

Introduction:

- My first encounter with speaking in tongues was while watching Kenneth Copeland on TV at about age 11. We were part of a Nazarene church that did not believe in speaking in tongues. So I heard most of my life that tongues was not of God, it was of devil, it was no longer for us today, it is not beneficial to the church or the believer and that it causes division.
- When I was born again, I was 'lite up' 'on fire' for God and wanted everything He had for me. When I got to Olivet Nazarene College I found friends like me. "On fire', 'lit up', crazy passionate about the Word and the Kingdom of God. What I soon discovered about these friends of mine is that many of them were a part of 'one of those' churches...yes, they spoke in other tongues.
 - Now I was confused. My new friends loved God, loved ministry to others, loved worship, but spoke in tongues. Were they deceived? Of the devil? Being divisive? No way!
 - I was taking second Greek class learning to study from the original texts and soon discovered that I was being drawn to the Book of Acts. Using the tools I had been taught, I began to find for myself that God wanted me to have this Baptism with the Holy Spirit and I was now hungry for and not just curious about speaking in other tongues.
- In October of 1985, I was baptized in the Holy Spirit like in the Book of Acts with speaking in tongues. Now my study and spiritual life took on a whole new expression.
- Tonight I am going to share truths from the Word of God that will help you understand what tongues is about and also how to effectively share with others who want to know more about this gift from God.
- *"For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also."* (1 Corinthians 14:14-15, ESV)
- This message is about speaking in tongues if you want to access notes on How to Receive the Holy Spirit see Wednesday 4/16/2020.

I. Just Like Us! *"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning."* (Acts 11:15, ESV)

- A. When a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit he receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. When that happens your redeemed spirit is gifted by the Holy Spirit of God to speak in other tongues. That spirit language comes from and is led by a persons redeemed and Spirit baptized spirit.
1. This spiritual language is a function of the mind of the Spirit not the human spirit. When one prays in tongues their prayers come from their inner spirit and not their natural mind. It is not a learned language but a gift from the Holy Spirit. In fact, your natural mind does not know what it is saying...it does not understand it.
 2. This is why Paul says in 1 Cor 14:14 *"For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful."* ESV Well over three quarters of the Bible that speaks about tongues is written by the Apostle Paul. He also had this to say: *"I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you."* (1 Corinthians 14:18, ESV) Spoken by the guy who wrote most of the NT.
- B. Some would argue that praying in tongues as well as the other gifts found in 1 Cor 12:7-10 ended with the apostles. But church history does not show that and neither does Acts. Peter said, *"The Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning."*

1. Some people are afraid of tongues and it keeps them from receiving the Holy Spirit. Thinking like, in my opinion, originates in seeing to many demon possessed movies. People are afraid the Holy Spirit may not let them go...or what if I get another spirit besides the Holy Spirit?
2. If that is how you feel then you do not know your Father. *"What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"* (Luke 11:11-13, ESV)
3. Again, in Acts 11 Peter is sharing with the other Apostles how the goodness of God brought the Holy Spirit to these Italian Gentiles, these Roman soldiers who were hungry for God!

II. Help Me With The Language

- A. Secular terms use of speaking in tongues
 1. Tongue talker
 2. Holy roller
 3. Weird - spoken from a blank face with a slight stare. That was me the first time I was in a room with a bunch of Christian who started praying in tongues. It was also St Patricks day and all the food was green (which I had never seen before.)
- B. Church terms
 1. Pentecostal, Assembly of God, Church of God, Charismatics and Non-denominational Spirit filled are common terms that are used by Christians who speak in other tongues. For those on the 'inside' they each have a certain understanding that goes along with the name.
 2. In actuality, for all those looking in these are simply churches or bodies of believers who believe in the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. I personally fit in the category of charismatic or non-denominational spirit filled. They will all have a slightly different 'flavor' but they all hold to the belief that speaking in tongues is for today and for today's believers.
- C. Bible terms, used by different groups of believers for speaking in other tongues, and by varying translations are as follows:... They all reference the same thing, speaking in other tongues.
 1. Baptism of the Holy Spirit
 2. Baptism with the Holy Spirit
 3. Praying with the Spirit
 4. Praying in the Spirit
 5. Praying in other tongues
 6. Prayer language
 7. Other tongues
 8. Unknown tongues
 9. Gift of the Holy Spirit
- D. Important for Clarity: There are three types of tongues.

1. The first one, I call the tongue of praise. It is part of what happened in Acts 2:4 and the second half of vs 11.
 - a) Many times when a person receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit it is common for them to 'break out' speaking in other tongues because they are genuinely happy.
 - b) You will often hear in the churches, I mentioned above, during worship people may begin to sing in the spirit or sing in other tongues. (1 Cor 14:15) This is a tongue of praise.
2. The second type of tongue we find in scripture is 'the gift of tongues'. "... *to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*" (1 Corinthians 12:10, ESV)
 - a) Gift of tongues
 - b) Gift of interpretation of tongues
 - c) This one operates differently than the others. Gift of tongue will most often happen in a service or gathering of believers. When it does then the expectation is that someone will have the interpretation. It is interesting because that someone else usually will see a picture, have a thought or impression that this is what is being said and they will speak it out. It must agree with scripture and most of the time is uplifting and faith building like a prophetic word.
3. The third type of tongue is a we see and experience most often in churches and around believers who pray in other tongues. It is called a prayer language, most common. It is born out of the redeemed, Spirit filled mind of a person spirit. This prayer language, or prayer in/with the Spirit sounds like a language but the person speaking has no understanding with their natural mind what they are saying. Only their spirit and the Spirit of God knows. This is what Paul was referring to when he said, "*I speak in tongues more than all of you.*" 1 Cor 14:18
4. By knowing the three different types of tongues will help you to make sense of what is going in some church service or small group you might be in. Ie. I find people who are critical of tongues attacking it for the wrong reasons, because they don't understand what tongue is being used. Therefore, they do not know how it is to operate.

III. Explain What is Going On

- A. When a person prays in tongues is it their spirit praying or the Holy Spirit praying? This is an important question to answer, particularly for the operational (how to mode). Whats your answer?
 1. The answer (lets be true to the Word) is found in: "*For if I pray in tongues, my spirit is praying, but I don't understand what I am saying.*" (1 Corinthians 14:14, NLT)
 2. The is important because it tells me that praying in tongues is subject to me. My spirit prays.
 3. Therefore to pray in the spirit I must exercise faith in releasing the language of my spirit that has been immersed in the Holy Spirit. Paul then says, if this is the case or how it is, then how shall I respond/act? "*Well then, what shall I do? I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand.*" (1 Corinthians 14:15, NLT) IE. Because of this, I can minister in Baptist

churches, Nazarene Churches, Catholic churches, Methodist churches etc. And I have ministered in those places.

4. *“The Holy Spirit does not replace our spirit and do the speaking, but He gifts our spirit to direct our speaking in the language of the spirit.”* Excerpt From: Bill Hamon. “Seventy Reasons for Speaking In Tongues.”
 5. Faith is the key to moving in all the gifts. It take faith to speak a ‘language’ that your mind does not understand.
- B. Praying in other tongues is a wonderful gift from God given with the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. IE. When I was asked to leave the Church of the Nazarene, I was being asked to renounce praying in tongues. How could I do that? How can I say to God, “I like this gift, and that one, but I don’t like this gift”. God is not going to give me rock if I ask for bread, or snake if I ask for fish.
- C. Think about this: The church was born, it started with all of its members praying in other tongues! The church started there and it will finish there.
1. Speaking in other tongues was a practice established in the foundation of the early church.
 2. The gift of ones prayer language comes with the baptism of the Holy Spirit
 3. And the Gift of the Holy Spirit is for all believers to receive.

Conclusion:

- Next Wednesday I am going to fill the whole session with just reasons, from the Word, as to why we should speak in other tongues.
- If you are not speaking in tongues by next Wednesday service, you are going to be so hungry for the Gift you won’t be able to stand yourself.
- Send me your question this week and will try to answer them.