

THE HOLY SPIRIT



PART 4 - SPEAKING IN A SPIRITUAL TONGUE

So far we have looked at being justified, being born of the Spirit, and receiving the power of the Spirit within us. Three very powerful realities to experience and live from. In this resource I want us to look at what it is to speak in a spiritual tongue.

A common question asked within the body of Christ, when it comes to speaking in a spiritual tongue, is...

Q. Can everyone speak in tongues or is it a gift that some have and others don't?

It's my personal conviction that within this very question lies a mystery waiting to be revealed and this mystery can only be revealed by the Spirit Himself. It's very clear to see scripturally that all the gifts, no matter what the gift is, come via the one spirit, the Holy Spirit. It's important to note that it is God who distributes each gift or gifts as He wills. It has nothing to do with our choice on any gift.

1 Corinthians 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

The tension that exists, is that although when looking at the Scriptures just as they are, it appears that the gift of tongues is for some and maybe not others, but I do want to suggest to us if this is the case, then how does this work when looking at the other gifts. An example of this could be faith.

There is a gift of faith and yet we are all called to have a faith that is growing, as without faith we can not please the Lord. If faith was just a gift that only some had, then what about everyone else who are called to live by faith in Jesus Christ. It's the same when it comes to healing, or miracles, or prophecy. Some may have these gifts, but what about everyone else who is called to lay hands on the sick, perform miracles and prophesy.

1 Corinthians 12:10 says there are various kinds of tongues. There is not just 1 tongue, but various kinds of tongues.

This testifies to us that not all people will have the same tongue, which leads to more people maybe having the ability to speak in tongues, but we are just unaware of this potential in Christ, leading us to believe it's just for the minority, rather than the majority.

In relation to speaking in tongues, I would just encourage us all to spend the time with the Holy Spirit, asking Him to lead you into this spiritual mystery, and discover what He shows you. There is no limit in the Spirit and no limit to what He may want to give us.

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Paul did wish that all of those of the church at Corinth did speak in a spiritual tongue.

1 Corinthians 14:5 Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues...

He then goes on to say, that even more so than tongues, that they would all prophesy, so the church can be edified.

...but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

We know the purpose for speaking in tongues, is for the edification of ourselves.

1 Corinthians 14:4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.

This is a key reason why we would all want to seek the Holy Spirit in this area of speaking in tongues. The power in being able to encourage your own spirit, when you don't have natural words to say, is second to none. Speaking in a spiritual tongue is about speaking to God and not man, so who wouldn't want this ability as His follower?

1 Corinthians 14:2 For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries.

A common misunderstanding when it comes to speaking in tongues, comes from Acts 2, where we see people being filled with the Holy Spirit, but speaking in natural languages and not a spiritual tongue.

These people were empowered by the Spirit but they were not speaking in a heavenly language.

There is no law or right or wrong way when it comes to speaking in tongues. I personally was baptised in the Holy Spirit, with the fire - the power of God being birthed in me, but didn't speak in a spiritual tongue for a year and a half later, and this tongue has continued to grow and develop the more I have abided in oneness with Him.

One of the areas which makes this very tricky for many, is that it is about the new creational inner spiritual man speaking, and not the old man of the flesh, trying to work this all out from the mind. It is the brand new spirit that lives within the person that utters these words of mysteries, not the natural carnal man trying to figure out how to speak spiritual utterances.

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For this to occur, one must learn to be able to put aside the natural carnal mind and know how to engage the living spirit from within, through abiding in and with the Spirit, which engages with the spiritual mind, and these utterances of the spirit are proclaimed.

I hope this encourages us to not limit what the Spirit wants to do within us and maybe what He also wants to give us. It is possible to be the recipient and operate from a number of giftings, so let's all go after all we can within Him for the glorification of Him and His name.

QUESTIONS

1. What has your experience been of speaking in tongues?
2. Why do we think people limit this experience?
3. How has speaking in your tongue helped and edified your spirit man?
4. What would you say to encourage followers not to write off this opportunity, but to go after it with all they have in Him?

Watch this You Tube link in relation to this resource: https://youtu.be/_7D3iphit1c