

16 DECLARATIONS OF FAITH OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

VIII The initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit

The baptism of Christians in the Holy Spirit is accompanied by the initial physical sign of speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit of God gives them utterance

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

Acts 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. **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. **46** For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Acts 19:5 When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. **7** Now the men were about twelve in all.

from these passages, our church holds firm that the biblical pattern of baptism is a separate work following salvation. The Holy Spirit coming upon us: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit and it is accompanied initially by the audible expression of tongues.

Note:

1. The Holy Spirit is with us as He leads us to Jesus and convicts us of sin.
2. The Holy Spirit is in us as we become the Temple of the Holy Spirit when we believe.
3. The Holy Spirit is upon us as we receive power from on high
 - Sadly, many Christians, because of the anti-Pentecostal teaching, fear, or lack the understanding of this wonderful promise of God for us.
 - They never open themselves to receive this wonderful gift.
 - To some Christians the idea of speaking a language one has not learned is disturbing if not frightening.
 - But to the millions of Pentecostals who have spoken in tongues under the leading of the Holy Spirit, it is a precious gift.
 - Like a gift, it must be received before its value and usefulness are personally realized.
 - This is only accomplished through a willing, hungry, thirsty vessel that fully yields to the Holy Spirit and seeks the Baptism of FIRE, with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues.

Different types of Tongues

- Different bible verses like 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 8, and 1 Corinthians 14 which speak about tongues are a bit complicated passages difficult to understand.
- To understand these passages better it will help to know that the Bible speaks of different kinds of tongues that are all referred to as “tongues” (Glossa)

- **1 Corinthians 12:0** to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues,
- 2 kinds of tongues are for public ministry
- The other 2 kinds of tongues are for private use these last 2 connect us intimately with God and His purpose in our lives
- **How do we know which are which? As you walk with God and grow in the Word of God and intimacy with God you will begin to have discernment and understand what the Lord is doing**

1 tongues as a sign to unbelievers

- Public ministry

1 Corinthians 14:22 Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers;

- These are earthly tongues, when the Holy Spirit transcends our intellect and gives us the ability to speak in an earthly language, that we would not know from our own knowledge.
- This is what happened on the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2:11** we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God
- The Jews who had come from 14 different places and spoke 14 different languages.
- This was a sign for them, there was no way these untrained Galileans could declare the works of God, and 3000 came to faith because of this sign and the preaching of Peter
- Azusa Street revival, stories of foreigners present in churches, these tongues that are a sign to unbelievers

2 tongues for interpretation

- Public ministry

In describing the gifts of the Spirit Paul says in 1 **Corinthians 12:10** to another interpretation of tongues.

- There are tongues that the Holy Spirit gives that are meant to be interpreted

1 Corinthians 14:13 Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. **14** For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

- These tongues are a heavenly language that needs to be interpreted
- Without an interpretation, the church will not be edified
- **1 Corinthians 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.

Pastor Mike's experience

- I have seen this happen many times, the latest was at the district Council just a few weeks ago.
- There have been many times when someone here at CCAG speaks in tongues and I allow a moment of silence to see if God will give an interpretation.
- Paul gives us the difference between these 2 types of tongues

1 Corinthians 14:22 Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.

23 Therefore 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?

- This makes no sense if there was only one type of tongues
- The first type of tongue (sign) draws unbelievers because it is a sign to them
- The second type is for interpretation, these tongues if interpreted will edify the church but will cause unbelievers to think that the believers have lost their mind

3 tongues for intercession

Romans 8:26 Likewise 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 [g]for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **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.

- We have weaknesses and a limited understanding of what is going on with and around us
- The Holy Spirit who knows all things helps us intercede in the Spirit for us and the saints
- Why? Sometimes we may not pray the right prayer but the Holy Spirit intercedes for the perfect will of God in our lives and the lives of the saints.

Pastor Mike's experience

"One time I felt I needed to pray and I did, I started praying in the Spirit (in tongues) and I knew I was praying for my Pastor, a deep intense prayer that felt like a battle. I came to find out later he was headed to the hospital with a heart attack."

- This type of prayer in the Spirit happens more frequently than we might think, as we feel the need to pray for someone
- We should allow time in our prayers for this intercession, we may be praying for an attack or a trap of the enemy, strength for temptation, rebuking sicknesses, or for one of our brothers and sisters
- The Holy Spirit who knows all things and the perfect will of God can and will intercede for us and the saints.

4 tongues for personal prayer (very intimate)

- **1 Corinthians 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. **3** But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. **4** He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church
- These tongues are personal and private prayer
- For personal edification, we need this in our prayer life. Paul said **1 Corinthians 14:18** I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;
- **1 Corinthians 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.
- When did Paul speak in tongues? In his personal prayer, Paul prayed in tongues and his regular language

- This is a private interaction with God and the person praying for the strengthening of the believer
- The most intimate conversation we can have with God is here that even my earthly mind doest understand but my spirit is edified
 - I should also pray with my understanding, which also benefits me.
 - There are goals, dreams, ministries, talents, and loved ones that God has given us that we need to pray for
 - When we talk about the need to pray in the spirit, we do not underestimate praying with the understanding.
 - A good prayer life includes praying in the Spirit and praying with the understanding. Both are needed and vital to our walk with God
- Praying and worshiping in the spirit is a deeper level of worship, praise, and prayer
- **1 Corinthians 14:23** *Therefore 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?*
- There are times when everyone in the room is a believer and it would be ok to speak in tongues. Other times believers should refrain from speaking in tongues

can I be filled with the spirit and not speak in tongues

- Following the pattern of the book of Acts, the initial physical evidence of the baptism/empowerment of the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues, preaching the word of God with boldness, declaring the wonders of God, prophesying, magnifying God, and even wonders like the place were the disciples were shaking
- **I would rather say this:** Everyone who has believed in Jesus has been sealed and is the temple of the Holy Spirit. They can be filled (baptized) with the Holy Spirit and are able to receive all the gifts of the Spirit including tongues
- Paul says *I wish all you spoke in tongues*, meaning some didn't

Some believers haven't received this gift because they have not yielded to it by faith. (All gifts are received from the Holy Spirit but there is a level of faith and desire needed like a trust fall)

Maybe some walls need to come down, maybe some areas need to be handed over to the Lord.

I pray all will be baptized in the Holy Spirit and receive the initial physical evidence of speaking in tongues and furthermore the fruits, and the gifts of the Spirit and prophesy, word of knowledge, discernment, interpretation of tongues all that God has for us that we **can receive!!!**

The Significance of this Doctrine

In view of scripture, we maintain that speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit and that is separate from salvation

This belief is based on the instances of such infilling recorded in the Book of Acts along with other evidence that we see in the Book of Acts.

All believers can be baptized in the Holy Spirit and are able to receive the gift of tongues along with the other gifts of the Spirit.

It is our prayer that you may experience all that God has for you.

