

The Right Approach

I Cor. 14:1-12 (ESV)

How do we Approach the subject of Tongues as a church and as God's People?

The Right Approach

1. We begin with the Pursuit of Love v.14a
2. We continue to Positive about Spiritual Gifts. V.14b, 5a, 12
3. We Give Priority to Prophecy. V.14c

1 Corinthians 13:13 (ESV)

Any exercise of any gift that places self about above others is either being misused or abused.

Numbers 11:29 (ESV)

Spiritual gifts are just that!

Spiritual: From God

Gifts: Meant to Bless

Spiritual Gifts Defined:

1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Important History

- Late 1800's Holiness Movement influenced by John Wesley
- Pentecostalism born in Kansas, 1901
- Asuza Street Revival 1906-1909
- Pentecostals organized around some basic beliefs, and some remained committed to orthodox doctrine, some did not.
- Charismatic moved came out of the 1960's and occurred in many denominational settings.

Strengths

1. Spirit-empowered Living
2. Passion in Worship
3. Prayerfulness and Praise in All Things
4. Missionary Zeal
5. Real Belief in Satan and Demons

Weaknesses

1. Elitism and Sectarianism
 2. Anti-intellectualism
 3. Illuminism
 4. Conformism
 5. Demonism
- Thomas Schreiner

Noted Beliefs of Charismatic Movement

1. Baptism of the Holy Spirit as a second "filling" or "experience"
2. Word of wisdom or word of knowledge along with prophetic words claiming divine inspiration
3. Ability to instigate or possess miracle working power
4. Being slain in the Spirit
5. Unique ever-present communication from God in some form of audible or distinguishable voice
6. Holy Laughter
7. Faith exercised through intercession to "claim" or "speak" something into existence (Word of Faith Movement)
8. Discerning of evil spirits
9. Speaking in Tongues

WHY?

Because Clarity ALWAYS trumps Confusion
"A human report of divine revelation"

-Sam Storms

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Prophecy in NT

1. Predictive (during the apostolic age) Acts 27:23-26
2. Ministry of the office of a prophet (during apostolic age) Ephesians 4:11-12
3. Speaking prophetically over Gods' people under the leadership of The Spirit in submission to The Word

How do we understand the gift of Tongues?

The Gift of Tongues is the supernatural ability for one to speak a language previously unknown to the person speaking in order to communicate the message of the Gospel and/or anything that edifies the church and aligns with the word of God. It must always be accompanied with the Gift of interpretation.

We see this at Pentecost

Joel 2:28-29 (ESV)

Acts 2:4-6 (ESV)

In essence, Calvary reversed Babel

There is a difference between unrecognizable, irrational utterances and a language that can be interpreted by another offering a message for God's people that edifies and aligns with God's Word.

A Tongue

- 1.v.2 "a tongue"
- 2.v.4 "a tongue"
- 3.v.13 "a tongue"
- 4.v.14 "a tongue"
- 5.v.19 "a tongue"

Tongues

- 1.v.6 "in tongues"
- 2.v.18 "in tongues"
- 3.v.22 "in tongues"
- 4.v.23 "in tongues"
- 5.v.39 "in tongues"

Private Prayer Language?

1. Ch. 14 is not about the abuse of a private prayer language (if one does exist). See v. 2
2. Jesus was asked how we should pray. He offered a clear model.
3. The need for some unrecognizable utterances for deeper intimacy with God suggests that He cannot redeem and guide our rational minds
4. Communing with God involves times where words prove to be difficult. We have the Holy Spirit as our Helper.

Romans 8:26 (ESV)

Worship Litmus Test

- Does it serve in love OR love on self
- Does it lead to clarity OR confusion
- Does it build up OR break down
- Does it correct OR corrupt
- Does it bond together OR break apart

Let His Word and Spirit speak clearly to you.

Speak clearly to Him.

Speak clearly about Him.

What about a "private" prayer language?