

“Become Curious” - What are “Tongues” in the Bible?

There are _____ different experiences that are all referred to as “tongues”.

1. The Day of _____

Acts 2:1-4 New Living Translation

1 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. **2** Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. **3** Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. **4** And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

- Now all of this happened to fulfill:

Luke 24:49 New Living Translation

49 “And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”

- It happened due to _____, _____, & _____
- _____! Everyone understood them.

Acts 2:6-12 New Living Translation

6 When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. **7** They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, **8** and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! **9** Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, **10** Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome **11** (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” **12** They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other.

- This _____ happens again in the Bible. Proven unique by this scripture:

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1 Corinthians 14:2 New Living Translation

2 For if you have the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking only to God, since people won't be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be mysterious.

- But they _____ understand them in the story from Acts 2. So clearly this is not the gift of tongues, but a one-time supernatural experience.

2. _____ (In three places)

A. Day of Pentecost (Acts 2)

B. The house of Cornelius - Gentile Pentecost (Acts 10:44-48)

C. Paul on the Road to Ephesus (Acts 19:1-7)

- In Acts 19 Paul introduced the disciples to the _____ of the Holy Spirit! _____ and Prophecy followed.
- None of these moments had someone asking for tongues. None were even seeking the gifts of tongues. All they were seeking was more of _____!

3. _____ Display (Church Services)

- This is addressed _____ in 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14
- Paul is addressing issues written to him in a previous letter from the church in Corinth.
- Paul calls it a _____ of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28, 30)
- Paul asks a rhetorical question in 1 Corinthians 12:30 (the assumed answer is “no”)
- Paul never _____ it. He regulates it for order in a church service and even _____ it.
- Paul calls it the “language of _____” in 1 Corinthians 13:1
- Paul does say it will cease...along with gifts of prophecy and knowledge. But again, he is referring to public manifestations.
- Note: This is what I will call “Scofield Baptists” use to explain why tongues shouldn't be for today. But they fail to explain why “prophecy” happens today...”prophecy” is used as an interchangeable term with “preaching” for them.

So what DOES Paul say about the public manifestation of tongues?

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- They speak not to men but to _____ (1 Corinthians 14:2). Although this alone isn't enough to verify “tongues”.
- No one _____ him 1 Corinthians 14:2 vs. Acts 2
- His spirit is speaking _____...to God!
- Tongues in public edify _____ unless accompanied by an interpretation (1 Cor. 14:4-5 & 1 Cor. 12:10-11)
- Paul wishes everyone spoke in tongues (1 Cor. 14:5) ...with the caveat that there is an _____ so the church will be built up!
- Instructs the _____ display in public while STILL encouraging it
- Paul explicitly “forbids” the _____ of it (1 Cor. 14:39)

4. Tongues & “Language”

- I believe that a prayer language is for _____ Spirit-filled Christian!!!
- Some believe this is just for “some”... but it isn't.
- This is a relevant topic for today to address why Christians seem to lack _____ in their prayer life.
- Most critics focus on the _____ display and never get to the _____ benefits.

Context Verses

- Matthew 3:11, Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 14:4
- Weaker Christians only focus on “self”. So we need empowerment from God!

Romans 8:26-27 New Living Translation

26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. **27** And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

- We don't know _____ to pray
- The Spirit helps us in our _____
- The Spirit within us prays _____ to God's will! This is in _____ to our own will.
- Instead of praying our will on God, we pray God's will on us!

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- Interesting to note: Romans 8:28 is often quoted, but rarely in context with the two verses we just read.

1 John 5:14-15 New Living Translation

14 And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. **15** And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.

- Anything that pleases Him...or that is in accordance with his will. Both of these verses use the words “_____”. So while we don’t know the specifics, we do know He hears them, and even all the more when they line up with His will!

Ephesians 6:10-18 New Living Translation

The Whole Armor of God

10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. **12** For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. **14** Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. **15** For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. **16** In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. **17** Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

- Most places teach the full _____ of God...but they forget verse 18!

So...how can you pray in tongues?

In September 2022 Max Lucado announced that praying in tongues was part of his daily routine. His secret? He realized he had to eagerly desire the gifts that the Spirit gives. (1 Corinthians 14:1)

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1. _____ for it. Seriously!
2. _____ it more than you desire to _____ it or have _____ over it.
3. Just give it a shot. Try giving God some words that are not your own, and see if the Holy Spirit will give you _____ and take it from there.
4. Don't _____ !