

THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 11: OBJECTIONS, MISCONCEPTIONS, AND EXCESSES REGARDING SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE

Main Idea: One reason for confusion about spiritual language is because God's people often do not understand what the Bible teaches about it. Scripture is the answer for everything, but sometimes it is hard to push past traditions and previous teaching to learn what the Bible actually says. As a result, people have been robbed of the blessing, benefits, and power that comes with spiritual language. This lesson will address four common objections, five misconceptions, and four excesses regarding spiritual language.

Scripture: Matthew 6:6; Mark 16:17-18; Luke 11:11-13; John 3:6; 14:17; Acts 8:14-17; 1 Corinthians 13:8-12; 14:2, 5, 14-19, 26, 32





SIGHTLINE: Acquire Your Target

What did the Scripture mean to the original author and audience? As you explore information on the author, content, culture, history, land, and language of the Bible, you will gain a better understanding of the intended message of God's Word.

Spiritual language is something many churches address, all believing they have a correct view. Here is what one non-denominational mega-church states on their website:

Spiritual Gifts

We believe that God provides His followers with spiritual gifts which empower them to serve according to His will for their lives. These gifts are uniquely given so that each member can serve effectively in an area of God's choosing, consistent with his calling upon the believer's life, and in manner that builds up the body of Christ and edifies other believers. At the same time, few areas of teaching within the church have caused more division than the subject of spiritual gifts such as **speaking in tongues, healings, and performing miracles**. While we believe in the supernatural power of our God to communicate beyond our limitations, to heal us of all infirmities, and to humble us with demonstrations of His power over heaven and earth; we also recognize the nature of man to allow divisions to arise in the church. Therefore, as this is a non-salvation area of contention between believers, **we will not encourage tongues in any gatherings of the church body**. We will not tolerate discussions of this non-salvation issue which come up in a divisive way or in a manner which would hinder the Lord's work or cause His name to be slandered. All spiritual gifts must be used to edify Christ and his church, not the individual members.¹

If you are going to walk down the path of Spirit baptism, you must be willing to look at the Scriptures with a set of lenses that is free from your traditions. The writers of the Bible assumed readers would understand the land, the language, and the culture of what was written. To understand Scripture properly, we need to examine it through the eyes of the intended audience. Then, we can apply the knowledge to the spiritual journey.

¹ <https://www.thecreek.org/about-us#about-our-beliefs> (Accessed April 4, 2019)



CROSSHAIR: Focus on Your Target

What does this study say to you? Through studying the biblical explanations and principles in this study below, you will better understand what God is saying to you today.

There are four common objections and no fewer than five common misconceptions about spiritual language. In addition, there are at least three common excesses regarding speaking in tongues. Let's take a look at each of these.

OBJECTIONS

(And the misused verses that go with them.)

- The first objection is, "If Jesus did not speak in tongues, I do not have to either." (Mark 16:17-18)
- The second objection is that, "speaking in tongues is of the devil." (Luke 11:11-13)
- The third objection to speaking in tongues is, "tongues have ceased." (1 Corinthians 13:8-10)
- The fourth objection is, "only the apostles could pray for people to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit." (Acts 8:14-17)

MISCONCEPTIONS

(And the misused verses that go with them.)

- The first misconception is you are not saved unless you are baptized in the Holy spirit and speak with tongues. (John 14:17)
- The second misconception is tongues are not for everyone. (1 Corinthians 12:29-30; 14:5)
- The third misconception is that you cannot pray in tongues at will. The idea is that you have to wait for some spirit of ecstasy to come upon you. (1 Corinthians 14:14-15; 32)
- The fourth misconception is that all tongues are prayer.
- The fifth misconception is that tongues are just the ability to speak in

a foreign language. The primary reason God gives you your spiritual language is a devotional gift for you to add life to your prayer sessions. (1 Corinthians 14:2; 14)

EXCESSES

- The first excess is the idea that when you speak in tongues loudly it brings more power. God hears faith, not noise. (Matthew 6:6)
- The second excess is manifestations in the flesh. (John 3:6)
- The third excess is doing what does not edify God in the presence of the unlearned. Explanation? Example? This excess is a maturity issue. (1 Corinthians 14:15-19, 26)





BULLSEYE: Zero in on Your Target

How can this study apply to your life? By listening to the Holy Spirit's leading as you answer this series of questions, you can gain useful insights that will help you apply the truth of God's Word to your daily life.

Write down your answer to the following questions here or in your journal:

- Who appears in the passages you read?
- Where are these passages taking place?
- When are these passages occurring?
- Why are these passages important?
- What is happening in these passages?
- What verse stood out to you? Why?



- Which of the four common objections to speaking in tongues have you frequently heard or experienced? What has been or would be your response?
- Which of the five common misconceptions about speaking in tongues have you frequently heard or experienced? What has been or would be your response?
- Which of the three common excesses regarding speaking in tongues have you heard or experienced? What has been or would be your response?
- On a scale of one to four, with one being regularly and four being not regularly, rate yourself on how often you pray in the Spirit. Write out a plan to improve.



USING MY *FIREBIBLE*

Read the study notes for the following verses in the *FireBible* and answer the accompanying questions:

- Matthew 6:6. Why do Christians need a secret place to pray? How many times a week do you go to your secret place to pray? How can you improve?
- Luke 10:19. What do serpents and scorpions represent? How can believers have power over evil spirits?
- 1 Corinthians 14:2. Which of the two ways for understanding the phrase “speak not to man but to God” do you embrace? Why?
- 1 Corinthians 14:15. What happens to a believer when they pray on a consistent, regular basis in their spiritual language?



- 1 Corinthians 14:26. What is the primary purpose of spiritual gifts? What are some ways God's people will grow? Describe how you have grown in these ways.
- Read the *FireBible* article "**Speaking in Tongues.**" In the section, True Speaking in Tongues, point three, what are two main purposes of speaking in tongues? Do you agree or disagree? Why?





TRIGGER PULL: Hit Your Target

How does this study affect your relationship with God and others? You experience God's Word in action as you use it to direct your journey with Him and those around you. Answer the following questions and record the answers below or in your journal.

- Take some time to listen to the Lord about what you just studied. How did this study help deepen your love for God?
- Write down a thought from this study that you experienced this week.
- As a result of your deepened love for God, how can you practically demonstrate the thought you experienced to your family and to others around you?

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