

## **Session 14: Chapter 14...**

### **What Good is Tongues...and...Is Tongues Relevant?**

**Paul was being confronted with:**

- *Those that desired tongues more than any other gift;*
- *Those that abused the gift of tongues, by:*
  - ✓ *Confusing others by multiple use of the gift at the same time in a congregational setting,*
  - ✓ *Feeling that the gift was more important than other gifts...thus feeling that if they possessed they were highly acknowledged by God,*
  - ✓ *Used it as a tool for promoting themselves.*
- *Those that highly coveted the gift in lieu of presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost.*

*1 Corinthians 14 ..... “Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. <sup>2</sup> For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. <sup>3</sup> But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. <sup>4</sup> Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. <sup>5</sup> I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified. <sup>6</sup> Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? <sup>7</sup> Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the pipe or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? <sup>8</sup> Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? <sup>9</sup> So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. <sup>10</sup> Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. <sup>11</sup> If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and the speaker is a foreigner to me. <sup>12</sup> So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church. <sup>13</sup> For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say. <sup>14</sup> For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup> So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. <sup>16</sup> Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer,<sup>1</sup> say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? <sup>17</sup> You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified. <sup>18</sup> I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. <sup>19</sup> But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue. <sup>20</sup> Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. <sup>21</sup> In the Law it is written:*

*“With other tongues and through the lips of foreigners I will speak to this people, but even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.”*

<sup>22</sup> Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is not for unbelievers but for believers. <sup>23</sup> So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? <sup>24</sup> But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, <sup>25</sup> as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!" <sup>26</sup> What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. <sup>27</sup> If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. <sup>28</sup> If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God. <sup>29</sup> Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. <sup>30</sup> And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. <sup>31</sup> For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. <sup>32</sup> The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. <sup>33</sup> For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord's people. <sup>34</sup> Women<sup>[1]</sup> should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. <sup>35</sup> If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. <sup>36</sup> Or did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? <sup>37</sup> If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command. <sup>38</sup> But if anyone ignores this, they will themselves be ignored. <sup>39</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. <sup>40</sup> But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way."

### **Paul made some blunt statements concerning tongues and prophesy...**

- "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself..."
- "He who prophesies edifies the church."
- "I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but..."
- "I would rather have you prophesy."
- "He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues."
- "He who speaks in tongues and interprets is greater...or at least as great as one who prophesies."
- "If you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church."
- "In the church, I would rather you speak with understanding in order to properly instruct the congregation."
- "Tongues are a sign for unbelievers...not believers."
- "Prophecy is for believers...but it is also to convince sinners to repentance and to an understanding that "God is really amongst the congregation."
- "All....the gifts are important for the strengthening of the church."
- "If there are tongues when the congregation meets, there should be an interpreter. If not, then those speaking in tongues should be silent."
- "God is not a God of disorder, but of peace."
- "Be eager to prophesy..."

- *“Do not forbid speaking in tongues.”*
- *“Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”*

**Wow....Paul said a lot to the Corinthian Church!**

**Why?...Because things had gotten out of hand and the Spirit of God was being quenched.**

*Paul also stated that “women should remain silent in the churches.”*

*We will not be confronted with this issue in our study today!*

**Let’s look at the scriptures concerning tongues...and how it is part of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.**

*Acts 2:4, “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

*Mark 16:17, “And these signs shall follow them that believe; in My Name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.”*

*Matthew 3:11, “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.”*

*Acts 2:39, “For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”*

*Isaiah 28:11,12., “For with stammering lips and another tongue will He speak to this people. To whom He said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear.”*

**Why tongues?**

*Scripture references...Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2:1-4; Acts 8:5-8 and 12; Acts 8:14-17; Acts 8:18-19; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:1-3 and 6;*

**Ten (10) Reasons Why Every Believer Should Seek Speaking in Tongues.**

1. *Tongues is the Initial Sign of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit....Acts 10:46*
2. *Tongues is for Spiritual Edification.....1 Corinthians 14:4; 14:2; 14:14.*
3. *Tongues Remind Us of the Spirit’s Indwelling Presence....John 14:16-17.*
4. *Praying in Tongues is Praying in Line With God’s Perfect Will....Romans 8:26-27.*  
     *Speaking in tongues keeps selfishness out of our prayers.*  
     *When you pray in tongues, it is your spirit praying, by the Holy Spirit within you.*
5. *Praying in Tongues Stimulates Faith....Jude 20.*  
     *Praying in tongues stimulates faith and helps us learn to trust God more fully.*
6. *Praying in Tongues, A Means of Keeping Free from Worldly Contamination... 1 Corinthians 14:28.*  
     *When the world around you is worldly, speaking in tongues shuts out the world....and God and your spirit can communicate.*
7. *Praying in Tongues Enables Us to Pray for the Unknown....Again, Romans 8:26-27.*

*Praying in the spirit provides:*

- ✓ A way for things to be prayed for that we wouldn't know anything about in the natural. The Holy Ghost, however, knows everything.
- ✓ A way to pray for things for which no one thinks to pray, or is even aware.

8. *Praying in Tongues Gives Spiritual Refreshing....Isaiah 28:11-12.*

9. *Tongues is for Giving True Thanks to God....1 Corinthians 14:15-17.*

10. *Speaking in Tongues Brings the Tongue Under Subjection...James 3:8.*

The tongue can be one of the greatest tools for blessing that God ever gave to man.

*With the tongue we can bless God...our fellowman...help another!*

### **With the tongue:**

*...we can bless or we can curse man...and God.*

Let no corrupt thing come out of your mouth.... "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.."

### **Words can lift...or they can harm.**

The Holy Spirit is pleased when we are honest and upright, both with our fellowman and with our God. Dishonest in any form grieves the Spirit of God.

**The tongue can either be an unruly member or one by which we praise and bring glory to God.**

"A wholesome tongue is a tree of life; but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit" (Proverbs 15:4).

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue; and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof" (Proverbs 18:21).

"But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (James 3:8).

**It is wise for us to remember that one day in judgment, God will recall all the things that we have said. Remember, there is great power in speech.**

*A doctor can tell much about the physical condition of a man or woman by looking at the tongue. When you go to see the doctor, he will say to you, "Stick out your tongue."*

*A healthy tongue is a good sign, but if it has a yellow or white coating, or has certain marks upon it, that is an indication of an unhealthy body.*

*Sometimes I think the Lord says to us spiritually, "Stick out your tongue."*

**As we stick it out, we ought to let the Lord sanctify it and make it holy.**

"Be careful of the things you say,  
Keep them soft and sweet;  
For you never know from day to day  
Which ones you will have to eat."

**Even the method by which we are saved is by the tongue—speaking a confession.**

**"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).**

"But...the tongue can no man tame".....part of James 3:8.

**God can tame the tongue...He gets into the spirit man....and mind, thoughts and the physical body line up.**

The Lord himself commanded His disciples to go into all the world and baptize believers (Matthew 28:19)

We have no problem with this commandment...People all over the world are being saved and baptized.

**However, there is another Baptism....**

**John spoke of this in Mark 1:8, "I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."**

Luke makes it clear that there is another baptism (Luke 3:16), "I (John) baptize you with Water; but, one more powerful than I will come....He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Matthew and John repeat this promise (3:11; 1:33).

**Have you ever been baptized in water? How do you know?**

Yes...might sound like a foolish question.

First, you had knowledge of what water baptism was; then you were conscious of the physical experience that matched your mental conception.

**What about Spirit baptism? There is no reason to think that you would be any less conscious of it than of water baptism.**

Paul implied that believers could know if they have been baptized in the Spirit when he asked the Ephesians if they received the Spirit after they believed (Acts 19:2); they would later receive this gift after water baptism and with charismatic evidence. Paul's is a meaningless question to the Ephesians if they could not sense such a baptism.

**Not only is it perceptible to the recipient, but its evidence is observable by others.**

**What was the evidence?**

**"glossalalia"...that is speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives them utterance."**

There were no fewer than 162 accounts of Holy Spirit baptism....in the scripture. Of the 162 accounts of Spirit baptisms described in Scripture, the only common, immediate, external evidence is not wind or fire or love or joy or prophecy, but singularly and invariable *glossalalia*.

***Some truths concerning the Baptism...***

- ✓ *Salvation is the only prerequisite for this experience.*
- ✓ *The Spirit never preempts or overrules a Christian's will and forces the experience out of him.*
- ✓ *The Spirit looks to believers who are willing to participate in this faith experience.*
- ✓ *A Christian with bias against this experience will not find himself speaking praises to God in a heavenly language.*
- ✓ *There is little possibility that a person will express himself in tongues while harboring even honest doubt about the experience.*

*The Heavenly Father will not allow you to receive anything from God that will do you harm, especially when you are asking for something for the benefit of the Kingdom of God, and not for yourself.*

*Ask....and you will receive good measure, shaken together and running over...*

*Ask....and you will receive something good....not something that is bad!*

The prayer language is for our own edification....

The speaking in tongues corporately....will have an interpreter and it is to build up the church!

**Remember in closing...Faith, Hope, and Love...the Greatest of these is Love!**

**Therefore, love those who don't believe like you do. Respect their beliefs...Respect them and appreciate their willingness and desire to do everything according to the Word.**

**And...one to grow on!**

**If you speak in tongues, don't ever think you are on a different plain, different level, different pathway to the Father than those who don't have this gift. Two of the most grievous sins is arrogance and pride.**

**That level is one you don't want to be on!**

**God hates arrogance and pride.**