



WEEK 4 – “Speaking in Tongues – Simplified!”

REVIEW

WK1 We must judge every EXPERIENCE by the infallible standard which is GREATER than any experience (2 Peter 1:19-21).

WK2 “Tongues” are *not* an unintelligible language. No one in the entire Bible spoke in an unknown, unspoken, unintelligible language. “Tongues”, as defined by the Bible, is a known spoken understandable language... foreign to speaker, understood by hearer.

WK3 The Bible teaches: **Tongues** are for a **SIGN** to **unbelieving Jews** (1Cor 1:22; 14:22)

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

1. Biblical “Acts” of speaking in tongues (Acts is a TRANSITIONAL book.)

There are only 3 places in the entire Bible where anyone is actually speaking in TONGUES. All other references point out the use or misuse of the gift. Let us keep in the forefront of our mind *the purpose for the gift*, then let us simply examine the facts.

a. **Acts 2:1-36**

2 Timothy 2:15
Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, RIGHTLY DIVIDING the word of truth.

Acts 1:11
... this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, SHALL SO COME IN LIKE MANNER as ye have seen him go into heaven.

The context is *Jewish*. It is the JEWISH feast day of *Pentecost*. The JEWISH apostles (Acts 1:15-26) are gathered in *Jerusalem* to receive the Holy Ghost, which their JEWISH Messiah promised would come. NO *Gentiles* are present except those who became JEWS (Acts 2:10, “*proselytes*”). Peter, apostle to the JEWS (Galatians 2:7-8), stands up and preaches a message that is derived from the JEWISH Old Testament (OT), which was not the OT at that time, but rather the whole Bible! He quotes the JEWISH prophet *Joel* (Acts 2:16-21). He does not say that this is the absolute fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy, but rather what they see (and have seen in the life of Christ) is NT unfolding and the beginning of OT prophecy taking place – “this is **THAT** which was spoken by the prophet Joel;”

Remember, Peter’s message does not end until verse 36 – He keeps preaching after telling them that what they see is the same stuff Joel wrote about!

It is important to put Joel’s quote in the context of Peter’s message. Peter has been talking about what is taking place between the Resurrection and the Second

Joel 2:31
The SUN shall be turned into darkness, and the MOON into blood, before the great and the terrible DAY of the LORD come.

Revelation 6:12
And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the SUN became black as sackcloth of hair, and the MOON became as blood;

Coming. Joel was quoted to show the JEWS what would take place before the Messiah came back to reign on David's throne and that throne was connected to the man the JEWS had crucified...and Peter is expecting all this to happen at any time, maybe any moment...see **Acts 1:11**. He has **NO** idea about the "body of Christ" or anything "Christian"...This is all JEWISH stuff, but now in the New Testament and not in the Old Testament!

The theme of Joel is: The **DAY** of the LORD. Many so-called "Christian" groups say we are currently living in "the time of Joel's prophesy" ... and that "it began in **Acts 2** and has continued until today."

Because they do not make the proper divisions (**2 Tim 2:15**), doctrinal error is the result. The key is found in the very prophecy of **Joel 2:28** in the English word "**AFTERWORD**." AFTER the beginning of the Lord's Day, during and AFTER the tribulation of "those days," the things spoken of in Joel would come to pass (obviously the prophecies spoken of in **Joel 2:28-32** and **Acts 2:18-20** have NOT YET COME TO PASS; also see **Hebrews 8:10**).

NOTE He did **NOT** say, "As it says" in **Mk 15:28; Lk 4:21; Jn 13:18; 17:12; 19:24, 28, 36; Acts 1:16; James 2:23**...that it was a **FULLFILLMENT** of Scripture!

The actual event of speaking in tongues is recorded for us in this chapter. The apostles spoke in known foreign languages, spoken by the JEWISH brethren, from the other regions of Asia Minor, etc. (**Acts 2:6, 8, 9-10**). These brethren believed the OT scriptures, but were ignorant of the truth behind the death, burial, and resurrection of their **JEWISH** Messiah. They needed to hear the word of God!



KEY Thus, they were as yet **UNBELIEVING JEWS** who required a **SIGN!**

b. **Acts 10**

Acts 11:1-4
And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea HEARD that THE GENTILES had also received the word of God. And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision CONTENDED WITH HIM, Saying Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them. But Peter REHEARSED THE MATTER FROM THE BEGINNING, and EXPOUNDED IT BY ORDER UNTO THEM...

Peter, the JEWISH apostle to the JEWS fell into a trance. God revealed that he should go to the home of a GENTILE which goes **AGAINST** his JEWISH law (**Acts 10:28**). Accompanying Peter are other JEWISH brethren as witnesses because he was going to a GENTILE's house (**Acts 10:23, 45; 11:12**).

They went to the home of Cornelius the GENTILE (**Acts 10:1**). Peter was about to give the same JEWISH invitation to Christ as **Acts 2:38-40** when the Holy Ghost interrupts him and fell upon the GENTILES present (**Acts 10:44**) and they spoke in "tongues" (verse 46) just like the apostles did in **Acts 2** (see Peter's account in **Acts 11:1-17 & Acts 15:7-9**). Which language was it?

Cornelius and GENTILES present had heard enough of the gospel to be saved! Prior to **Acts 10**, Peter and JEWISH believers did NOT **BELIEVE** God would save GENTILES until they became JEWS (**Jn 4:22; Acts 10:28; 11:1-17; 15:1-35**).



KEY Thus, **PETER (the JEWISH apostle)** and his **JEWISH** companions were in fact the **UNBELIEVING JEWS** who required a **SIGN!**

c. **Acts 19:1-12**

Paul comes upon the twelve JEWISH disciples of the JEW Apollos (**Acts 18:24**), who knew only the JEWISH baptism of John the Baptist. These men were **NOT** believers (*i.e. they were not saved*). They DID BELIEVE the OT scriptures, but were ignorant of the death, burial, and resurrection of their JEWISH Messiah.

KEY They were not born-again believers but were **UNBELIEVING JEWS**.

1 Corinth 14:18
*I thank my God,
I speak with
TONGUES more
than ye all:*

NOTE Also, because of the timing of their exercising of the supernatural gift, tongues CONFIRMED to the apostle Paul (*a Jew*) that these men were actually saved. He would have been skeptical of them because of their initial testimony. Which language did they speak? Paul spoke the most!



KEY Thus, **Paul** (*a JEW*) was UNBELIEVING of these men being saved. Paul (*a JEW*) also required a SIGN to confirm that they had truly received the word of God!

2. Conclusion

a. It is important to understand...

❖ **EVERY TIME** the actual event of “*speaking in tongues*” is recorded in the Scriptures there are UNBELIEVING JEWS present!

❖ **Why?**

1 Corinthians 14:22
*Wherefore TONGUES
ARE FOR A SIGN,
not to them that
BELIEVE, but to them
that BELIEVE NOT...*

ANSWER:

Because “*Tongues are for a SIGN ... to them that believe NOT ... and Jews require a SIGN*” (**1 Corinthians 14:22; 1:22**).

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Do you believe the Bible?
- 2) Is this hard to understand?

1 Corinthians 1:22
*For the Jews REQUIRE
a SIGN, and the Greeks
seek after wisdom:*

b. Now consider the truth of **PROVERBS 25:14**...Very interesting!

Whoso boasteth himself of a FALSE GIFT is like clouds and wind without rain.

* Next Week we will study an overview of the book of **1 Corinthians** ...

... you don't want to miss because this is a key in understanding this issue!!