

I. Tongues In The Book of Acts (include all of these points on slides)

A. Jewish Christians and the manifestation of tongues (Acts 2:2-4)

Described: involved moving wind, roaring sound, visible flame, verbal tongues

B. Gentiles and the manifestation of tongues (Acts 10:44-48)

Described: Holy Spirit is sovereignly falls on them during Peter’s sermon; spontaneously resulted in tongues and praise of the God of the Jews; occurred prior to their water baptism

Note: no wind, nor roar, no flames, no prayer to receive any gift, no laying on of anyone’s hands

C. Ephesian believers and the manifestation of tongues (Acts 19:1-7)

Described: a group with elementary understanding of the Gospel of Jesus; had never heard of Holy Spirit; baptized in water prior to spiritual baptism; Holy Spirit came after Paul lays his hands on them; they spoke in tongues and also prophesied.

Note: no wind, no roar, no flames; tongues is activated through the laying on of Paul’s hands

II. Tongues In the Gathered Church of Corinth

A. A clarifying word about tongues - The purpose of speaking in tongues is manifested in prayer/praise/proclamation {with interpretation}

1. Tongues are strange (14:2) - “For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.” Tongues include human language & heavenly language (13:1) - Do God and the angels speak English? German?

2. Tongues are purposeful (14:4a) - “The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself...”
Jude 20 - But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit;

3. Tongues are valuable (14:5a) - “Now I want you all to speak in tongues...”
(NOTE THAT ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TOWARD SPEAKING IN TONGUES AND PROPHECY, NOT AWAY FROM THESE TWO GIFTS)

4. Tongues are limited (14:5c) - “The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.”

B. A cautionary word about tongues (14:6-13)

1. Tongues, apart from interpretation do not build up others (6)

2. Tongues, apart from interpretation, can actually result in confusion (7-11)

3. All who speak in tongues should actively seek for the gift of interpretation (12-13)

III. Tongues Privately Exercised In Personal Prayer & Worship

A. Tongues require humility (14:14) - "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful."

B. Tongues are part of personal prayer & worship (14:15) - "15 What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also."

C. Tongues are to be self-regulated (16-17, 19) - "16 Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? 17 For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up... 19 Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue."

D. Tongues are affirmed as beneficial (18, 39b) - "I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you... (39) and do not forbid speaking in tongues."

TWO EXTREMES WHEN IT COMES TO TONGUES: shutting down tongues (14:39) or showing off tongues (14:23-28)