

40 Days *WITH* the HOLY SPIRIT

Small Group Curriculum

Session Eight **THE VOCAL GIFTS (B)**

The Gifts of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues

1 Corinthians 12:10 (nkjv) to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

The Gift of Speaking in Tongues

Definition: Inspired utterance by the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit, enabling people to speak in languages of which they have no natural knowledge.

Greek: *glossolalia*. To speak in other languages, not meaningless gibberish.

Languages that have never been learnt and which are not rationally understood by those that speak in tongues but which adequately express spiritual impressions, awareness and desires.

When a person speaks in tongues, their voice mechanism is guided by the Holy Spirit to select syllables and phrases that make up a language (*Acts 2:4b* "...as the Spirit **enabled** them")

An individual is not limited to a single tongue language but may speak in a number.

The Gift of speaking in Tongues (*1 Corinthians 12:10*) is the "**bringing by the Holy Spirit**" of a message in tongues, through a believer in a congregational setting.

Paul clearly teaches in *1 Corinthians 14:11-19* that the gift of Tongues must be interpreted so as to benefit the whole congregation.

The Spirit of God speaks through a believer to the congregation and then the message must be interpreted.

As with any gift of the Holy Spirit, we need to ask the Holy Spirit for it – by faith, then the Holy Spirit enables.

The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues

Definition: The supernatural revelation from the Holy Spirit which enables the believer to communicate in the common language of the listeners, the message which was spoken through the gift of Tongues.

To receive the supernatural ability to reveal, give meaning to what has been supernaturally spoken in an unknown language (tongues).

The gift of the Interpretation of Tongues is not a translation of the tongues message word for word.

The interpretation takes the thought and message given under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, then imparts it to the hearers in a language they can understand to receive the benefit God intended.

The gift of the Interpretation of Tongues is of particular value to the Church when it takes on a role of equality with prophecy whereby edification, exhortation and comfort are ministered in the Church.

An interpretation of tongues is like prophecy, it is subject to the assessment and judgement of the Church. Interpreters must be aware of the danger of speaking only their 'pet doctrines' or wanting to chastise publicly.

The principles of prophecy are to be adhered to when interpreting a tongues message.

DISCUSSION

- Ask questions for clarification or provide comments from the teaching and discuss as a group.
- As a group, you may wish to discuss some of the points in the 'Further Study' section below to generate further discussion.

PRAYER

Please take time before you finish your discussion to pray for any needs that those in your group may have and in particular those who need healing.

FURTHER STUDY

a) The ability to speak In Tongues

- This is the personal, devotional tongue of the believer whereby we commune in the Spirit with God. No interpretation is required. (GOD-WARD).
- The ability to speak in tongues is one of the signs and one of the results of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

b) Speaking in Tongues is a sign to unbelievers.

- *Acts 2:5-12; 1 Corinthians 14:22*
- Evidence of something supernatural.
- Sign of God's presence.
- Hear their own native tongue (*Acts 2:7-8*)

c) Speaking in Tongues is a sign to other believers

- A sign to other believers of another's baptism in the Holy Spirit (*Acts 10:44-46*)
- A sign of a believer as one of the characteristics of a believer who has been baptized in the Holy Spirit (*Mark 16:17; John 7:37-39*)

d) Other benefits to speak in tongues;

- Personal edification - to build up, to strengthen (*1 Corinthians 14:4*)
- Consciousness of the presence of the Holy Spirit, our spirit speaking directly to God's Spirit.
- Spiritual refreshing (*Isaiah 28:11-12*)
- Effectiveness in prayer (*Romans 8:26; Ephesians 6:18*)
- Stimulates faith (*Jude 1:20*)
- Liberty and blessing in praise and worship.

e) Exercising the Gift of Tongues and Interpretations of Tongues in a Meeting

- Speak out loudly and clearly for all to hear otherwise who will hear to give the interpretation? (*1 Corinthians 14:8*)
- The gifts of Tongues and Interpretation may be exercised in song.
- The Scriptural principle "*the spirits of the Prophets are subject to the Prophets*" *1 Corinthians 14:32 (tlb)* applies to the gift of Tongues also. Be sure to wait for God's timing and don't cut across the meeting.
- Each individual operation of the gift of Tongues in a meeting must be interpreted before another tongues message is given. Wait for the interpretation and if no one interprets, then the Tongue speaker should also pray for the interpretation.
- No more than three tongues messages (each of which must be interpreted) in a meeting. Any more than three, and you are out of order! (*1 Corinthians 14:27*)
- It is distinctly possible however, that God may use you to bring one message broken down into two or three parts so that His Word might more easily be digested by the congregation.
- In the giving of a message in tongues, be careful to refrain from an excess of emotion.
- Do not be concerned if the interpretation is a different length to the tongue. Don't carry on once the anointing has lifted.
- The rules for prophecy apply for the interpretation of a tongue message.
- The working together of these two vocal gifts is a display of unity of two or more persons in the congregation working together.