

I. What is “speaking in tongues”**A. It is a language** (tongues = languages).

1. These can be earthly languages or heavenly languages.

1 Cor 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels,

- a. It could be an earthly language that is no longer spoken. There are many dead languages.

2. This is never a language that you learn.

- a. Acts 2:4 ...they spake in other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance.

- b. Mark 16:17 these signs shall follow them that believe; ... they shall speak with new tongues;

(1) New = (Gr.) recently made, fresh, of a new kind; also uncommon, unheard of.

II. What are you saying when you speak in tongues?**A. Magnifying God** Acts 10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.**B. Speaking the wonderful works of God**

Acts 2:11 ...we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

C. Speaking mysteries

1 Cor 14:2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

D. Praying

1. 1 Cor 14:14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth...

2. 1 Cor 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also:

E. Giving thanks

1 Cor 14:16 when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks...

III. What is the purpose of tongues?**A. It is helpful in praising and worshipping God.**

1. Acts 10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

2. You can sing, bless (*lit speak well of i.e. praise*) and give thanks in tongues. (1 Cor 14:15-17)

“The baptism of the Holy Ghost, with the speaking in other tongues, is ... helpful to us in praising and worshipping God. Sometimes we may feel a great love for God and yet find it hard to find words to express it. We can find a fuller expression of our love for God by worshipping Him in (other) tongues”. (Acts 10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God). (From Jim Cassidy’s handout in Bethel Bible college 1981)

B. It is an aid in prayer.

1. 1 Cor 14:14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, ...

2. 1 Cor 14:15 I will pray with the Spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also.

- *What a precious thing that God has given you your own unique prayer language which only you can speak and only He understands.*

C. It builds you up spiritually.

1. 1 Cor 14:4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself. (Edify = to build up)

2. Jude 20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.

D. It is a means of refreshing for your spirit.

1. Isa 28:11-12 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. 12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing...
2. Ps 55:6 And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest.
 - a. With Mark 1:10 ...and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him.

E. It can be a sign to the unbeliever.

1. 1 Cor 14:21-22 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. 22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not:
2. Examples of this:
 - a. Acts 2:5-11 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.
 - (1) Please note: this was not simply a way of God causing them to be able to hear the Gospel (as many suggest) since Peter later preached the Gospel to them (probably in Greek, the common language) without the use of “tongues”, and 3000 were saved from his preaching.
 - b. One Greek woman who could barely speak a word of English received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost at home one night. As she received it, she began to speak in tongues in perfect, fluent English, praising and glorifying God. The next morning her neighbors in the building she lived in confronted her with, “We thought you told us you couldn’t speak English. We heard you praying in English last night.” Of course, she didn’t know English (and still doesn’t very much [1981]), but when she was filled with the Holy Ghost, the Holy Spirit spoke perfect English through her. This was a sign to the people in that building that this Christian woman had had a real experience with God. (Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe...they shall speak with new tongues) (*From Jim Cassidy’s handout in Bethel Bible college 1981*)
 - c. A missionary to the American Indians (Navajo tribe) was holding a tent meeting on the Navajo reservation. Suddenly he began to speak in tongues in a language he did not know. To his surprise, Indians rushed to the altar to get saved. The Indians had been amazed to hear this white man who did not know their language speak this message telling them to repent of their sins and receive Christ. This was a sign to them. (“And these signs shall follow them that believe” “Tongues are for a sign to them that believe not” 1 Cor. 14:22). (*From Jim Cassidy’s handout in Bethel Bible college 1981*).

F. It can be a message to the church: (The spiritual gift of tongues)

1. Tongues can be used by God to bring a direct message to the church:
2. When followed by the gift of interpretation of tongues, it is a direct revelation from God for the church (similar to prophecy).

- Coming messages:
- * Biblical proof that there are two manifestations of tongues.
 - * Using and developing your prayer language
 - * Some common misconception regarding tongues
 - * Seven steps of faith to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit