

The Importance of the Gift of Tongues

June 9, 2013

I. Qualifying Statements:

A. God uses foolish and weak things.

1 Cor 1:26-28 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, 28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,

B. Your tongue directs your life.

James 3:1-6 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. 3 Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. 4 Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. 5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

II. Why speak with other tongues?

1. Speaking with tongues is the unique spiritual gift given to the Church of Jesus Christ. Prior to the day of Pentecost, all of the gifts, miracles and spiritual manifestations had been in evidence during the Old Testament times. On the day of Pentecost, this new phenomenon of tongues came into evidence and became uniquely identified with the church. (See 1 Corinthians 12 – 14)

Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

2. Speaking with tongues was ordained by God for the church.

1 Cor 12:28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.

3. Speaking with tongues is a specific fulfillment of prophecy.

1 Cor 14:21 In the Law it is written, "BY MEN OF STRANGE TONGUES AND BY THE LIPS OF STRANGERS I WILL SPEAK TO THIS PEOPLE, AND EVEN SO THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME," says the Lord. (Isa 28:11)

4. Speaking with tongues is a sign of the believer.

Mark 16:17 "These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; (John 7:38-39)

5. Speaking with tongues is a sign to the unbeliever.

1 Cor 14:22 So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers;

6. Speaking with tongues is a proof of the resurrection and glorification of Jesus Christ.
Acts 2:32-33 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. 33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. (Acts 2:22; 2:25; John 16:7)
7. Speaking with tongues is an evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
Acts 19:1-6 It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. 2 He said to them, " Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, " Into John's baptism." 4 Paul said, " John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. (John 15:26; Acts 2:4; 10:45-46)
8. Speaking with tongues is (sometimes) a means of preaching to men of other languages.
Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

Acts 2:7-12 They were amazed and astonished, saying, " Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 "And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? 9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs--we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God." 12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"
9. Speaking with tongues is a spiritual gift for self-edification.
1 Cor 14:4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself;

Jude 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
10. Speaking with tongues (with interpretation) is a spiritual gift for spiritual edification for the church.
1 Cor 14:5 Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.
11. Speaking with tongues is a spiritual gift for communication with God in private prayer and worship.
1 Cor 14:2 For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. (1 Cor 14:16)
12. Speaking with tongues is a means by which the Holy Spirit intercedes through us in prayer.
Rom 8:26-27 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (1 Cor 14:14)
13. Speaking with tongues is a spiritual gift for "singing in the Spirit."

Eph 5:18-20 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,
19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making
melody with your heart to the Lord; 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; (1 Cor 14:15)

14. The apostle Paul was thankful to God for the privilege of speaking with tongues.
1 Cor 14:18 I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all;
15. The apostle Paul desired that all would speak with tongues.
1 Cor 14:4-5 Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues,
16. Speaking with tongues is one of the gifts of the spirit.
1 Cor 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8-9...
1 Cor 12:10 and ...another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of
tongues.
17. The apostle Paul commanded that speaking with tongues should not be forbidden.
1 Cor 14:39 Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in
tongues.
18. Isaiah prophetically refers to speaking with tongues as "refreshing."
Isa 28:11-12 Indeed, He will speak to this people Through stammering lips and a foreign
tongue, He who said to them, "Here is rest, give rest to the weary," ...
19. Speaking with tongues is part of the offensive weapons of the believer.
Eph 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes
of the devil.

Eph 6:18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit,