# Tongues: Praying In the Spirit

Jesus didn't just come to forgive you of your sins. He came to transform your life. He said, "*You must be born-again, born from above, born of the spirit*". It's not your outward body that was born again, but your inward human spirit – born of incorruptible seed, in the very image of Christ. You are not born full grown already knowing everything, but as a new baby with the capacity to grow and be taught.

The new birth requires a new teacher and a new way of being taught. The Holy Spirit is the new teacher. He could only visit the Old Testament saints and temporarily anoint them for a task or duty. But you are born again as family –He can permanently move in on the inside and lead and guide you into all truth, so you grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit will use the church, pastors, teachers, and other believers to help grow and train you as a Christian. But His absolute favourite method of teaching is one-on-one where He personally creates a unique prayer on the inside of you, waits for you to pray that prayer, and then answers that prayer transforming your life piece-by-piece, bit-by-bit, moment-by-moment into a mature believer. This prayer will walk you out of a life dominated by your flesh, the outward emotions and desires, into a life led by your spirit – a life of loving God with all your heart and loving people as yourself.

The Holy Spirit has already created that prayer on the inside of every believer. Now there is only one thing separating you from this life of victory. He needs you to pray that prayer.

However, there is also an enemy who will do anything to stop you growing in Christ. The devil will fight tooth and nail against you ever praying in tongues. He doesn't want you to grow and achieve anything for God. He wants to keep you in strife, confusion, and worldliness. Satan tries to deceive you saying, "*Tongues isn't for everyone; tongues is powerless; it doesn't do anything; you're just making it up; it's a waste of time*". And he also confuses by promoting the misuse of the gifts.

The Apostle Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 12-14 to the church of his day to correct their ignorance and misuse of the gifts. If we read and apply the same truths, then we too can overcome any ignorance and then we can truly begin to walk in the liberty of the spirit becoming mature sons and daughters of God.

Introduction / Review

- Many gifts, but only one Holy Spirit. Gifts given to each one for the profit of all
- Dave Roberson – The Walk of the Spirit – The Walk of Power
  - Companion audio series
  - Available – Kindle, Smashwords, Kobo, iBooks, PDF
  - Assigned textbook for TH102/TH103 courses at Grace Ministries Bible College

- 1 Co 12:1 I do not want you to be ignorant
    - 1Co 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

    - 1Co 14:38 But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.
    - Final takeaway 1Co 14:39-40
        - Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy,
        - and do not forbid to speak with tongues.
        - Let all things be done decently and in order.
- Pursue love, and earnestly desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy
    - Pursue love above all else
    - But don't stop earnestly desiring spiritual gifts
    - Focus your gifts on those that edify or build up others
- Kinds / Varieties / Diversities of Tongues
    - 12:10 to another **different kinds** of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
    - 12: 28 And God has appointed these in the church: … **varieties** of tongues.

## Four Different Varieties

1. Tongues for Personal Edification
    - Available to anyone who receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and able to be used by them at any time, allowing them to be personally strengthened and taught
    - Mark 16:15-17 "And these signs will follow those who believe *(the gospel*): In My name … they will speak with new tongues;
    - Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
2. Tongues for Interpretation

    Equivalent to prophesy, as God speaks a word to the congregation

    1 Co 14:5 he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

    1Co 14:27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, *let there be* two or at the most three, *each* in turn, and let one interpret.

3. Tongues for Deep Intercessional Groaning
    - The Holy Spirit looks for a volunteer to intercede on behalf of another situation, allowing the Holy Spirit to move on their behalf. Keep praying until the burden is lifted. This is a sign that the answer has been released and is on its way
    - Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
    - Ezek 22: 30 "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

4. Tongues in a Foreign Language – Sign to the Unbeliever
    - God supernaturally empowers a believer to speak in a foreign language they have never learnt. Designed to grab unbeliever's attention and persuade them to believe
    - Isa 28:11 For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people,
    - Acts 2:7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? [8] "And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?

## Different Rules for Different Varieties

- Some are for personal use (#1, #3); some are for public (#2, #4)
- One must be interpreted (#2); others do not (#1, #3, #4)
- One is at your own will whenever you want (#1); others only as the Spirit wills (#2-4)

| | Where to be used? | Interpretation Required? | Who Initiates It? |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Tongues for Personal Edification | Private | no | Believer |
| 2. Tongues for Interpretation | Public | Compulsory | Holy Spirit |
| 3. Deep Intercessional Groanings | Private | no | Holy Spirit |
| 4. Tongues in a Foreign Language | Public | no | Holy Spirit |

Major Controversy is between #1 and #2 – 1 Cor. 14 entirely devoted to this subject.

- "Do all speak with tongues?" is taken out of context.
    - 1 Cor 12:28 And God has appointed… varieties of tongues.
    - 1Cor 12:30 Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?
        - Paul didn't ask if all had ***varieties*** *of tongues*. He chose one variety, tongues for interpretation, asking, "Do all speak with tongues that can be interpreted?"
        - Everyone can speak with tongues for personal edification, but you are not supposed to stand up in church and speak out loud your own personal tongue that no-one else can understand.
        - The only variety of tongue that should be used out-loud in church is tongues for interpretation, which is always interpreted so the church can be edified.
    - Every believer qualifies for Variety #1 – Tongues for Personal edification
    - But not everyone qualifies for Variety #2 – Tongues for Interpretation
- Mixing up the rules
    - Rugby vs Football vs Hocky – can you pick up the ball? what is offside?
    - Tongues for Interpretation must be interpreted in a public meeting
- Proper use of #2 – Tongues for Interpretation
    - 1Co 14:27 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.

- Differences between #1 and #2

| 1Cor 14 | Tongues for Personal | Prophecy / Tongues for Interpretation |
|---|---|---|
| v2-3 | - speaks to **God** | - speaks to **men** |
| v2-3 | - **No one** understands him | - **Everyone** listening understands |
| v2,3 | - in the spirit he **speaks mysteries** | - Speaks teaching, encouragement, and comfort |
| v4 | - Edifies him/herself | - Edifies others / the church |
| 14:15 | - Whenever you want, as much as you want, as long as you want | - Only as the Holy Spirit wills (as you yield yourself to Him) |
| v5 | - I would like every one of you to speak in tongues (*at home)* | - But *(in church)* I would rather have you prophesy. |
| v18-19 | - I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.<br>-<br>- than ten thousand words in a tongue. | - yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding,<br>- that I may teach others also, |
| | - Tongues is allowing the Holy Spirit to teach you | - Prophecy/Preaching is teaching others |
| v39 | - Do not forbid to speak with tongues | - Desire earnestly to prophesy (or tongues with interpretation) |
| v40 | - Let all things be done decently and in order. | |

Praying in tongues is a unique spiritual gift designed to give you what no man can give you – direct instruction by the Holy Spirit to your spirit, of all the deep spiritual truths of Jesus Christ and His calling for your life.

Jesus promises that every believer can speak in new tongues. He instructed the early disciples to wait and expect the Holy Spirit to come and fill them with power. But that power only comes as we grow in maturity and learn to yield and be led by the Spirit. And it all starts with the simple gift of praying in tongues.

*Lord Jesus. I believe you died on the cross and rose again for me, and I confess you as my Lord and Saviour. I ask you to fill me with the Holy Spirit and give me the ability to speak in these new tongues as the Holy Spirit gives me the words. Holy Spirit, thank you for coming to live on the inside of me and bringing this new language with you. (Now begin to speak ….)*