



Intro to Speaking in Tongues

I would like to begin this chapter with a short review. For most, 1 Corinthians 12 is difficult because of how it has been queried throughout the years. I learned its great truths some 45 years ago. I am still amazed at the ignorance that still lingers in the holy spirit field, especially considering communication advances via the Internet and other mediums. In my mind, preachers and teachers have no excuse; they should have worked God's Word and uncovered the truth you'll soon learn. By learning what I'm about to present, you will not be among them.

1 Corinthians 12 has four general sections.

- 1 Corinthians 12:1-3: Preface to chapters 12-14.
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6: Acts of dividing the gifts.
- 1 Corinthians 12:7-11: Identifies the profit every man receives from operating the manifestations.



1 Corinthians 12:12-31: Shows the importance of believing to receive what will meet the needs in the body of believers present.

The preface teaches us God's standard—we are not to be ignorant. It teaches us that man can go only as far as he is led. And, it teaches that speaking in tongues is truly a godly act that verifies lordship.

The acts of dividing are charismata—from God to man. The administrations are 'ways of serving' in the church. The operations are the 'energizing' of the charismata.

The profit is given to every man, and each manifestation is listed as profit to believ-

ers. God divides and energizes as the man wills.

The importance of believing to receive regarding the charismata and manifestations is illustrated by the human body. The charismata and manifestations in operation are only according to the believer's believing. We are to covet what is needed so that they are manifested.

Understanding these four sections will enable the scripture to unfold like never before. Before we dive into the particulars of the manifestation of speaking in tongues, I'd like to discuss what speaking in tongues is not.

What Speaking in Tongues is not

Speaking in tongues is never gibberish or foolishness, although to the people listening, it may sound strange. One may sound really strange, but if it is genuine, it will not be gibberish. It may be guttural, but it is still a language. Under developed

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languages can be more guttural.

Speaking in tongues is never a sign of weakness, nervousness, or stupidity. Some say that only really nervous folks speak in tongues. If that's true, Paul and Peter, and all of Asia Minor must have been terribly nervous people.

Speaking in tongues is not linguistic ability. Some people may speak many languages, but speaking in tongues is not that kind of ability. You don't go to Germany and suddenly are able to speak German. Somebody said that he didn't want to speak in tongues because he didn't anticipate becoming a missionary. You see, he didn't understand; he was one of those idiots, unlearned.

Speaking in tongues is not the gift of languages, for what you speak is as the Spirit gives the utterance.

Speaking in tongues is not an unusual ability to understand languages.

In summary, speaking in tongues:

- is not gibberish or foolishness.

- is not a sign of weakness, nervousness, or stupidity.
- is not linguistic ability.
- is not a gift of languages.
- is not an ability to understand languages.

In the previous chapters, we reviewed most of what the Bible says about the manifestation of the spirit. Now that you know what speaking in tongues is not, it's time to learn what it is.

What is Speaking in Tongues?

Speaking in tongues is the external manifestation in the senses world of the internal reality and presence of the gift of holy spirit.

(1 Cor 13:1 KJV) 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.

Speaking in tongues is either a tongue of men or angels. An angelic tongue cannot be understood by man.

(Acts 2:4 KJV) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and be-

gan to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

There may be people that understand a tongue of men, but this kind of understanding is never guaranteed. What you speak is God's business; that you speak is your business. You have to make the sounds, you have to speak, but God gives you the words to speak.

Two primary aspects of speaking in tongues

Messages of exhortation and comfort. If someone speaks in tongues in the church, it must be interpreted. The interpreted message is always a message from God or for God and it will edify the believers by exhorting and/or comforting them.

Prayer and praise to God. In the church, if someone speaks in tongues out loud, but does not interpret, it is private prayer. This happens with the unbelieving believer. He doesn't believe the Word sufficiently to interpret. God knows this ahead of time. Therefore, it will never be a message from or for God. The private prayer will edify the speaker, but

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not the audience. Speaking in tongues in the private life is never supposed to be interpreted. Why? Because it is prayer or praise to God.

What Speaking in Tongues does

- EDIFIES YOU
- SPEAKING TO GOD DIVINE SECRETS
- SPEAKING THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF GOD
- MAGNIFYING GOD
- PRAYING PERFECTLY, INTERCESSION
- ALLOWS ALL THINGS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD
- GIVING THANKS WELL
- THE SPIRIT BEARING WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT
- PROVES YOU ARE A JOINT-HEIR WITH CHRIST
- STRENGTHENING YOU WITH MIGHT IN THE INNER MAN
- A SIGN OF A BELIEVER
- REST TO THE SOUL

I have never found anyone that knew even one of these.

Speaking in tongues edifies you

The main benefit of speaking in tongues is edification. You can't feed the spirit mashed potatoes and gravy. You have to feed it spiritual food.

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

The one speaking edifies his spirit, not his mind. Why is this? The man speaking does not understand what he is speaking. Therefore it can't edify his mind; it builds him up spiritually. This is the most important benefit of speaking in tongues. It was never designed to be used alone in the church where it must be used with interpretation. Why is this? Because the interpretation edifies and gives people enthusiastic believing—in the renewed mind. We find this again in Jude.

(Jude 1:20 KJV) But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost ...

Praying in the holy spirit (ghost is not in the text), builds you up spiritually. The more you speak in tongues in your prayer life, the more dynamic your life will become.

Speaking in tongues is speaking divine secrets to God

(1 Cor 14:2 KJV) 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.

Speaking in tongues is speaking mysteries or divine secrets to God. Speaking in tongues is not a one way affair. If I say, 'I called Jeff on the phone,' a two-way conversation is implied. We both talked. The same is true with speaking divine secrets.

Speaking in tongues is speaking the wonderful works of God

(Acts 2:11 KJV) Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

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You'll be speaking the wonderful works of God. The Jews hated the Galileans, yet they declared this.

Speaking in tongues magnifies God

(Acts 10:46 KJV) For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter ..,

To magnify God means, 'to declare God's greatness'. Peter had witnessed this in Cornelius' household. Wouldn't you like to magnify God, and speak the wonderful works of God?

Speaking in tongues helps our prayer life

(Rom 8:26-27 KJV) Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities [in our private prayer life]: 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. {27} And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh in-

tercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

Speaking in tongues helps us when we don't know what to pray for. I'd rather speak in tongues than pray with my understanding; I do both. In the text, the word 'infirmities' is singular. This is talking about private prayer. When praying for people, we might not know what to pray for. That's an infirmity. The spirit helps us with this. The spirit knows. This is a tremendous prayer lever. I hardly ever pray for people with senses prayer. I pray for them via the spirit. God knows all of our needs.

Speaking in tongues intercedes for the saints

According to verses 26 and 27, speaking in tongues intercedes for the saints according to the Will of God. The groaning that can't be uttered is the intercession. The spirit makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Speaking in tongues allows all things to work together for good

(Rom 8:28 KJV) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his purpose*.

On the heels of intercession for the saints, speaking in tongues allows all things to work together for good to them that love God. How wonderful!

Speaking in tongues is the giving of thanks well

(1 Cor 14:17 KJV) For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

Speaking in tongues is the giving of thanks well. You might have heard about speaking in tongues while handling snakes? Snake handling is completely out of order, but speaking in tongues is not. I've seen snake handlers who speak in tongues. The speaking in tongues is genuine, but the handling of snakes is counterfeit.

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Speaking in tongues is the spirit bearing witness with our spirit

(Rom 8:16 KJV) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Speaking in tongues is the spirit bearing witness with our spirit. Most people think that speaking in tongues is wrong, and yet we have these wonderful truths before us. Speaking in tongues bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. It is your proof in the senses world that you are born again, that you will never again come into condemnation. Speaking in tongues is the only proof that we have. I've been in places in many parts of the world where I wondered if God ever existed. What a comfort it was to speak in tongues. Also, there's nothing that bring more comfort to a parent than knowing that their children are born again.

Speaking in tongues proves that you are an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ

(Rom 8:17 KJV) And if children, then heirs;

heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

Speaking in tongues proves that you are an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ. What a wonderful truth to the soul of a man or woman who wants to tap the resources for the great triumphant life.

Speaking in tongues strengthens you with might

(Eph 3:16 KJV) That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Speaking in tongues strengthens you with might in the inner man. The inner man is Christ in you, the hope of Glory.

Speaking in tongues is a sign that someone is a true believer

(Mark 16:17-18 KJV) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall

they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; {18} [If] They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Signs will follow those that believe. "In my name" happens with believing Christians, men and women who speak in tongues. The translators forgot to add the word 'if' before 'shall take up serpents'. IF this should happen to you implies 'accidently'. Speaking in tongues is a sign of believing to all

Speaking in tongues brings rest to the soul

(Isa 28:11-12 KJV) For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. {12} To whom he said, This is the rest *where-with* ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

Speaking in tongues is rest to the soul. At night you won't have to count sheep for you can talk to the shep-

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herd. You won't have to take sedatives; just speak in tongues. Speaking in tongues is like a healing balm that settles into the center of your soul. It quiets you down. Is this not something that people need today?

“Stammering” indicates that the man speaking won't be able to understand what is being spoken. There is nothing so invigorating, so refreshing to a man than to quiet himself and speak in tongues. Where does this strength, this rest come from? It comes from God. I can speak in tongues anywhere. Speaking in tongues brings vitality to the weary.

There's only one way that you're going to tap the resources for the triumphant life. You must be filled with the power of the holy spirit in manifestation. This will bring rest to your soul, strengthen you and help make your life living and real.

Much Love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown