

They Spoke with Other Tongues
Scripture Reading: Genesis 11:1-9
Scripture Text: Acts 2:4-11

After the Genesis flood, God had put up _____ between parts of humanity to check the spread of unbelief. He accomplished this racially and physically by changing and _____ the human population of the earth geographically and psychologically by introducing the _____ barrier. Originally, all humanity spoke the same language. To facilitate the breakup of humanity, God changed the languages of the people so that they were unable to _____ one another's speech. Since they were no longer able to communicate fully, they broke up into common people groups and spread through the world. We have confirmation from linguists from all the world's languages that they have come from a common _____. Hence, translation from one language to another is certainly possible. God's placing of the language barrier helped keep mankind from uniting in _____ and becoming beyond redemption through rebellion. It was thus in _____ that God put up the language barrier. But in the fullness of time, Christ came and died on the cross for our sins. Now, God is coming back to this sin-cursed earth and saying through this reversal of the confusion of tongues at _____: "Now I have something to offer you by way of salvation. My Son has taken your place on the cross, and I have raised Him from the dead on the third day so that you would know that I have been perfectly satisfied with what He accomplished on the cross. Soon, men of every language, tribe, and culture will have the opportunity to _____ the truth and be saved."

I. The Discourse of the Christians Acts 2:4

II. The Drawing of the Crowd Acts 2:5-6

III. The Deductions of the Confused Acts 2:7-11

I. THE DISCOURSE OF THE _____ (Acts 2:4)-

- A. **This Discourse was _____ in its inception:** "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit ..." That is, the ability was conferred upon the Apostles because of their relationship to the Holy _____ of God. What is special here is that the Holy Spirit is _____ these men. Being filled with the Spirit is not some strange, mystical experience where we get more of God, but rather what happens when God gets control of our hearts, minds, wills, and emotions.

Filling Means _____

In the New Testament, _____ Greek words are translated "filling" in the various passages dealing with the filling of the Holy Spirit. They are:

- πληρώω / pleroō
- πλήρης / pleres
- πίμπλημι / pimplemi.

The following passages demonstrate that _____ means _____:

- 1) πληρώω / pleroō as used in: Ephesians 5:18; Acts 5:3; Acts 13:52; Romans 15:14; John 16:6.
- 2) πλήρης / pleres as used in: Luke 4:1; Acts 6:3; 7:55; 11:24; John 1:14; Acts 6:8; 19:28
- 3) πίμπλημι / pimplemi as used in: Luke 1:15, 41, 67; Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 13:9; Luke 5:26; 6:11; Acts 5:17; 13:45

Key Words: Pentecost, Filling of the Spirit, The Biblical Gift of Tongues

Key Verses: Acts 2:4-11; Genesis 11:1-9; Ephesians 5:18; Acts 5:3; Acts 13:52; Romans 15:14; John 16:6; Luke 4:1; Acts 6:3; 7:55; 11:24; John 1:14; Acts 6:8; 19:28; I Corinthians 12-14

Summing Up: In every case where the filling of the Holy Spirit is spoken of in the New Testament, regardless of whether pleroo, pleres, or pimplemi is used, it is the _____ of the Holy Spirit that is in view.

- B. **This discourse was special in its impact:** "...and began to speak with other tongues..." These Apostles, who were _____, provincial Jews without any special academic training, were able to speak languages that only the scholars were able to speak. God gave these men an ability that they had not previously possessed, and they would probably not possess again. When the people looked at the men of God, God wanted them to see not the men, but what He could do with the men. The greatest and most irrefutable argument there is for the _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ is the changed lives of those who have believed it. What an impact the power of Christ can have on our lives!
- C. **This discourse was specific in its _____:** "...as the Spirit gave them utterance." You will recall from our last sermon that I told you the gift of tongues was a special sign for the Jews. (I Corinthians 14:22) The gift of tongues in the early Church was to _____ that God was behind the message of the Church, and to testify to the Jewish people who required a _____, that Judaism had temporarily been set aside and Christianity was taking its place in the plan of God during the Church Age.

A Deeper Look at _____

The word "tongue" (γλῶσσα/glossa) occurs over _____ times in the New Testament. In a few cases, it refers to a physical organ, but in most cases, it refers to what the physical organ produces. That is, _____. Twenty-five of these are direct references to "speaking in tongues" (γλωσσολαλία/glossalalia), _____ of which occur in the Book of Acts or I Corinthians.

"In the _____ it is written: "With men of _____ tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me," says the Lord." (1 Corinthians 14:21, NKJV)

This is fulfilled prophecy:

- "The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose _____ you [Jews] will not understand," (Deuteronomy 28:49, NKJV)
- "For with stammering lips and another _____ He [God] will speak to this people [Jews]," (Isaiah 28:11, NKJV)

That Paul quoted these _____ prophetic passages relative to this phenomenon of tongues at Corinth is very significant. It helps establish that:

- Tongues at Corinth were _____ languages.
- Tongues were a miraculous _____, an attention-getter for unbelieving Jews.
- "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with _____ tongues;" (Mark 16:17, NKJV)
Jesus here predicts that believers will speak with new (καινός/kainos) tongues; that is, new to the ones speaking (something other than Hebrew), _____ some new form of communication.

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- **Conclusion:** Tongues were _____ foreign languages.

Tongues on the Day of Pentecost, Acts 2

1. Verse 4b: “and they [the apostles and possibly others] began to speak with other tongues (ἑτέραις γλώσσαις /heterais glossais),” that is, other than their _____ tongue (spoken language).
2. Verse 6: “because everyone [of the fifteen to sixteen nations listed] heard them speak in his own _____ (ἴδιος διάλεκτος/idios dialektos).”
3. Verse 8: “And how is it that we hear, each in our _____ language (τῇ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ/te idia dialekto); in which we were born?” (Acts 2:8, NKJV)
4. Verse 11: “we [men of the fourteen to fifteen nations] hear them speaking in our _____ tongues (γλῶσσαιj/glossais).”

Conclusion

Tongues in Acts 2 refer to foreign _____. They were:

- not ecstatic _____,
- not emotional _____,
- not meaningless _____,
- not _____ languages.

They were foreign languages understood by unsaved listeners, ALL _____ OR JEWISH PROSELYTES.

Acts 10:44-11:18 At the House of Cornelius

Note the order of events:

- Peter was there to tell them _____ whereby they might be saved - 11:13-14
- Peter told them these words - 10:34-43, especially verse 43. “To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever _____ in Him will receive remission of sins.” (Acts 10:43, NKJV)
- Peter was interrupted by the Holy Spirit - 10:44 “While Peter was still speaking these _____, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.” (Acts 10:44, NKJV)

_____: Gentiles of Cornelius’ house were _____ and spoke with tongues - 10:44-45. Note that the _____ believers who accompanied Peter were _____ - Acts 10:45-46 “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 _____ also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered,” (Acts 10:45-46, NKJV)

- Peter had to explain this to the Jewish brethren and to the eleven back in Jerusalem - Acts 11:1-18. In verse 17, Peter explained God gave them “the _____ gift He gave us.” “If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we _____ on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?” (Acts 11:17, NKJV)

Conclusion: Since Peter was reporting to the Church in Jerusalem, which was comprised almost exclusively of Jewish Christians, this was the _____ (11:17) as Pentecost, TONGUES HERE MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THE SAME WAY, i.e., as foreign languages.

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Tongues and the Disciples of John the Baptist Acts 19:1-6

There is no reason to believe that Luke used “glossia” in Acts 19 in any different way than in Acts 2 and Acts 10. In the Book of _____, tongues consistently refer to recognizable foreign languages. Tongues were a confirmation _____ to the Jews that the apostolic message they heard was from the Lord.

Doctrinal Issues in I Corinthians 12-14

The _____ word for tongues (γλῶσσα/glossa) as in the Book of Acts, is used throughout the _____ doctrinal section in which tongues is referred to in the New Testament, I Corinthians 12, 13, and 14. Twenty of the twenty-five New Testament references to speaking in tongues are found in these three chapters. There are no other New Testament epistles that even mention the tongues phenomenon.

The King James Version unintentionally confuses the issue somewhat by applying the word “_____” in 14:2, 4, 13, 14, 19, 27. There is no such word in any Greek text. The King James translators indicated that they were supplying a word not in the text by italicizing it. The New King James correctly eliminates the word from their translation.

In I Corinthians 14:21, Paul wrote that tongues were a _____ of Isaiah 28:11-12, which is a prophecy of the Assyrian captivity of the Jews. “In the law it is written: “With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,” says the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 14:21, NKJV) “This people” can only refer to the Jews to whom God would speak in their captors’ tongues, that is, in the _____ of the Gentiles (also see the reference in Deuteronomy 28:49). “Therefore tongues are for a _____, not to those who believe but to unbelievers [unbelieving _____]; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.” (1 Corinthians 14:22, NKJV) Tongues at Corinth, as elsewhere, were miraculous signs to the sign-demanding JEWISH types. This is illustrated in the Book of Acts, where at every recorded instance of tongues, _____ or Jewish proselytes were present.

Conclusion: In _____ the uses of the New Testament, tongues were foreign languages. The gift of tongues was a _____ gift of the Holy Spirit, which enabled some of the early Church to speak in a foreign language that they had never studied nor necessarily even understood. Tongues were a part of the sign gifts that _____ the message of the early Church leaders - Hebrews 2:3-4; Mark 16:20. This particular sign gift was directed by God mainly to unbelieving _____.

What Tongues Were _____ in the Bible From I Corinthians and Acts

- _____ UTTERANCES (13:1) - how did angels communicate in the Bible? Answer: by using human language.
- PRIVATE _____ LANGUAGE (14:2-14) - all gifts were for the edification of the entire assembly. Private use of such a gift would be an abuse of this gift.
- _____ SPEECH - this is incompatible with the use of “glossa” in the Bible.
- _____ BABBLE - the listeners heard them speak the wonderful works of God, Acts 2:11; and they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God, 10:46.

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II. THE _____ OF THE CROWD – Acts 2:5-6

A. **The Composition of the Crowd:** “And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.” The Jews of _____ had the opportunity for three and a half years to hear the words and see the works of the Lord Jesus Christ up close and personal, and yet most of them completely rejected Him. But we must understand that the Jews of Palestine were not the only Jewish people in the world. There had been _____ dispersions of the Jews from the land of promise. The _____ scattered the northern kingdom of Israel, and the _____ scattered the southern kingdom of Judah, to the extent that _____ Jews were now living all over the world of that day. These Jews had largely become the successful merchants and businessmen of their day. Many of these men were born in some Gentile nation and had learned the language of their birth country, the only language of their country. These Jews of the Diaspora were deeply religious, but most of them could not read or speak _____ at all. They were essentially lost when the _____ was read in their hearing. Now these were the men who had travelled at great expense (and some discomfort) to be in Jerusalem at the time of at least one of the _____ great feast days of Israel. These were religious men, but their Palestinian brothers regarded them as not quite being Jewish. There were many men like those out in the world. They held a form of religion. They would even inconvenience themselves for it, but they had a deep inner _____ for something a little different, something more than just the externals. What they sought was a real relationship with their _____, the Lord Jesus Christ!

B. **The Curiosity of the Crowd:** “And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.” Imagine that it is the feast day of Pentecost, and you are a Jew of the Diaspora. You’ve come from a great distance to participate in the feast. But all the synagogue services were in _____, and you just weren’t getting much out of it. A synagogue was made up of at least _____ men, and so the early Church qualified to be a synagogue, for there were at least 120 in the upper room. If you were a devout Jew of the Diaspora, you might be looking for a _____ to attend on Pentecost, when suddenly you meet with someone who says, “Listen, something unusual is going on over in the center of the city. There is a synagogue holding a multilingual _____ service. And they aren’t even speaking Hebrew!”

Naturally, it would raise your curiosity to the point where you would go and investigate. You might arrive only to find the crowd had swollen to the point that the service had to be held outside. To your amazement and delight, you hear that the speakers are using your _____ language. You express your delight. “They’re speaking Latin! How wonderful.”

“Nonsense,” says a fellow Jew beside you, “I don’t know any Latin. They’re speaking fluent _____.”

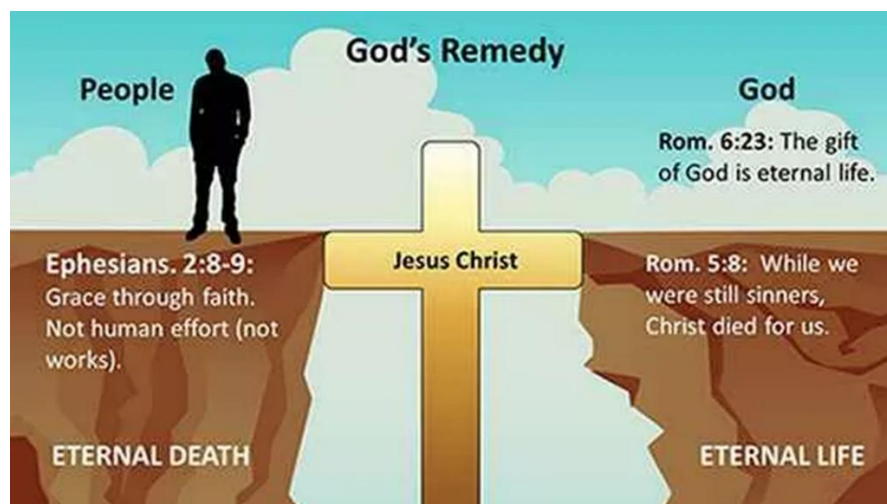
To your immense surprise, everyone was hearing the speakers in their own native language. This fact, coupled with the fact that Hebrew is not being used at all, rivets your attention on this singular event. Oh, how _____ wanted to get through to these people, just as He wants to get through to me and to you today!

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III. THE _____ OF THE CONFUSED: Acts 2:7-11

- A. **They _____ that these men were local provincials:** The hearers of the message were urbane, sophisticated men, many of whom were very wealthy, most of whom were highly _____. They knew a rabbi when they saw one, and these poor fishermen had nothing of the trappings of the Law about them. They knew that these men were not _____ men by the world's standards. The world may not understand the believer in Christ, but they will take note that the Lord Jesus Christ has made all the _____ in their life.
- B. **They deduced that these men spoke in languages _____:** When God does something, He does it _____. These men not only heard the disciples speaking in their language, but they marveled that they seemed to have a complete _____ of it. There was a practical point to the gift of tongues beyond the sign of judgment to the Jews. They were a vehicle of _____ because those who heard testified that they not only heard what was said but understood it completely. This gift was designated to make the _____ plain to those who heard it. The so-called gift of tongues as practiced by many today in the modern tongues movement bears very little resemblance to the clearly understandable languages of that day.
- C. **They deduced that these men spoke the Lord's _____:** Here we come to the heart of the matter. What were these men saying on the day of Pentecost? The Bible declares that they were telling about the _____ of God. That means that they were telling the Gospel story. The gift of tongues was not designed to elevate the disciples, but rather to _____. The gift of tongues was simply a vehicle to transport the Gospel into the hearts of men.



For Questions

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