

HOLY SPIRIT POWER

December 2nd, 2018 - Holy Spirit Power Part 25 – Objections to Speaking in Tongues

Over the course of this teaching of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, it's been reiterated that the proof of this Baptism is the evidence of speaking in tongues. Most Christians will acknowledge the need of the Holy Spirit and for the most part don't have issues or problems with any of the other gifts in operation, except for that of tongues. Today we're going to break it down super simple into what some objections are and the answer or rebuttal to those objections.

1. **Objection:** The Apostle Paul says in **I Corinthians 13:8,10** that "*whether there be tongues, they shall cease...But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*" This means that when the New Testament Canon was completed there was no further need for this gift.

Answer: Let's read the full text in **1 Corinthians 13:8-10**; "*Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.*"

Some believe that verse 10 which says; "*But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away,*" is referring to the New Testament Canon, which is regarded as the divinely inspired New Testament of the Christian Bible.

In this scripture, Paul is referring to a perfect age to come, an age that will **not** come until we see Christ face to face. **1 Corinthians 13:12** says; "*For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*"

The word then is referring to a time in the future when we will see Jesus face to face and as it states in verse 10; "*But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.*" The perfect has not come yet has it. Only when you see Jesus face to face that this will be done away with. Until then, you need it.

The Gifts of the Spirit will not cease until we see Jesus' face, and until then we have the responsibility utilise those gifts for the advancement of the Body of Christ, the New Testament Church.

If you believe that tongues, and the Gifts of the Spirit have ceased, it appears that knowledge of these Bible scriptures have ceased also and you are obviously ill-informed or oblivious of them. It's time to properly divide Gods Word and put a stop to grieving the Holy Spirits move in the Church. Speaking in tongues, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and knowledge has not vanished yet from the Church.

2. **Objection:** Pentecostals refer to the speaking in tongues as the initial evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost. But the baptism in the Holy Ghost occurred at Pentecost when the Spirit fell upon the church. Never again do the Scriptures speak of anyone's being baptized in the Spirit. It occurred once and for all at Pentecost.

Answer: This is clearly not true. At the house of Cornelius, they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit years after Pentecost. Up until this time, this Baptism had only occurred with the Jews and not the Gentiles. Peter had been in a trance on his rooftop when the Lord spoke to him three times to not call anything unclean which He (the Lord) was calling clean. You can read the full account in Acts 10, but specifically in **Acts 10:44-48** it says: "*While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 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 Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.*"

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Then Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord."

The evidence then was the speaking in tongues. Peter explains to the apostles and brethren what took place at the household of Cornelius in **Acts 11:15-17**; *"And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"*

Peter saw that as a Jew, he could no longer exclude the Gentiles or non-Jews as he and his ancestors had been taught to do, as now God was including them, grafting them into the vine to be fellow partakers of this grace, salvation and Holy Spirit. We can see the Gentiles received the same gift of the Holy Spirit that the Jews did on the day of Pentecost, which the Lord Jesus spoke about when he said in **Acts 11:16-17**; *"Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit. If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"*

In light of the scriptures that we've just read, as I said earlier, I'm convinced that anyone who would have this objection, has no knowledge of these scriptures and once again is walking in ignorance, is ill-informed or oblivious of them.

- 3. Objection:** Even though the speaking in other tongues is scriptural, it causes too many problems in the church. Note the difficulties Paul faced with those who spoke in tongues in the Corinthian church. Considering all these problems and complications, would it not be safer to eliminate the speaking in tongues altogether?

Answer: This is a clear example of how Pastors that believe this are not willing to take on the responsibility of setting up order in the Church with regards to tongues in the church and have thrown the baby out with the bathwater, so to speak. For fear of maybe having to discipline members, to be gossiped about and slandered, and maybe some would leave the church, they opt out to follow easy-street and abscond from following clear scriptural leadership.

1 Corinthians 14:32 says; *"And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets."* This meaning that the prophet can or cannot speak under the influence of the Holy Spirit, they have a choice. The Holy Spirit does not just take over their mouth without their will being involved. If this is the case, then the use of this gift is in part dependent upon man, so instructions are needed for its use. That's exactly what the Apostle Paul was doing with the Corinthian church, giving them instruction and showing them how to use this gift. Likewise, Pastors today have to teach and instruct, not flee and abscond, they need to roll up their sleeves and work. As Paul admonished Timothy in **II Timothy 2:15** to *"study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*

Apostle Paul again is very clear in **1 Thessalonians 5:19-20** where he says; *"Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies."*

If Pastors were to truly follow Paul's instructions in 1 Corinthians 14 regarding prophecy and tongues, they would see that this gift can operate for the edification of the Church. In essence, for this objection to be totally complete, you'd have to discard the full 14th chapter right out. It's clear that Pastors who hold this view do not want to do their job as Paul instructed them to do, and have opted to take the easy job by simply not allowing these gifts to operate at all, and that way they don't have to get their hands dirty to bring order regarding these gifts operating in their Church. Pastor, if this is your objection, you're choosing to ignore God's instruction to give to the body of Christ in order that they can operate in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit is

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relentless and will continue to knock at the door, because only He knows the depths and magnitude of how His gifts are needed in the church.

The Pastor would be like a choir or orchestra conductor. He brings harmony, order and leadership to everyone flowing and working together in their gifts to make it a magnificent sound.

4. **Objection:** Pentecostals teach that all should speak with tongues. But Paul asks the question, “*Do all speak with tongues?*” which implies that they do not. Therefore, the teaching that the speaking in other tongues always accompanies the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is erroneous.

Answer: All interpretations of scripture need to pass the test of whether it’s active work operating now, or not. For example; the Bible talks about the need for baptism in water, but if you don’t baptize anyone who believes, you have misinterpreted the scripture. If you preach baptism as it is clearly laid out in the Bible but you don’t baptize anyone in water – you don’t have evidence and just operating in theory.

The scriptures teach us repentance and accepting Jesus, but if you don’t teach repentance or the need to accept Jesus through the born-again experience, it’s pretty obvious that your theology is not correct as you’re operating in theory only and not in practice.

In order for you to be able to teach the Bible, you must have practical results and not theory only. **1 Corinthians 12:29-31** says this; “*Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.*”

The words; “*Do all speak with tongues?*”, gives us the implication that some people speak in tongues. Those who use this scripture to oppose this experience rarely, if at, all have any one speaks in tongues, and if anyone speaks in tongues, they make every effort to stop them. So they make the words; “*Do all speak with tongues?*”, to really mean; ‘**No one** is allowed to speak in tongues.’

What’s the true meaning of, “*Do all speak with tongues?*” **1 Corinthians 12 and 14** deal with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they are to operate in the church. The Gift of Tongues found these Chapters are referring to diversities of tongues. **1 Corinthians 12:10**; “*to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*”

1 Corinthians 12:28 also says; “*And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.*”

Not everyone operates in these Gifts of Tongues, and that’s why Paul could say, “*Do all speak with tongues?*”, because he was speaking of the Gift of Tongues which is for the edification of the church and is not to be confused with the tongues spoken when baptized in the Holy Spirit. They are two separate camps.

On the day of Pentecost, 120 spoke in tongues, and later the Gentiles spoke in tongues at Cornelius’ house, and these were directly associated with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. In **Acts 2 :15-18**, the Apostle Peter says; “*For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.’*”

What convinced Peter and the other prejudice Jews that God baptized the Gentiles, was that they spoke in other tongues. It says so in **Acts 10:46**; “*For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.*” From this we can conclude that the initial evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues.

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Another example years after Pentecost is found in the city of Ephesus where Paul was preaching. It says in **Acts 19:1-7**; *“And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John’s baptism.” Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all.”*

It’s important to reiterate that when Paul said, *“Do all speak with tongues?”*, he is not referring to tongues as the initial evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit, but is talking about the gift of tongues and interpretation found in 1 Corinthians 12, which are gifts given to certain individuals as the Holy Spirit wills. This is why they had to establish order in the church. This is not talking about when during a church service that the congregation is praying or singing in the spirit corporately, as a unit. This is talking about when the gifts of prophesy or diverse tongues is used, which are the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus says in the famous message of the Great Commission in **Mark 16:14-18**; *“Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”*

This is what Jesus said was for you and me. This speaking in new tongues is for ALL Christians. These signs and wonders are not what Paul speaks of in 1 Corinthians 12, which are the gifts of the Holy Spirit given by the Holy Spirit as He wills.

So we can conclude that all believers baptized in the Holy Spirit speak in tongues, or saying it another way that if you’re not speaking in tongues you’re not baptized in the Holy Spirit yet. But not all believers have the gift of tongues and interpretation as found in 1 Corinthians 12.

In 1 Corinthians 14 the Gift of Tongues and interpretation are subject to certain restrictions and guidelines for order in the church, however when the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost, and at Cornelius’ house and at Ephesus they were not. Why weren’t they? The reason is because there are two obvious phases of the speaking in other tongues; one being the initial evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit and the other is a Gift given as stated in 1 Corinthians 12. It is acceptable for Christians to corporately pray in tongues together just as it was in these three occasions.

So rather than modify these scriptures – which is happening in churches around the world – why not simply teach the truth and allow these gifts to operate in your church? Yes you may have to get your hands dirty and work hard at keeping order in the church, but is not that what your called to do as pastors?

You’ve heard that saying, ‘she wears the pants in the home’, indicating that the house is not operating in proper order. So let me ask you; who’s wearing the pants in your church, is it the Holy Spirit and the pastor, or is it the Church board, members or the pastor by himself? The answer is very easy. Is there a practical application of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the church, or is it only theory? It is whether or not you can see or hear the Holy Spirit operating in the gifts of the Spirit in your Church.

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Who's wearing the pants in your church? Is it the Holy Spirit?