

Speaking In Tongues



Speaking In Tongues Is a Biblical Spiritual Gift

It is not the evidence of the Holy Spirit because the Bible teaches that not all Christians have that gift, though all Christians receive the Holy Spirit.

1Corinthians 12:10 *To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:*

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Ephesians 4:30 KJV *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

Romans 8:9-11 KJV

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

The Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost after Jesus' Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension. Pentecost is a feast that takes place fifty (Penta) days after Easter. It was originally a celebration of the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses for the Children of Israel in the book of Genesis. At the giving of the Holy Ghost, believers began to speak in foreign languages that they did not know. They all preached the message of God to fulfil the prophecies (Acts 2:14-21). God often took Old Testament

traditions/ celebrations and used them to establish his New Covenant with us as he did with the Jewish Old Testament “Pass Over” Celebration. We now celebrate the Holy Communion that was first given by Jesus to his disciples during the “Pass Over” meal which commemorated God's rescuing of Israel from Egypt in the book of Exodus.

Acts 2:1-13

New International Version

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one

place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴**All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.**

⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, **because each one heard their own language being spoken.** ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸**Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?** ⁹Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹²Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

¹³Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

1 Corinthians 14:1-33

New International Version

14 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. ² For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; **they utter mysteries by the Spirit.** ³ But the one who *prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.* ⁴ **Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.** ⁵ **I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.**

⁶ Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? ⁷ **Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the pipe or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes?** ⁸ **Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?** ⁹ **So it is with you.**

Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. ¹⁰ **Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning.** ¹¹ **If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and the speaker is a foreigner to me.** ¹² **So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.**

¹³ **For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say.** ¹⁴ **For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.** ¹⁵ **So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.** ¹⁶ **Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an**

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*The Apostle Paul
1 Corinthians 14*

inquirer, say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? ¹⁷You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified.

¹⁸I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.

²⁰Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. ²¹In the Law it is written:

**“With other tongues
and through the lips of foreigners
I will speak to this people,
but even then they will not listen to me,
says the Lord.”**

²²Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is not for unbelievers but for believers. ²³So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? ²⁴But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, ²⁵as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”

²⁶What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. ²⁷If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. **²⁸If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.**

²⁹Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. **³⁰And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. ³¹For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. ³²The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. ³³For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people.**