

Speaking in Tongues and Prophecy Pt. 1 & 2

September 14, 2014 AM & PM

Opposition to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- *Cessationism vs. Continuationism.*
- *Cessationists base their opposition on 2 Corinthians 12:12, Ephesians 2:20, Ephesians 3:5, Hebrews 2:1-4, 1 Corinthians 13:8-13.*
- *Cessationism bases its argument on the opinion that the gifts of the Holy Spirit were only needed during the birth of the Church to authenticate and confirm God's work.*
- *Strict cessationists believe that ALL gifts of the Holy Spirit have passed away. Some cessationists believe that only the "sign" or miraculous gifts (tongues, healing, miracles) have passed away, but the other gifts are still functioning.*
- *There is not even one Scriptural passage which suggests the baptism of the Holy Spirit has passed away.*
- *One of the greatest errors of cessationism is Deuteronomy 4:2, "You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you."*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

- **Abuses of spiritual gifts result when they are not pursued and used in love.**
 - *self-promotion, self-exaltation*
 - *selfish ambition, monetary gain*
 - *dominance and control over others*
 - *seeking an experience more than seeking God*
- **Prophecy**
 - *God delivering a specific message to specific people at a specific time.*
 - *In contrast to teaching which is usually prepared, systematic, organized and calm, prophecy is a momentary, spontaneous burst of inspiration to awaken the conscience, mind and emotions.*
 - *(propheteuo) - utter forth, speak by divine inspiration, break forth by sudden impulse*
- **Ecstatic utterances (speaking in tongues) were considered very striking and remarkable by the Corinthian culture and therefore highly coveted and sought after. Paul was making the point that prophecy, though less "remarkable", can be spiritually more beneficial.**

1 CORINTHIANS 14:2 **For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.**

- Both praying in tongues and speaking in tongues are directed to God, not to men, in supernatural praise and petition.
 - praise - Acts 2:11 *"...we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."*
 - petition - Romans 8:26 *"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."*

- *When praying and speaking in tongues, you're speaking the mysteries of God, His infinite wisdom and eternal purposes, in the realm of the Holy Spirit, beyond what the natural mind can comprehend and articulate.*
- *We cannot fathom how all the moving parts of life (relationships, people, circumstances, etc.) are orchestrated by God's eternal purposes and sovereignty to accomplish His specific plan in our life, but the Holy Spirit knows and He prays through us accordingly!*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:3 On the other hand, **the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.**

- Prophecy in the church serves three very specific purposes:
 - upbuilding (*oikodomeo*) *the act of building, spiritual advancement, edification, instruction, promoting growth and strength*
 - encouragement (*paraklesis*) *entreaty, encouragement, comfort, to call to one's side, a call by someone close by, holy urging, motivating, inspiring*
 - consolation (*paramuthia*) *speaking closely to someone, comfort with tenderness, calming*
- Abuses (examples)
 - personal prophecy - *the gift of prophecy operates in the context of community*
 - personal guidance - *directing or controlling someone's life*
 - rebuking or exposing of specific sin - *sin is dealt with by Biblical teaching and church leadership*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:4 **The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.**

- build up (*oikodomeo*) *the act of building, spiritual advancement, edification, instruction, promoting growth and strength*
- *There is a supernatural transfer of divine life, energy, strength and power when we pray or speak in tongues; the same transfer occurs to the congregation through the gift of prophecy.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:5 Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. **The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues,** unless someone interprets, **so that the church may be built up.**

- *The spiritual benefit and advancement of the community is greater than that of the individual.*
- *Our goal and focus with spiritual gifts is what advances the community, not what advances self.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:6 Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

7 If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played?

8 And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle?

9 So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said?

For you will be speaking into the air.

- 1 Corinthians 13:1-2

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

- *The gifts of God are worthless if they are not used for the benefit of others instead of self-promotion.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:10 There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me.

12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, STRIVE TO EXCEL IN BUILDING UP THE CHURCH.

- *There is a putrid, festering, parasitic cancer when Christians come to church as spectators seeking only to take instead of give, but what miracles occur when they come to serve!*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:13 Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret.

- *The onus to interpret is on the one who feels compelled to speak in tongues, thereby minimizing any motive of selfish ambition or self-exaltation.*

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

- *The mind is disengaged in both the articulation and comprehension.*
- *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 flow from the spirit, or heart, by the Holy Spirit.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:15 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.

- *There is benefit to praying with the spirit that praying with the mind cannot provide.*
- *There is benefit to praying with the mind that praying with the spirit cannot provide.*
- *Pray with the mind for what you can perceive; pray with the spirit for what you can't.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:16 Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?

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.

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.

- *The inference from Paul's wording is that he speaks (or prays) in tongues in church and out of church (privately).*
- *Paul's enthusiasm and example should motivate us to speak and pray in tongues more.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:20 Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

- *Children are selfish and self-centered.*
- *It is evil to use God's gifts for self-promotion or selfish advantage.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:21 In the Law it is written, "By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord."

22 Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.

- *If an unbeliever or outsider comes to a church service, someone speaking in tongues will most probably be what stands out to them the most. For the unbeliever, that will be the most remarkable and most memorable, therefore that will be the "sign" to them of God's presence and Spirit.*
- *For the believer who is accustomed to speaking in tongues, what will stand out to them the most will probably be a prophetic utterance which speaks directly and accurately to their heart condition or the current circumstances in their life. That will be the believer's "sign" that God is present.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:23 If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, **will they not say that you are out of your minds?**

- *Exercising spiritual gifts is not to be done in a way that brings confusion or needless derision and contempt on the church. Church is not to be a circus sideshow.*
- 1 Corinthians 14:40 *"But all things should be done decently and in order."*
- Acts 2:12-13
12 *And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"*
13 *But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all,

25 **the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.**

- *Church should and must go far beyond uplifting music and meaningful sermons. We are to seek God's manifest presence and power.*
- 1 Corinthians 2:4-5
4 *and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in DEMONSTRATION of the SPIRIT and of POWER,*
5 *that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*