

The Gift of Tongues/Interpretation

1 Corinthians 12:7-11h

I. Intro

SLIDE 1

● Anecdote

- Prime
 - This morning - we're going to consider the gift of Tongues - as well as the interpretation of tongues.
 - With this as our focus - it might interest you to know that - my mother was a charismatic Christian.
 - It's for this reason that I grew up in Pentecostal churches - where the gift of tongues was on display for all to see.
 - I was around 8 years old - when my Sunday school class was led by leaders into a room with dimmed lighting.
 - And it was there where they engaged in a practice that some call - priming the pump.
 - They did this by encouraging us to say a syllable - over and over again - - until we started speaking in tongues.
 - And so - there we were - a group of kids standing in a dimly lit room repeating the same syllable - waiting for something to happen.
- Fail
 - Well - as you might imagine - nothing happened - there was no manifestation of spiritual power.
 - There was no outpouring of the Holy Spirit - accompanied by supernatural signs - like tongues of fire above our heads...

- ...nor were there unexplainable wonders - like a mighty rushing wind - that surprised us all.
- Not a single one of us started speaking in tongues - - and it's for this reason that I started to wonder if God loved me.
- And while the leaders at that church encouraged us to continue practicing until we were able to speak in tongues...
- ...what they failed to inform us of - is what the Bible actually said - about the gift of tongues - and the interpretation of tongues.
- And it's sad to say that there are many Pentecostal churches in the world today - that still confused about these gifts.

II. Outline

● Points

- Tongues
- Here in our time today - - we're going to consider the spiritual gifts that Paul called - the gift of tongues - and the interpretation of tongues.
- And as we study the scriptures before us this morning - we'll begin to see that...

SLIDE 2-4

1. ...the Gift of Tongues brings Confirmation
 2. ...the Gift of Tongues promotes Edification
 3. ...the Gift of Tongues demands Interpretation
- With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...

SLIDE 5

- ...where we find Paul - presenting the Christians in Corinth with a list of charismatic gifts.

III. Confirmation

- Set up

- Context

- As we make our way to the 12th chapter of 1st Corinthians - - we should take a moment to put our text - back into it's context.
- It was six weeks ago - when we started our study of the charismatic gifts that Paul presented here in this chapter - which includes...
- ...the word of wisdom - the word of knowledge - the gift of faith - healings - the working of miracles - the gift of prophecy - and the discerning of spirits.
- Now - here in our time today - we're going to consider the gift of tongues and the interpretation of tongues.
- And with this as our focus - let's turn our attention to this list of spiritual gifts - that we find here in 1st Corinthians chapter 12.
- Look with me - beginning there at verse 7 - where we learn that...

SLIDE 6-7

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

1Co 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

1Co 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

- Tongues

- Here in this list of spiritual gifts - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...

SLIDE 8

- ...the Holy Spirit is providing some Christians - with the supernatural ability to speak in tongues.
- And just to be clear - the word - tongues - found there in verse 10 - was translated from the Greek word - glossa...
 - ...which was used in reference to the languages or dialects spoken by a particular people - and distinct from that of other nations.
 - And in this context - Paul was referring to a charismatic gift that enables some believers...
 - ...to speak in an unknown language - whether it be an earthly tongue - or a heavenly tongue.
- No Tongues?
 - Now - there are those who insist that the Holy Spirit no longer empowers believers with the gift of tongues.
 - I'm of course referring to the cessationists who would have us to believe that the signifying gifts ceased - once the apostolic era ended.
 - And in order to understand why they've come to this conclusion - we should consider the cessationist interpretation...
 - ...of a statement that Paul made in the next chapter of this epistle.
 - With this as our focus - let's flip forward to 1st Corinthians chapter 13...
 - ...where we find Paul - assuring his audience that there's coming a day when tongues will cease.
 - Ceased?
 - Look with me - beginning there at verse 8 - where we learn that...

SLIDE 9

1Co 13:8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

1Co 13:9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

1Co 13:10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul pointing to the day when the signifying gifts will cease.

SLIDE 10

- And while it's true that there's coming a day when tongues will cease...
- ...it's also true that Paul goes on in chapter 14 - to present the Christians in Corinth...
- ...with instructions for how the gift of tongues should be exercised by the believers who received it.
- That being the case - we should take a moment to ask - when will the gift of tongues cease?
- Perfect
- With this question in mind - let's take another look at 1st Corinthians 13 - beginning there at verse 9 - where Paul declared...

SLIDE 11

1Co 13:9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

1Co 13:10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

- According to the cessationist - Paul was referring to the complete canon of scripture when he referred to the day when that which is perfect has come.

SLIDE 12

- If that's the case - then why does the New Testament canon include instructions...
- ...for how to use a charismatic gift that is unavailable for 99% of the church age?

- It seems to me that the arrival of that which is perfect is actually a reference to the Millennial kingdom of Christ Jesus...
- ...when we will no longer need the signifying gifts - - like the gift of tongues.

- Tongues

- We're going to spend more time examining this passage - when we get to the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians.
- For now - let it suffice to say that - Paul presented us with the instructions that we find here this epistle...
- ...so that the believers who receive the gift of tongues - can exercise this charismatic gift - according to God's perfect plan.
- With this as the goal - let's consider how the gift of tongues initially confirmed the birth of the Christian church.
- Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to the book of Acts - and more specifically - let's turn to Acts chapter 2.
- And as we make our way to the second chapter of Acts - I should take a moment to point out that...
- ...this chapter of Acts includes Luke's account of the day - when the Holy Spirit was poured out - on the disciples of Christ.

- Confirmation

- Let's consider how Luke described that day - here in Acts chapter 2 - look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where he declared...

SLIDE 13-14

Act 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Act 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Act 2:3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- Here in these verses - we find Luke - describing the day of Pentecost - when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the believers in Jerusalem.

SLIDE 15

- This not only included the sound of mighty rushing wind - - and the visual manifestation of fiery tongues that rested upon the believers...
- ...but - the Holy Spirit also empowered the disciples of Christ to speak with different tongues.
- And while we aren't told if they were all speaking the same languages at the same time...
- ...what we do know is that - the unbelievers who were present - were able to understand them.
- Language
- Let's consider Luke's account - found here in Acts chapter 2 - look with me beginning there at verse 5 - where we learn that...

SLIDE 16-18

Act 2:5 ...there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

Act 2:6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

Act 2:7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"

Act 2:8 "And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?"

Act 2:9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

Act 2:10 "Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

Act 2:11 “Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”

- Now - remember - this was the day of Pentecost - when tens of thousands of pilgrims were bringing their firstfruits offering to the temple.

SLIDE 19

- And it's for this reason that there was a multitude of foreigners - from many different regions...
- ...who were there to witness this miraculous outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- And while it's true that the Christians were all speaking in different languages - as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance...
- ...it's also true that the foreigners were able to hear them praising the Lord - in their own native tongues. .
- Amazed
- With this in mind - we shouldn't be surprised to learn that - the people there in Jerusalem began to ask about the meaning of this miracle.
- Let's consider how Luke described it - here in Acts chapter 2 - look with me beginning there at versed 12 - where we learn that...

SLIDE 20-23

Act 2:12 ...they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?”

Act 2:13 Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

Act 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

Act 2:15 “For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

Act 2:16 “But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

Act 2:17 ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,

Your old men shall dream dreams.

Act 2:18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days;
And they shall prophesy.

- Here in these verses - we find the apostle Peter - helping his audience to understand that...

SLIDE 24

- ...they were actually witnessing the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- What this means is that - the gift of tongues was initially used by the Holy Spirit...
- ...as a way to confirm the beginning of the Christian church.
- And listen - this not only happened on the day of Pentecost - but - this also happened at the house of Cornelius.
- Birth
- With this as our focus - let's flip forward to Acts chapter 10 - and as we make our way to the 10th chapter of Acts...
- ...I wanna take a moment to point out that the birth of the church took place in three stages.
- The Holy Spirit was first poured out upon the Jewish believers on the day of Pentecost.
- Shortly thereafter - the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Samaritan believers - in the city of Samaria.
- And finally — the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Gentiles at the house of a Roman centurion named Cornelius.
- It's here in Acts chapter 10 - where we find Peter - presenting the gospel those who were gathered at Cornelius' home.

- Tongues
- With this context in mind - let's consider Luke's account - beginning there at verse 44 - where he declared...

SLIDE 25-27

Act 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.

Act 10:45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

Act 10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered,

Act 10:47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

Act 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

- Here in these verses - we learn about the day when the Holy Spirit used the gift of tongues...

SLIDE 28

- ...to confirm the conversion of the Gentile believers - who were there at the house of Cornelius.
- In this way - the Spirit of God used tongues - to help the Jewish disciples of Christ to realize that...
- ...the middle wall of separation between the Jews and the Gentiles is now gone - by faith in Jesus Christ.
- And from this - we can see that - the gift of tongues was crucial for confirming the complete birth of the church.

● Application

- Confirmation
- Now - there are those - like the leaders of the Pentecostal church who believe that tongues is the evidence that a person has received the Holy Spirit.

- Here's how one Pentecostal pastor named Nathan Harrod explained it - when he declared...

SLIDE 29

Every believer that received the Holy Ghost in the Bible spoke with tongues. If we are to follow the example of the New Testament apostolic church, then we must have the same experience they had.

- While it's true that every believer spoke with tongues when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Jews - the Samaritans - and the Gentiles...

SLIDE 30

- ...pastor Harrod was incorrect when he assured us that every believer that received the Holy Spirit in the Bible - spoke with tongues.
- Proof of my point can be found back in 1st Corinthians - where Paul assured us that there were Christians who didn't speak in tongues.
- With this as our focus - let's turn in our Bibles - to 1st Corinthians 12 - because - it's here in the 12th chapter of 1st Corinthians...
 - ...where Paul assured his audience - that there are Spirit filled Christians - who do NOT speak in tongues.
- False
- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 12 - look with me there at verse 7 - where Paul declared...

SLIDE 31-32

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

1Co 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

1Co 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

- As we take another look at these verses - we must not fail to realize that...

SLIDE 33

- ...there are Spirit-filled Christians - who do not have the charismatic gift of tongues.
- And while it's true that the Holy Spirit used the gift of tongues - to CONFIRM the birth of the church...
- ...it would be incorrect to conclude that the gift of tongues is the confirmation that we've been filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Proof of my point can be found in 1st Corinthians 14 - it's verse 5 - where Paul declared: "I wish you all spoke with tongues..."

- Filled

- Clearly - the confirmation that a Christian is a Spirit-filled believer - isn't based on the gift of tongues.
- Further proof of my point is found in Ephesians chapter 5 - it's beginning at verse 18 - where Paul declared...

SLIDE 34-35

Eph 5:18 ...do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Eph 5:20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Eph 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

- Christian - listen - the confirmation that a Christian is a Spirit-filled believer isn't based on the ability to speak in tongues.

SLIDE 36

- No - instead - the evidence that a Christian is filled with the Spirit - is found in the fact that...
- ...they are passionate about the proclamation of God's praise.

- Not only that - but - the believer who is filled with the Spirit - will want to submit to one another - as we submit to our Savior.
- And as we submit to our Savior - the Holy Spirit will empower some of us - with the gift of tongues.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our second point - because listen...

1. ...the Holy Spirit not only used the Gift of Tongues - as Confirmation that the church age had begun...

SLIDE 37

2. ...but - the Holy Spirit now uses the Gift of Tongues - for the Edification of Christians .

- With this as our focus - let's flip forward to 1st Corinthians 14 - because it's here in the 14th chapter of 1st Corinthians...
- ...were we find Paul - helping his audience to understand the reason for why the Holy Spirit gives some the gift of tongues today.
- Look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where Paul declared...

IV. Edification

SLIDE 38-39

1Co 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

1Co 14:2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

1Co 14:3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

1Co 14:4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

• Communication

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand that the gift of tongues is given for personal edification.

SLIDE 40

- And while it's true that the Holy Spirit initially gave this gift to every believer - in order to confirm the beginning of the church age...
- ...it's also true that the gift of tongues is now given to some believers - for the purpose of personal edification.
- And just to be clear - Paul pointed out how this charismatic gift enables those who receive it - to speak to God - in the spirit.
- In other words - the gift of tongues is not a prophetic message - from God to men.
- And the gift of tongues is not a communication from one human to another.
- No - instead - the gift of tongues is a spiritual connection - that enables a believer to speak to God.
- Mysteries
- I like the way that the scholars who created the New Living Translation rendered verse 2 - they put it like this...

SLIDE 41

1Co 14:2 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.

- In order to grasp Paul's point - it's important for us to understand that the gift of tongues might sound like gibberish to the rest of us...

SLIDE 42

- ...and the reason why is because - it could be an earthly language that we're unfamiliar with.
- At the same time - it might also be a heavenly language that human ears have never heard.

- As a result - the person who speaks in tongues - is speaking mysterious words - which we don't understand.
- But God understand them - because - this charismatic gift enables the recipient to communicate with God.

- Edified

- In order to understand the glory of this gift - let's take another look at that point that Paul was making - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 14.

- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 3 - where we learn that...

SLIDE 43

1Co 14:3he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

1Co 14:4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - presenting a contrast between the gift of prophecy - and the gift of tongues.

SLIDE 44

- And while it's true that the gift of prophecy - is purposefully presented to bring edification - exhortation and consolation to our congregation...

- ...the gift of tongues is designed to bring edification to the person who is speaking in tongues.

- And while this might seem like spiritual gift that is based in the selfish desire for personal edification...

- ...I'd like to assure you that the gift of tongues is a charismatic gift that is necessary for the spiritual maturity of some.

- Edification

- In order to explain my point - I should take a moment to remind you that - all of the the spiritual gifts have been given - for the profit of all.

- Remember - it was back in 1st Corinthians chapter 12 - verse 7 - where Paul declared...

SLIDE 45

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

- From this - we can see that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are all given - for the edification of the entire church.

SLIDE 46

- And so - while it's true that the gift of tongues edifies the individual believer who exercises it...
- ...it's also a spiritual gift that ultimately results in the edification of every believer...
- ...and the reason why is because - the edification of one member - will have a positive impact on the entire body.
- That's right - the entire church is blessed by the edification that individual Christians receive - through the gift of tongues.
- Body
- In order to explain my point - let's take a moment to consider the way that the entire body of a person is blessed - by a delicious bite of food.
- The very moment your tongue tastes a delicious delicacy - - you enjoy benefits for both mental well-being and physical health.
- It's for this reason that we call some foods — comfort food — as the smell and taste of the food triggers beneficial physiological responses.
- From this - we can see how the whole body is blessed - as the tongue tastes the food that brings comfort to the whole body.
- And in a similar - yet spiritual way - the whole church ends up being blessed...
- ...whenever individual Christians are edified - by the gift of tongues.

● Application

- Intercession
- And listen - there are even times when the Holy Spirit intercedes for us - with sounds that can't be uttered.
- Let's consider how Paul put it - in Romans chapter 8 - it's beginning at verse 26 where he declared...

SLIDE 47-48

Rom 8:26 ...the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Rom 8:27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

- Isn't it nice to know that there are times when the Holy Spirit will intercede for us - in ways we don't understand.

SLIDE 49

- And there are times when we don't know how to pray - - and it's at that point in time when the Holy Spirit helps us...
- ...and He does this by interceding for the Saints of God - with groaning as that cannot be uttered.
- Not only that - but - there are also times when the Holy Spirit helps some believers...
- ...by giving them the gift of tongues - so that they can connect with God in a supernatural way.
- False Tongue?
- Having said that - it's also important for us to realize that there are also manifestations of false tongues.

- This includes those who are just making up gibberish - in order to fit in with the others in their Pentecostal church.
- There are also those who speak in tongues - by the power of demonic entities.
- For example - many of those who subscribe to Hinduism or the Tantric Yoga traditions...
 - ...will experience a manifestation of tongues - according to the Shakti energy otherwise known as Kundalini.
 - And there should be no doubt that they are being influenced by demons - as they speak in tongues.
 - That being the case - we should take a moment to ask - how do we know the difference between true tongues - and false.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our third point - because listen...
 1. ...the Holy Spirit not only used the Gift of Tongues - as Confirmation of the church age...
 2. ...and - the Holy Spirit not only gives the Gift of Tongues - for the Edification of Christians...

SLIDE 50

3. ...but - the Holy Spirit also uses the gift of tongues to edify the church - through the gift of interpretation.
 - With this as our focus - let's consider how Paul explained it - back in 1st Corinthians chapter 12.
 - Let's make our way - back to the 12th chapter of 1st Corinthians...

- ...and let's take another look - beginning there at verse 7 - where we learn that...

V. Interpretation

SLIDE 51-52

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

1Co 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

- Interpretation
- Here in this list of spiritual gifts - we not only find Paul mentioning the gift of tongues...

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- ...but - we also find him mentioning the complementary gift that he called - the interpretation of tongues.
- That word - interpretation - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of those...
 - ...who translate - or - explain what has been spoken or written in a foreign tongue - into a known language.
 - And when it comes to spiritual the gift of tongues - - the gift of interpretation is necessary in a public setting.
 - It's for this reason that Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth to pray for this gift of interpretation.
- Necessary
 - With this as our focus - let's flip forward to 1st Corinthians chapter 14 - and as we turn to the 14th chapter of 1st Corinthians...

- ...I wanna take a moment to remind you that - tongues is a charismatic gift that enables the one who receives it - to speak with God.
- In this way - the believer who speaks in tongues is edified by this gift.
- At the same time - the Christian who speaks in tongues can also edify the church...
- ...so long as the interpretation of the tongue is also presented.
- And it's for this reason that Paul encouraged the church to pray for the gift of interpretation.
- Edification
 - Let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 14 - look with me there at verse 5 - where he declared...

SLIDE 54

1Co 14:5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to realize that...

SLIDE 55

- ...the gift of tongues will only bring edification to others - when the gift of interpretation provides people with understanding.
- Otherwise - those who hear the gift of tongues are left in the dark - as they wonder what was said.
- And it's sad to say that there are many churches in the world today...
 - ...where many people are speaking in tongues - and yet - there is no edification - because - there is no interpretation.
- Words

- Let's consider how Paul explained it here in 1st Corinthians 14 - look with me beginning there at verse 13 - where he declared...

SLIDE 56-58

1Co 14:13 ...let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

1Co 14:14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

1Co 14:15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

1Co 14:16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say?

1Co 14:17 For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified.

1Co 14:18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;

1Co 14:19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that when it comes to the Christian congregation...

SLIDE 59

- ...five words that are easily understood - are better than ten thousand words - spoken in a foreign tongue.
- Sadly - there are many Pentecostal churches that have bought into the belief that...
- ...every Spirit-filled Christian will speak in tongues - - and there is no need of interpretation.
- And this - despite the fact that Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth to pray for the gift of interpretation.
- Order
- Not only that - but - he also required the interpretation of tongues - in order to validate the authenticity of the tongues.

- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 14 - look with me beginning there at verse 26 - where he asked...

SLIDE 60-61

1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

1Co 14:27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret.

1Co 14:28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

- When it comes to the public proclamation of tongues - there should only be three at the most.

SLIDE 62

- And not only that - but - the tongues must also be tested - by the gift of interpretation.
- And according to Paul - if there is no interpretation - - then - those who spoke in tongues should remain silent.
- What this means is that - the majority of Pentecostal churches - where the gift of tongues is believed to be manifest...
 - ...can't really say for sure if it is a gift from God - because - the gift of interpretation is rarely - if ever heard.
- AOG
 - This reminds me of a time - back in 1997 - when I was invited to teach a Bible study at an Assemblies of God church in Leander.
 - And so - I taught a study on the importance of making sure that our lives are in line with Biblical truth.
 - The study was received with hearty amens from the audience - and yet - soon as the Bible study was over...
 - ...the pastor of the church returned to the pulpit - and he began to encourage the people to speak in tongues.

- Within a few minutes - the entire congregation was speaking in tongues — and without anyone offering interpretation.
- And while it's true that Paul was perfectly clear about the correct way for Christians test the gift of tongues...
- ...it's also true that there are many Charismatic churches that simply ignore these Biblical instructions.

- Testimony

- Now - listen - I don't want to throw the charismatic baby out with the bathwater.
- Calvary Chapel is most certainly a charismatic church - which firmly holds to the belief in the continuation of the charismatic gifts.
- And if you have the gift of tongues - I encourage you to exercise that gift as the Lord leads.
- At the same time - we also believe in the order that Paul presented here in 1st Corinthians chapter 14.
- And knowing that the gift of tongues - in a congregational context - must be paired together with the gift of interpretation...
- ...we should make sure to follow these guidelines - that we find here in the New Testament epistles.
- And one reason why is for the sake of the uninformed.

- Application

- Crazy
- Let's consider how Paul explained it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 14 - look with me there at verse 23 - where Paul asked...

SLIDE 63

1Co 14:23 ...if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

SLIDE 64

- Christian - listen - the gift of tongues can sound insane - to those who are uninformed.
- It's for this reason that the crowd in Jerusalem thought that the Christians were drunk - on the day of Pentecost.
- That being the case - the pastor that gives time for this charismatic gift to be exercised...
- ...should also make sure that the gift of interpretation is employed - so that those who are present can make sense of what was said.
- And in this way - the gift of interpretation will verify those who are speaking in tongues.

VI. Conclusion

● Wrap up

- Points

SLIDE 65

- Now - as we begin to wrap up this study on the gift of tongues - and the interpretation of tongues...
 - ...it's my prayer that we will avoid the division that can be caused by these charismatic gifts.
1. With this as our goal - I should remind you that the Holy Spirit used the Gift of Tongues - as a Confirmation.
 - And just to be clear - the Holy Spirit used the gift of tongues to confirm the birth of the church...

- ...as the believers all spoke with tongues on the day of Pentecost.
2. Not only that - but - the Holy Spirit also gives the Gift of Tongues - for the Edification of individual Christians.
- And it's for this reason that I encourage those who have received this gift to spend time connecting with God...
 - ...through this spiritual gift that enables some to pray in the supernatural power of the Spirit
3. And finally - the Holy Spirit uses the gift of tongues to edify the entire church - through the gift of Interpretation.
- It's for this reason that Paul encouraged those who have the gift of tongues to pray that they may also interpret.
 - In this way - those who hear the tongue - can be blessed by the mysterious knowledge of what was said.
 - And with all of this in mind - we can rejoice in knowing that the Holy Spirit is still edifying the church...
 - ...through the gift of tongues - and the interpretation of tongues.