

**CLASS 6 – WALKING IN THE POWER OF THE WORD & SPIRIT
TONGUES**

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REVIEW

Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Service Gifts of the Spirit – 1 Cor. 12:7-11)

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

(Christ's gifts to the Church - Eph. 4:11-13)

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

(The Father's gifts to mankind - Rom. 12:6-8)

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is servicing, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Spiritual Gifts

1. The Holy Spirit "Knows"

Word of Knowledge – To know something without learning it or obtaining it by natural or human means (hearing it from someone else, reading it, etc.)

Discerning of Spirits – To know when a spirit is the Holy Spirit, human spirit, or an evil spirit.

There is no Gift of Discernment. The gift is *discerning of spirits*. Typically people who claim to have the “gift of discernment” really have a gift of criticism.

Word of Wisdom – An answer or solution for a particular need or dilemma that you did not know or would not think of on your own.

2. The Holy Spirit “Speaks”.

Prophecy – A message of instruction and encouragement from God through a person to a person or persons.

Tongues – A message from God in a language unknown to the person through whom the message comes.

Interpretation of Tongues – Understanding and expressing the thought or the intent of the message in tongues. *1 Cor. 14:5*

3. The Holy Spirit Heals and Does Miracles.

4. The Holy Spirit Empowers.

Observations...

The Holy Spirit owns all the gifts all the time.

They are gifts, not earned or deserved but given, granted, by the grace of God.

The SPIRITUAL GIFTS are not a sign of spirituality

1 Cor. 14:1- “Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts...”

In Chapter 13 Paul is saying “I don't care how gifted you are, if you don't have love, keep your mouth shut.”

Most of the gifts are for the edification (building up of the church).

The Waiting Room - The Three Baptisms in Scripture

In Matthew 3:11 John the Baptist said, “I indeed baptize you with water...he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” In other words, John the Baptist was saying, “The same way I baptize you in water will be the way He baptizes you in the Spirit.” We know from the text that John didn't sprinkle water on the outside of the person, but he submerged the person in the water.

Matthew 3:16 tells us that Jesus came out of the water. He could not have done this unless He was IN the water. Baptism in the Greek meant “to immerse.” It seems logical, then, that baptism in the Holy Spirit means to be immersed in the environment or the person of the Spirit.

As we discussed a few weeks ago, there are three baptisms in Scripture: (1) the baptism into the body of Christ by the Spirit, which is conversion (John 20:22); (2) water baptism; and, (3) the baptism in the Spirit, which is the Pentecost experience.

The Promise

In Luke 24:49, Jesus tells his disciples, *“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. Again, this followed the events of John 20:22, when He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Spirit.”*

Acts 1:4 and 5 report Jesus as saying, *“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized into the Holy Spirit.”*

The Great Commission, Jesus said *“they will speak in new tongues” (Mk. 16:17).*

The Immersion

In Acts 2:1-4 we read the account of how this promise came to pass. On the Day of Pentecost, the believers were baptized by and immersed in the Spirit.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (NIV, Acts 2:4)

The Result of the Immersion

1. Worship

The crowds saw and heard a group of 120 people praising God in all the languages spoken in the Near East, as the Spirit gave them utterance/enabled them. According to Acts 2:11, they uttered the wonders of God (magnificent, splendor, grand, great, sublime, beautiful mighty) in tongues they had never learned. Those who observed heard the 120 people worshipping God in languages they had never learned, but which the observers recognized!

2. The Word was Proclaimed with Power

The word “utter” is also used in Acts 2:14 when Peter began to declare loudly and forcibly the claims of Jesus. Acts 2:17 says that Joel’s words of the promise were being fulfilled. The purpose went beyond the launching of the church, but it was to proclaim His message to the lost.

3. People Repented and Many Were Saved

Acts 2:37-39 - *When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"*

*Peter replied, "**Repent and be baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**. The **promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off**--for all whom the Lord our God will call."*

4. In the New Testament "Tongues" Seemed to be the Biblical Norm. Examples:

a. PENTECOST (Acts 2:4) – All 120, seeking in the upper room, spoke in tongues.

b. SAMARIA (Acts 8:5, 12) - *Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. But when **they believed** Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women. **Acts 8:14-17** - *When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they **prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them**; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and **they received the Holy Spirit**.**

In **verse 16**, the Greek literally says the Spirit had not yet "fallen upon" the Samaritans, though they were saved.

In **verse 18**, Simon the Sorcerer saw outward evidence that the Spirit was given, he offered the apostles money to be able to do the same thing.

c. SAUL (Acts 9:17) – After Saul was converted the Lord sent Ananias to lay hands on him that he might receive the Spirit and his sight. We see in 1 Corinthians 14 that tongues were a regular part of Paul's prayer life.

d. CORNELIUS (Acts 10 and 11) – When the Spirit came upon Cornelius and his family and they received the Spirit, the Spirit fell on them and they spoke with other tongues. When Peter reported back to the Jerusalem church, he said, "*The Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning.*"

Acts 10:43-48 (NIV) - *All the prophets testify about him that everyone who **believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name**.* While Peter was still speaking these words, the **Holy Spirit came on** all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that **the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured** out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them

speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "**Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water?** They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

d. Acts 19:1-5 - In AD 55, about 25 years after Paul's conversion experience, Paul found some believers in Ephesus. There he found some disciples of John the Baptist and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" Once more, believers received the Spirit and spoke in tongues. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. **He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.**" (Salvation, baptism into the body of Christ) On hearing this, **they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.** (Believer's baptism) **Acts 19:6** - When Paul placed his hands on them, **the Holy Spirit came on them,** and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. (Baptism in the Holy Spirit)

The Purpose of Tongues

Introduction: Charismatics or Pentecostals (those who believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit and all the gifts including tongues) are the second largest Christian group (2nd to the Catholic) and the largest Evangelical Christian group in the world. There are more 600 million of us on the planet.

It is the most controversial gift of the Spirit

We are okay with the other gifts because they seem to have a purpose that is obvious, but tongues...how can speaking words I don't understand have a real purpose?

Tongues are the only gift that has both a personal and public dimension.

1. **Public, during a Service (1 Corinthians 14:23-28, NIV) - Only With Interpretation**

²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, two--or at the most three--should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. ²⁸ If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.

All the other gifts seem to be used in a helping way, encouraging way, and tongues does as well when used in its public way as a message to be interpreted.

Tonight we will focus on the personal private use of tongues.

2. Private Use – Praying in the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 14:2-6 - *For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*

But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching?

a. General

1) Praying in the Holy Spirit is not based in the emotions.

2) Praying in the Holy Spirit is not gibberish. The communication is with the Lord, not the senses, the mind, or even other humans.

I Corinthians 14:2 – For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understand him: however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. NKJV

3) Praying in the Holy Spirit is not psychologically induced, manipulation, fanatical, magical or a technique to be learned. It is the outflow of the inner Spirit.

4) Praying in the Holy Spirit is spiritual. It is understood spiritually.

I Corinthians 2:13-16 – These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But rightly judged by no one. For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ. NKJV

b. The Nature of Praying in the Spirit

1) It is divine communication. *I Corinthians 14:2 – For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understand him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. NIV*

2) It is divine celebration. Acts 2:8 – *Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Lybia near Cyrene, visitors from Rom (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!* NIV

Acts 10:46 – *For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God...*NIV

On both of these initial experiences, the languages were appreciated by the listeners – the miraculous event needed the witness of intelligent observers.

The tongues mentioned in Corinth appear to be more of a devotional language (prayer language) than a specific of known language. This, however, may be due to ignorance of the variety of languages in the world. In New Guinea alone, there are over 2000 known languages, each having its own distinctive grammatical format. Thus, any sound may be unknown to those present.

(Note—Personally, I know of many instances in which the “tongues” were recognized as a known language by someone present.)

3) Enhances our expression of praise and worship.

1 Cor. 14:16 - Paul said that the person who speaks in an unknown tongue is “*praising God with [his] spirit*” and giving thanks to Him.

c. The Power of Praying in the Spirit

1) Enables us to pray.

Romans 8:26-28 – *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love hi , who have been called according to his purpose.* NIV

2) Tongues build us up.

Jude 1:20 (NIV) - *But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,*

1 Cor. 14:2-4 - *For he who speaks in a tongue **does not speak to men but to God**, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*

But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

Ephesians 6 (NIV) - The Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

VIDEO: Tongues Medical Study

3) Eliminates our selfishness and lack of knowledge in prayer.

Rom. 8:26-27 - *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

4) Speaking in tongues is a CHOICE.

I Corinthians 14:15 – *What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.* NKJV

5) It is an act of faith...

Prayer in English is an act of faith. We pray believing that God hears us.

RECEIVING THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Seek Him with your whole heart. Open your mouth and verbally worship.