

Praying in Tongues

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PRAYING IN TONGUES

- The gift to the church of speaking in tongues is different than praying in tongues (as a personal prayer language).
- Acts 10:44-48 records those who spoke in tongues after being filled with the Holy Spirit, demonstrating praying in tongues as a personal prayer language.
- In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul is addressing spiritual gifts, specifically speaking in tongues and prophecy. However, we glean insight into praying in tongues through the principles Paul gives for speaking in tongues.
- Speaking in a known language requires the brain to engage. The words come from the brain. When praying in tongues, the brain disengages and the words come from the spirit, or heart, by the Holy Spirit.
- When praying in tongues, don't focus on the words, focus on communing with God from the heart.
- In the church, speaking in tongues is distinguished from praying in tongues primarily in three ways:
 - volume
 - discernment
 - interpretation (*the gift to the church of speaking in tongues must always be interpreted*)

Acts 10:44–48

44 **While Peter yet spake these words, THE HOLY GHOST FELL ON ALL THEM which heard the word.**

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also **was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

46 For **they heard them SPEAK WITH TONGUES, and MAGNIFY GOD.** Then answered Peter,

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

1 Corinthians 14:2

2 **For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries (*hidden, secret, hidden purpose, not obvious to the understanding*) in the Spirit.**

1 Corinthians 14:4

4 **The one who speaks in a tongue builds (*to build, restore, repair, promote growth*) up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.**

1 Corinthians 14:14

14 **For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.**

1 Corinthians 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.**

1 Corinthians 14:17-19

17 For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

18 **I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.** [TONGUES THE PRAYER LANGUAGE]

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.**

1 Corinthians 14:27-28

27 If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret.

28 **But if there is no one to interpret, LET EACH OF THEM KEEP SILENT IN CHURCH and SPEAK TO HIMSELF and TO GOD** [TONGUES THE PRAYER LANGUAGE].

Romans 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit **HELPS US IN OUR WEAKNESS. For WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO PRAY FOR AS WE OUGHT, but the SPIRIT HIMSELF INTERCEDES FOR US with groanings TOO DEEP FOR WORDS.**

27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

- **HELPS** (*synantilamb*) to lay hold along with, take hold of together, take hold with another, help in obtaining, cooperate, assist jointly to perform some task
- **WEAKNESS** (*astheneia*) weakness, frailty, ailment, disability, sickness
- **INTERCEDES** (*hyperentynchano*) to intercede in behalf of
- **GROANINGS** (*stenagm*) groaning, sigh
- **TOO DEEP** (*alaletos*) unspeakable, unutterable

Luke 11:9-13

9 And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

11 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent;

12 or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"