

The Empowering of the Holy Spirit

Lesson 3 – The controversy surrounding the Holy Spirit in our lives

The controversy surrounding the Holy Spirit revolves around at least two major issues:

- 1.) **Abuse** of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit
- 2.) **Overreaction** to the abuse of the Holy Spirit

Abuse of the Holy Spirit results from trusting experiences **over** God's Word.

Overreaction to the abuse occurs when we discount experiences **in spite of** God's Word.

Specifically, the greatest issue concerns the manifestation of tongues (languages). Paul addresses proper use of these Holy Spirit manifestations in I Corinthians 14.

Tongues are:

- 1.) **Prayer** *I Cor. 14:2*
- 2.) **Not understood by others** *I Cor. 14:2*
- 3.) **Edifying to the one praying** *I Cor. 14:4*
- 4.) **Desirable for all** *I Cor. 14:5*
- 5.) **Beneficial in group setting with an interpreter** *I Cor. 14:5*
- 6.) **No benefit in group setting w/o an interpreter** *I Cor. 14:6-11*
- 7.) **Me praying (my spirit)** *I Cor. 14:14*
- 8.) **Not understood by me (my mind)** *I Cor. 14:14*
- 9.) **Primarily for personal use** *I Cor. 14:15-19*
- 10.) **Praise and thanksgiving to God** *I Cor. 14:16-17*
- 11.) **A cause of tremendous damage when misused** *I Cor. 4:23*

Tongues are not:

- 1.) **Me speaking to men from God** *I Cor. 14:2*
- 2.) **Me praying for men or situations as God leads** *I Cor. 14:16-17*
- 3.) **Beyond my control** *I Cor. 14:15; 27-28*

Conclusion:

In the church setting God prioritizes **prophecy** (proclaiming His Word) so all can learn, be encouraged and built up in the faith.

Tongues are only beneficial in church if done **orderly** and with an **interpreter** so all can understand.

The primary use of tongues is in **private devotion** to bless God with praise and thanksgiving.

The primary benefit of tongues is **personal edification** as your spirit blesses God by the power of the Holy Spirit.