

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 39

Chapter 14: The Purpose of Tongues in the Bible

2 March 2018

The foundation of the Charismatic Movement is speaking in “*tongues*,” or what they *call* tongues. The Charismatic Movement has been instrumental in promoting Ecumenism (Uniting people of different beliefs together at the expense of biblical truth) and bringing worldliness and ungodly living into the churches. Today they are emphasizing healing and rock music in the church, while completely neglecting lost souls all around them. They increase their membership by poaching for Christians out of other churches.

TONGUE: the muscular organ; speech or discourse; the power of **articulate** utterance; —the whole sum of words used by a particular nation.

ARTICULATE: Distinctly uttered; spoken so as to be intelligible; characterized by division into words and syllables; as, articulate speech, sounds, words.

SPEAK IN TONGUES: to speak articulately using the whole sum of words which make up the language of a particular nation.

ACTS 2:1-12 —TONGUES ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Vs 4 The disciples “**began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**” The Holy Spirit gave them the ability to articulately pronounce the words of another known language.

Vs 6 Jews from foreign lands were able to understand the languages (the tongues, vs 8) that were being spoken.

9-11 More than 15 different languages spoken by the disciples were understood by the foreign Jews.

Vs 12 The Jewish visitors understood that a supernatural miracle was taking place and wanted to know the purpose for the miracle. This gave an opportunity to proclaim the Gospel.

ACTS 10-11 GENTILES SPEAK IN TONGUES

10:45-46 The Gentiles who believed were given the sign gift of tongues in order to convince the Jews (called “*the circumcision*”) that God was also going to save the Gentiles.

11:11-17 Peter reports that the tongues spoken by the Gentiles began when “**the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning**” (referring to the day of Pentecost). Therefore, those Gentiles were speaking articulately in a known language they’d never learned—because “**God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ (vs 17).**”

1 Cor. 14:22 Tongues are a sign to unbelievers. Believers don’t need to hear you speak in tongues; they will benefit from prophesying.

1 Cor. 1:22 Tongues are a sign gift given by God for the purpose of convincing the unbelieving Jew. Wherever you find tongues spoken in the Bible, you will notice that an unbelieving Jew is present.

1 Cor. 14:20-21 God told the Jews He would speak to them “**with men of other tongues and other lips.**” (Isaiah 28:11-12). If you’re not saying something that a Jew can understand, you’re not speaking in tongues.

2 Cor. 12:12 Sign gifts were for the apostles. When the apostles died, the sign gifts went away.

Acts 1:20-22 When the apostles were choosing a replacement for the apostle Judas, the “candidate” had to be one who had witnessed John’s baptism, the resurrection of Christ, and the ascension of Christ. That means there are no more apostles today. That means there are no more sign gifts.

Notice the sign gifts failing late in Paul’s ministry. Timothy (1 Tim. 5:28), Trophimus (2 Tim. 4:20). Note: these men were believers and didn’t require a sign.

1 Cor. 12:28 The spiritual gifts are listed in order: most helpful (“best”) to least helpful. We are told to “**covet the best gifts**” (vs 31). Why do so many people covet the least of the gifts (tongues) above all others?

Eph. 4:8-14 God gave *profitable* gifts unto men to benefit the ministry of the Body of Christ, to perfect us, and help us to become more like Jesus Christ.

What are the profitable gifts mentioned? Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Tongues is not mentioned because tongues can’t accomplish any of the things listed in verses 12-14.

Sign gifts had a purpose: to confirm the New Testament Gospel. That purpose was fulfilled.

Since sign gifts don’t serve any other purpose, they are not needed.

Unity comes through Bible teaching (vs. 13). Division is caused by sign-gift enthusiasts.

People who believe they have the “Holy Spirit and tongues as evidence” no longer hold to the Bible as their final authority (since “*God speaks directly to me now*”). From that point forward, they are easily deceived (vs. 14).

1 Cor. 14:18-19 Why did Paul “**speak with tongues more than ye all?**” Because he travelled on missionary journeys meeting new people of other tongues on each trip.

Five words that you can understand will help you more than ten thousand words you can’t understand.

1 Cor. 14:27-28 In a church gathering, things must be done in an orderly fashion (no chaos). The speakers are limited to 2 or 3, only one person may speak at a time, and somebody must interpret when needed. If that isn’t being done, it is not of God; the Holy Spirit is not a part of any disorderly chaotic meeting.
