

Empowered Pt. II, Week 11 - Sept. 6, 2026

What Did You Say? - 1 Cor. 14:1-19

- 4 Things we learn about tongues in verses 2-4
 - Tongues is about speaking to God, not to people
 - Even the one speaking does not know the mysteries he or she is uttering
 - It builds up or strengthens the speaker
 - Tongues can be an unknown language
- Verse 5: Paul wished everyone spoke in tongues, but he knows that's not how it works
 - Everyone gets something
 - No one gets everything
 - And none of the gifts are for everyone
- Verses 12-13: if your gift is tongues, you don't have to deny it, but you should pray for an interpretation
 - Verse 14-17: Paul's not saying it's wrong to pray in tongues
 - He's saying, without interpretation, it's probably better for your devotional time than for corporate worship
- Verses 26-28: Paul gives some instructions about tongues in worship
 - Everyone has something to offer, but it should be done in an orderly manner
- We have to make space for people to learn to use their spirituals gifts, even tongues

Definition of Speaking in Tongues: A Spirit-enabled way of praying, worshiping, or speaking in a language unknown to the speaker. It can strengthen personal devotion through private praise, thanksgiving, or intercession, and may also serve a corporate purpose when interpreted for the group.

Indicators of Speaking in Tongues

- In times of prayer or worship you find yourself speaking spontaneously in a language unknown to you
- You sense the Spirit prompting you to pray in ways beyond your natural ability or words
- You experience personal edification and closeness to God when praying without words
- When shared corporately, your words can bring clarity or encouragement through their interpretation

Definition of Interpreting Tongues: The Spirit-given ability to understand and communicate the meaning of a message spoken in tongues. It ensures that what is spoken spiritually is clearly communicated and beneficial to the community so others can receive insight, encouragement, or direction.

Indicators of Interpreting Tongues

- You are able to discern and articulate the meaning of a message given in tongues
- You sense a strong prompting by the Spirit to communicate what has been spoken in a way that brings understanding to the group
- You've been in a cross-cultural context where you didn't know the language but you understood what was being said