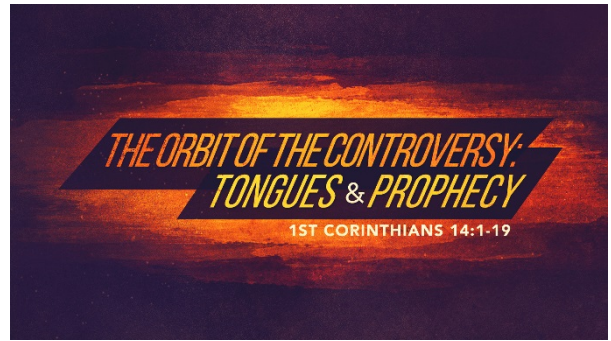


# The Orbit of the Controversy

Series: Spiritual Gifts

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:1-19



## 1. Tongues In The Book of Acts

- a. Pentecost (Acts 2:1-12) - "1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."
- b. Gentiles (Acts 10:44-48) - "44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. 45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, 47 "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"
- c. Ephesus (Acts 19:1-7) - "1 And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. 2 And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." 4 And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul

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had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. 7 There were about twelve men in all."

## 2. Tongues In the Gathered Church of Corinth

### a. A clarifying word about tongues

- i. 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."
- ii. Tongues are purposeful (14:4a) - "The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself..."
- iii. Tongues are valuable (14:5a) - "Now I want you all to speak in tongues..."
- iv. 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) - "6 Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? 7 If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? 8 And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? 9 So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. 10 There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, 11 but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. 12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church. 13 Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret."

## 3. 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."

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- 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."

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