

Sermon: Baptism of the Holy Ghost – Speaking and Praying in Tongues

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 14:14–15 (KJV)

*“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. 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.**”*


Introduction

Beloved in Christ, today we focus on a gift and experience that has been a point of debate in some circles, yet remains a fountain of spiritual power for those who embrace it — *the baptism of the Holy Ghost and the speaking in tongues*.

Paul, writing to the Corinthians, makes it clear that **speaking and singing in tongues are not disorderly chatter but a divine operation of the Spirit in and through us**. He himself testified, “*I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all*” (1 Cor. 14:18). If Paul — the great apostle, church planter, and theologian — depended on tongues, then you and I cannot afford to ignore this gift.

Tongues are not only for Pentecost Sunday or for a “few spiritual people.” They are God’s gift to the church — for **prayer, preaching, and for the edification of people**.

1. Tongues for Prayer

 *1 Corinthians 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.”*

When you pray in tongues:

- You are speaking **directly to God**, bypassing human language.
- You speak mysteries — divine secrets that the enemy cannot intercept.
- Your spirit is in direct communion with the Holy Spirit.

 *Psalms 47:7 – “For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.”*



 *Colossians 3:16 / Ephesians 5:19 – Paul exhorts believers to sing with grace, making melody in our hearts to the Lord.*


Illustration:

Think of tongues like a **secure heavenly hotline**. When governments and armies communicate in wartime, they use *coded language* so the enemy cannot intercept. Likewise, when you pray in tongues, you are praying in a spiritual code that Satan cannot decode!


 Kathryn Kuhlman once said, “*The greatest power given to any individual is the power of prayer. And the highest dimension of that prayer is when the Spirit Himself prays through you.*”

So, beloved, when we feel weak, confused, or limited in words — *tongues take over!*

2. Tongues in Prophecy/Preaching

 *1 Corinthians 14:3–5 – “But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied...”*

Paul is not diminishing tongues but showing their **place in preaching**. Tongues are a *sign* (1 Cor. 14:22) — not to entertain men, but to **demonstrate the Spirit’s power**.

 *Mark 16:17 – “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; **they shall speak with new tongues.**”*



 *1 Corinthians 12:28–30 – God set tongues as part of the diverse gifts within the church.*

Illustration:

On the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), when the apostles spoke in tongues, the people heard the mighty works of God in their own languages. Tongues became a bridge for the Gospel to reach nations.

As Smith Wigglesworth often preached, “*The secret of spiritual power is to be filled and continually filled with the Holy Ghost.*” Without tongues, preaching is in human wisdom; but with the Spirit, it becomes fire that transforms lives.

3. Tongues Among People

 *Acts 2:4 – “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

Tongues bring **corporate edification** when exercised with order:

- *1 Corinthians 12:10* – diversities of tongues are given to the body.
- *1 Corinthians 14:30–31, 39–40* – tongues and prophecy must be exercised decently and in order.
- *1 John 4:1* – test every spirit; not every utterance is from God.

Illustration:

Tongues are like the **wind** — invisible yet powerful. You may not see the Holy Spirit, but when He moves through a congregation in tongues, the atmosphere shifts. Healings, prophecy, and conviction are released.

Conclusion / Summary

Speaking and singing in tongues are not a side issue — it is central to the Spirit-filled life. It empowers your **praise** and **prayer life**, strengthens your **preaching and witness**, and edifies God’s **people**.

Paul said, “*Forbid not to speak with tongues*” (1 Cor. 14:39). I say to you today: **Desire it. Practice it. Live in it.** It is a gift, not a burden; a weapon, not a distraction.

Myles Munroe once said, “*The Holy Spirit is God’s governor on earth. Without Him, heaven has no representation in your life.*” Let us allow His Spirit to govern our prayers, our preaching, and our fellowship.

7 Prayer Points

1. Lord, fill me afresh with the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire
2. Holy Spirit, unlock in me a deeper prayer life through speaking in tongues
3. Father, help me to yield my tongue as an instrument of worship and intercession
4. Lord, grant me boldness to preach Your Word with Spirit and power
5. Holy Spirit, bring order, discernment, and edification in our gatherings through tongues and prophecy
6. Lord, use me as a vessel to impact people's lives through Spirit-filled utterance
7. Father, let the fire of Pentecost burn continually in my heart and in this church