

To Be Filled With The Holy Spirit

(Part 9)

“to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.” (1 Corinthians 12:10b-11)

8- Speaking in different kinds of tongues: The gift of tongues is God’s special enablement to speak in an unknown language, glorifying God and affecting both the believer and the unbeliever. There seem to be some powerful purposes behind the gift of tongues as we can read below:-

(A) Preaching in different languages: As we can read in the book of Acts, *“When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.” ¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.” (Acts 2:6-14).*

(B) Personal edification: *“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.” (1 Corinthians 14:4).*

(C) Edification of 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, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.” (1 Corinthians 14:5).*

(D) Intercessory prayer: We can use tongues in prayer, *“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.” (Romans 8:26) “So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.” (1 Corinthians 14:15).*

(E) Confirmation of the Word: *“¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” ¹⁹ After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. ²⁰ Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.” (Mark 16:17-20).*

(F) Intimacy with God: *“² For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.” (1 Corinthians 14:2).*

(G) A means of experiencing rest: *“¹¹ Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people, ¹² to whom he said, “This is the resting place, let the weary rest”; and, “This is the place of repose”—but they would not listen.” (Isaiah 28:11-12).*

(H) An evidence of an experience: *“⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[u] as the Spirit enabled them.” (Acts 2:4)*

(I) Communication between God and the church: *“to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.” (1 Corinthians 12:10).*

(J) A fulfillment of prophecy: *“¹¹ Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people, ¹² to whom he said, “This is the resting place, let the weary rest”; and, “This is the place of repose”—but they would not listen.” (Isaiah 28:10-12).*

(K) A sign to the unbeliever: *“²² Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is for believers, not for unbelievers.” (1 Corinthians 14:22)*

(L) Evidence of the complete ascension and glorification of Jesus: *“⁷ But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” (John 16:7)*

9- Interpretation of tongues: This is a special enablement of the Holy Spirit which reveals the understanding of the message given in tongues. Interpretation of tongues is not necessarily the exact words of the message in tongues offered publicly before the congregation; and, as such, this gift exhibits characteristics similar therefore to prophecy. So the power of the gift of tongues is that, with interpretation, it offers an understanding of God’s will that might be equated with prophecy. These two—the gift of prophecy and tongues with interpretation—may not be precisely the same, equally balanced on both sides, but the effect is the same.

My Dear and Beloved: If one has the gift of tongues, one is to pray also for the gift of interpretation. In other words, an individual should not go on indefinitely in a foreign language to the distraction or disturbance of public. The individual should first pray for an interpretation, *“For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says.” (1 Corinthians 14:13);* and, if there is no interpretation, he should sit quietly and speak to himself and God, *“²⁸ If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.” (1 Corinthians 14:28)*

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your word and the message that I received from you that gave me clear understanding about the gifts of tongues and the interpretation of tongues. Lord I humble myself before you and I ask you to fill me with your Holy Spirit and use me in the way that you wants me to be, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.*