

They Shall Speak in New Tongues

Mark 16:17-18 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

What are tongues?

- Tongues = glossa = a language - ie. What is your native tongue?
- **Mark 16:17** (LITV) And miraculous signs will follow to those believing these things: they will cast out demons in My name; they will speak new *languages*;

Tongues are a spiritual gift

- **1 Corinthians 12:28-30** And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?
 - Tongues are listed as a variety. There are tongues for sharing the Gospel in another language. Tongues for a private prayer language. Tongues for use in corporate settings.
 - Interpretation is also a listed gift

Tongues are typically interpreted – especially in public

- **Acts 2:1-4** When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- Even though they are connected in this passage, tongues are not specifically a sign of being filled with the Spirit. However, being filled with the Spirit is a pre-requisite for any spiritual gift.
 - And the baptism, or being filled with the Spirit, is separate from salvation – there are many examples in the Bible confirming this.
- **Acts 2:5-6** And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because *everyone heard them speak in his own language*.
 - Here, the interpretation was in the hearing
 - God did the interpretation
 - There are many times in churches where this has happened, though I have only heard about them, never experienced it myself.
- **1 Corinthians 14:27-28** If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and *let one interpret*. ²⁸ But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and *let him speak to himself and to God*.
 - This shows tongues in a corporate setting
 - How do we know if there is no interpreter?
 - Why would the gift come, if there is no interpreter?
 - Sometimes we pray for ourselves, not others.
 - This same principle applies to other gifts as well.
- **1 Corinthians 14:18-19** I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; ¹⁹ yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.
 - This shows tongues is also for a private setting
 - But interpretation is still preferred
 - **1 Corinthians 14:13** Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

Tongues are either imparted by the laying on of hands or by God just making it happen

- **Acts 10:44-47** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"
- **Acts 19:4-6** Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." ⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.
- My experience of receiving tongues

What is the purpose of tongues?

- **1 Corinthians 14:2-5** ² For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. ³ But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. ⁴ He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵ I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.
- **1 Corinthians 14:12-15** Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel. ¹³ Therefore

let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. ¹⁵ What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

- When we pray in tongues it is our spirit praying directly to God.
- We speak mysteries – We are making spiritual declarations that are beyond our rational understanding.
- We build ourselves up. Not sure why since our understanding is unfruitful, but Scripture says we edify ourselves. And I have felt this.
- When we don't know how or what to pray in a situation, by ourselves, tongues is a great way to pray.