

Questions & Answers Concerning Tongues

Although most of you may not have many questions concerning speaking with other tongues, there are some who do. In fact, the number of people with questions concerning speaking with tongues is steadily growing, even among Pentecostals. It seems, more and more people have questions concerning the legitimacy of tongues. If they do not have questions themselves, they have family and friends who have questions. If this is you, then this lesson is for you. This lesson will help answer questions you might have concerning the topic of speaking with other tongues.

Question #1:

ISN'T IT TRUE THAT...NOT EVERYONE IS GIVEN TO SPEAK WITH TONGUES?

[1 Corinthians 12:29–30](#)

²⁹ Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? ³⁰ Have all the gifts of healing? DO ALL SPEAK WITH TONGUES? do all interpret?

It's important to note that Paul is speaking here about the "gift" of tongues. Moreover, the gift of tongues is not the same as receiving the ability to speak with tongues. For example, the gift of tongues (like every other gift of the Spirit) is given to believers for PUBLIC use.

[1 Corinthians 12:28](#)

²⁸ And God hath set some IN THE CHURCH, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversity of TONGUES.

However, not all 'tongues' are for public use. The reason they are not all for public use is because they are not all directed to men!

[1 Corinthians 14:2](#)

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.

Notice that not all tongues are intended to be spoken to men. Some tongues are directed towards God. Therefore, these tongues are for private use. Tongues that

are for private use are given to edify the speaker, while tongues that are given for public use are given to edify the hearer.

[1 Corinthians 14:4](#)

4 He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue EDIFIES HIMSELF; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

Moreover, this ability to speak with tongues and edify oneself is given to EVERYONE who receives the Holy Spirit.

[Acts 2:4](#)

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](#)

17 And THESE SIGNS shall follow them that BELIEVE; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall SPEAK WITH NEW TONGUES;

Notice how this ability to speak with new tongues is given to ALL who believe! In fact, if casting out devils is a right of every believer, then so is speaking with new tongues!

Question #2:

ISN'T IT TRUE THAT...WHEN YOU SPEAK IN TONGUES YOU NEED AN INTERPRETER?

[1 Corinthians 14:27](#)

27 If any man speak in an *unknown* tongue, *let it be* by two, or at the most by three, and *that* by course; and LET ONE INTERPRET.

Again, Paul is talking about the use of tongues in public. Anyone who speaks in tongues publicly is supposed to do with an interpretation so that others are edified.

[1 Corinthians 14:28](#)

28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him SPEAK TO HIMSELF, AND TO GOD.

Notice, if there's no interpreter, a person is still permitted to speak with tongues in Church. They just have to do so privately (to themselves). We should avoid communicating to others in tongues if we don't have an interpreter.

Question #3:

ISN'T IT TRUE THAT...TONGUES HAVE CEASED?

[1 Corinthians 13:8](#)

⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; WHETHER THERE BE TONGUES, they shall CEASE; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

Some believe tongues ceased with the close of the apostolic age. Meaning, once the Apostles died there was no more need to validate their testimony with miracles and signs. Others believe tongues have ceased because tongues were only needed to spread the gospel to foreign lands. Once the world became evangelized, there was no longer a need for this gift.

Yet, nowhere in the Bible was tongues ever used to preach/spread the gospel to foreign nations!

[Acts 2:4, 6](#)

⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and BEGAN TO SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 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.

Although the disciples spoke with tongues when they were filled, when it came time to preach the gospel, Peter spoke in his OWN language!

[Acts 2:14](#)

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, AND HEARKEN TO MY WORDS:

Question #4:

ISN'T IT TRUTH THAT...WHEN YOU SPEAK IN TONGUES YOU'RE SUPPOSE TO BE SPEAKING A REAL LANGUAGE?

Some people claim that the tongues we hear today are illegitimate because they are not actual languages. Therefore, tongues today are just gibberish or meaningless speech.

First of all, not every tongue has to be a known language.

[1 Corinthians 14:2](#)

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.

Secondly, we see that when anyone speaks in an unknown tongue, they are NOT SPEAKING GIBBERISH. Instead, the Bible says they are speaking MYSTERIES!

[1 Corinthians 14:15–17](#)

¹⁵ What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. ¹⁶ Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy GIVING OF THANKS, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? ¹⁷ For thou verily GIVEST THANKS WELL, but the other is not edified.

According to Paul, when we pray in the Spirit we're giving thanks (worshipping God) well!

Question #5:

HOW DO I KNOW THAT THE 'TONGUES' I'M SPEAKING IS COMING FROM THE HOLY GHOST, AND NOT FROM MY OWN HEAD?

How do we know that when we speak in tongues the Holy Spirit is speaking and we're not just making it up in our head?

First, when you speak in tongues it's not the Holy Spirit speaking (praying), it's you! WE speak in tongues. The Holy Spirit simply supplies us with the WORDS or the utterance. Second, we know it's the Spirit (and not our mind) giving us the utterance BECAUSE our minds are unfruitful during the process.

[1 Corinthians 14:14](#)

¹⁴ For if I pray in an *unknown* tongue, my spirit prayeth, but MY UNDERSTANDING IS UNFRUITFUL.

When we pray or speak in tongues the words do not come forth from our MIND (understanding). Instead, they come from our SPIRIT. One way we can prove this is by attempting to read something while you speak in tongues. If you're

able to read while you are actively speaking in tongues, then you know that you are not speaking from your mind. It's impossible to speak words in your understanding while thinking on something else!

Question #6:

HOW DO I KNOW THAT THE TONGUES I'M SPEAKING IS COMING FROM THE HOLY GHOST, AND NOT FROM SOME DEMON?

If you are speaking with other tongues as a result of asking God to fill you with the Holy Spirit, then the unction you're receiving to speak with other tongues is definitely coming from the Holy Ghost!

[Luke 11:11–13](#)

¹¹ If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish GIVE HIM A SERPENT? ¹² Or if he shall ask an egg, will he OFFER HIM A SCORPION? ¹³ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father GIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THEM THAT ASK HIM?

If you ask the Father to give you the Spirit, He is not going to give you something harmful like a 'serpent' or devil!