

Why should you want to speak in tongues? To answer this question we must revisit...

1 Corinthians 2:6-16: ⁶ However, **WE SPEAK** wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ **But we speak** the wisdom of God **in a mystery**, the hidden *wisdom* **which God ordained before the ages for our glory**, ⁸ which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But as it is written: "**Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.**" ¹⁰ But **God has revealed them to us through His Spirit**. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. ¹³ **These things WE ALSO SPEAK**, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. ¹⁶ **For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.**

- To unlock this hidden mystery in us it requires **SPEAKING!**
- Whatever we are speaking is not coming from our natural mind but flowing from the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:1-2: **14** Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy. 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.**

The definition of Tongues = Languages

- These are languages that aren't learned or studied
- It is a language that is between the individual and God
- It is supernatural
 - Mark 16:17-18 - And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ 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.
 - All of these are supernatural signs!

Three types of languages mentioned in the Scriptures:

- The tongues of men

- **1 Corinthians 13:1** - Though I speak with the **tongues of men and of angels**, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

- The tongues of angels

- The tongues of the Holy Spirit

- **1 Corinthians 14:2** - ²For 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.**

Transition: Let's revisit why we should desire this experience, but before we do I want to establish a fact from the scripture – LANGUAGES ARE IMPORTANT TO GOD!

- *Genesis – 11 – the people have one language it is the source to power and accomplishment.*
- *Language was how people groups and boundaries were initially created*
- *Language is still powerful – Jesus said in Matthew 12:36-37 that we will be held accountable for every idle word – our words free us or take us captive.*

1. **It is scriptural**

- Old Testament references:

- Exodus 32:31-32 - And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. ³²Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their **sin--**; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.
- Isaiah 28:11 - For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people...
- Tongues (Glossolalia) seems to have manifested in the Old Testament when **King Hezekiah received the message from the prophet Isaiah** to put his house in order for he was going to die and not live. As he was not ready to die young, Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and began to pray desperately to God for healing. Here is how he described his experience, **"Delirious, I chattered like a swallow or a crane, and then I moaned like a mourning dove. My eyes grew tired of looking to heaven for help. I am in trouble, Lord. Help me!" (Isaiah 38:14 NLT)** From what Hezekiah described, it would appear as if there were practically no sounds that were articulated into syllables that very night as he was chattering like a crane or a swallow and mourning like a dove.
- **Zephaniah 3:9** – For **then will I turn to the people a pure language**, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.
- **1 Corinthian 14:1-2** – Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy. ²For 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.

There is a difference between the **GIFT OF TONGUES**
and the **GRACE OF TONGUES**

- **1 Corinthians 14:14-18**- For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. ¹⁵What 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. ¹⁶Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say “Amen” at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? ¹⁷For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified.¹⁸I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;
- **1 Corinthians 14:39** - Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

2. **It is beneficial**

- **1 Corinthians 14:4** – **It edifies** - He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.
- **Ephesians 6:17-18** – **It is a weapon** - And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—
- **Jude 1:20**
- **Zepheniah 3:9** – **It unifies** - For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, That they all may call on the name of the Lord, To serve Him with one accord.

3. **It is optional**

- **1 Corinthians 14:14-15** – **“IF” and “I will”** - For **if** I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. ¹⁵What 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.