering to send a free bible to anyone who asks anywhere in the world. In about 2-3 weeks we received a letter from a woman in the Philippines asking for a bible. We sent her the only bible we had received.

Approximately one-month later we received a letter from the woman we had sent the bible to informing us that this was the very bible she had wanted but was unable to purchase it due to the high cost of the bible which was a month's wage.

By the end of our third year in operation we had received over one million requests for bibles. We just stopped counting but we keep on sending.

Today, Bible Senders has sent bibles to over 50 countries. If you would like to send us bibles, we recommend, NKJV, NIV and ESV as those are the most requested versions. If you would like to support one of the prison ministries we supply, we recommend paperback, large print, NIV or ESV or paperback bible word searches.

Your support in any form to Bible Senders is greatly appreciated.

Blessings,

Pastor Robert

Proceeds from this study help support Bible Senders

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Mark 16:15

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