

# **Understanding and Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

# **Understanding and Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

## **Lesson 3: The Gift of Tongues**



By the indwelling Holy Spirit,  
the power from on high ...



We SPEAK a NEW THING



We LEARN a NEW THING



We DO a NEW THING

IN THIS LESSON you will learn what the gift of tongues is, who it is for, and why Christians need this gift.

## The Spirit SPEAKS

By the gift of tongues, the Holy Spirit gives you the ability to speak to God in a language that you do not know.

## The Gift of Tongues

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With the gift of tongues, the Holy Spirit gives utterance to different “kinds” of languages.

## The Gift of Tongues

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### Genesis 1:11

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and* the fruit tree yielding fruit **after his kind**, whose seed *is* in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

### Genesis 1:24

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature **after his kind**, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth **after his kind**: and it was so.

## The Gift of Tongues

The Bible names two KINDS of tongues or languages: the tongues of men, and the tongues of angels.

### 1 Corinthians 13:1

Though I speak with **the tongues of men and of angels**, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.



## The Gift of Tongues

When someone speaks using the gift of tongues, the language he speaks will be either of a tongue of men or of angels. The Holy Spirit chooses the language.

### 1 Corinthians 13:1

Though I speak with **the tongues of men and of angels**, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.





Of the 9 spiritual gifts, the gift of tongues is **the only one** whose main benefit is to the person using the gift.

## The Gift of Tongues

### 1 Corinthians 14:2

For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God:

**for no man understandeth *him*;**  
howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.



This is very interesting since the Bible is very clear that the person speaking in tongues will NOT understand what he is saying.

## The Gift of Tongues

### 1 Corinthians 14:2

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Language is for communication. But the gift of tongues is NOT for speaking man-to-man.

## The Gift of Tongues

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mysteries.



## Why Should I Speak in Tongues?

1. Speaking in tongues is my special language for talking to God.

# The Gift of Tongues

## 1 Corinthians 14:2

For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God:

for no man understandeth *him*;  
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## Why Should I Speak in Tongues?

2. This gift allows my spirit to talk to God about mysterious things my mind cannot understand.

## The Gift of Tongues

### 1 Corinthians 14:4a

He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself...



## Why Should I Speak in Tongues?

3. Speaking in tongues builds me up in the INNER man.

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## Why Should I Speak in Tongues?

3. Speaking in tongues builds me up in the INNER man.

### Jude 1:20-21

- <sup>20</sup> But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,
- <sup>21</sup> Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

**1 Corinthians 14:4a**

He that speaketh in an *unknown*  
tongue edifieth himself...



**A NOTE TO STUDENTS:**

In this lesson, you will notice that many times only the **FIRST** part of a verse is displayed.

### 1 Corinthians 14:4

He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself;  
but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.



1 Corinthians 14 compares the benefit of speaking in tongues to speaking a word of prophecy **at a church meeting**.

Here is the complete verse 4.

**1 Corinthians 14:4a**

He that speaketh in an *unknown*  
tongue edifieth himself...



Right now we are studying the benefits of speaking in tongues, so we are only looking at the part of the verse that talks about the gift of tongues.

When we study PROPHECY, we will look at the entire verse.

## The Gift of Tongues

### 1 Corinthians 14:5a

I would [wish] that ye all spake with tongues ...



## Why Should I Speak in Tongues?

4. Speaking for God, Paul wrote that he wished every Christian would speak in tongues. When I speak in tongues, it pleases God.

## The Gift of Tongues

### 1 Corinthians 14:14

For if I pray in an *unknown* tongue,  
**my spirit prayeth**, but my  
understanding is unfruitful.



## Why Should I Speak in Tongues?

5. When I speak in tongues, my SPIRIT prays. My SPIRIT is the new creature that was created in me when I was born again.

## The Gift of Tongues

### 1 Corinthians 14:15

What is it then?

I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.



### Why Should I Speak in Tongues?

6. Speaking in tongues adds a new dimension to my prayer life. Now I can pray with the spirit and also with the understanding.

# The Gift of Tongues

## 1 Corinthians 14:15

What is it then?

I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.



## Why Should I Speak in Tongues?

Prayers with our understanding unburden our hearts.

Prayers with the spirit helps us when we do not know what we should pray for.

## The Gift of Tongues

### **1 Corinthians 14:15**

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## Why Should I Speak in Tongues?

Prayers with our understanding unburden our hearts.

Prayers with the spirit helps us when we do not know what we should pray for.

### **Romans 8:26a**

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought...

## The Gift of Tongues

### **1 Corinthians 14:17a**

For thou verily givest thanks well...



## Why Should I Speak in Tongues?

7. Speaking in tongues helps me express my thankfulness to God.

## Seven Benefits of Speaking in Tongues

When I speak in tongues, I speak to God.	1 Corinthians 14:2
When I speak in tongues, I speak mysteries.	1 Corinthians 14:2
When I speak in tongues, I build myself up.	1 Corinthians 14:4
When I speak in tongues, it pleases God.	1 Corinthians 14:2
When I speak in tongues, my spirit prays.	1 Corinthians 14:14
I can pray in the spirit about things I don't know about.	1 Corinthians 14:15
When I speak in tongues, I give thanks to God.	1 Corinthians 14:17

## **How does a person speak in tongues?**

How can anyone speak in a language that he does not know?

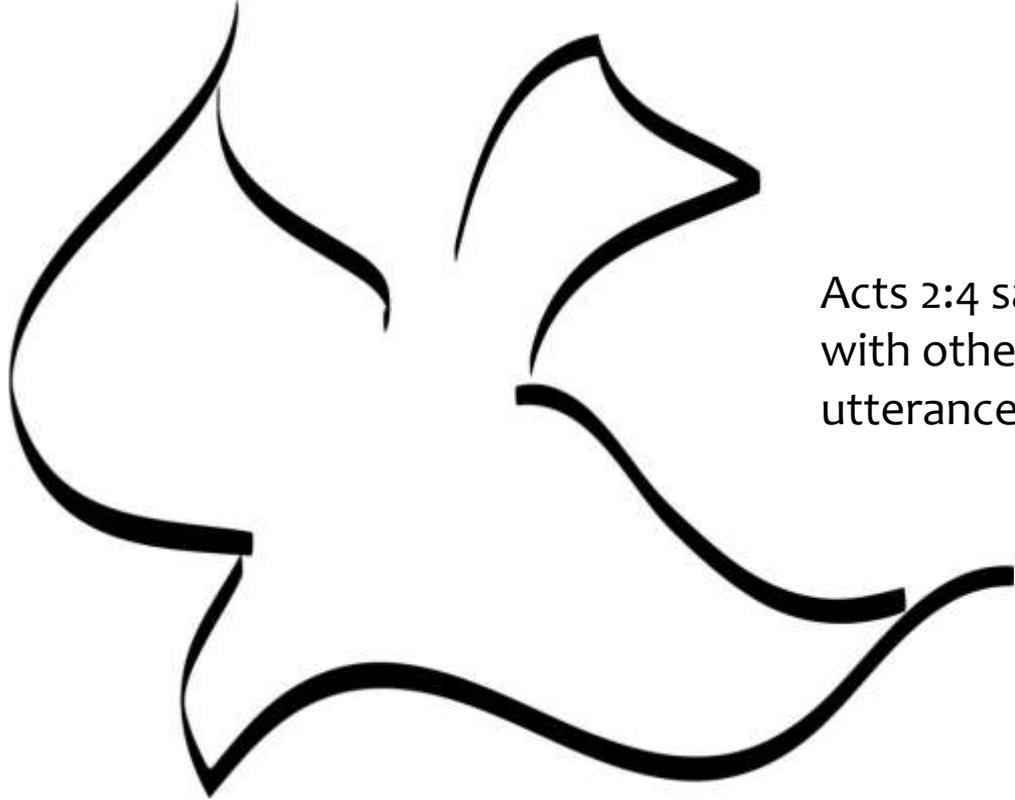
First, you must realize that the words do not come from your MIND.  
The words come from the HOLY GHOST, not from you.

The words are born ...



The words are born **as you speak.**





Acts 2:4 says **the apostles** “began to speak with other tongues, as **the Spirit** gave them utterance.”



**2 Samuel 23:2**

The Spirit of the LORD spake **by me,**  
and his word was **in my tongue.**

Holding a trumpet up to your lips does not cause it to make sound. You must use your lips and your breath to blow through it.



This is also true with the gift of tongues.  
YOU speak, knowing the HOLY SPIRIT  
will provide the words.





**It sounds a little crazy to try to speak  
when you don't know what to say.**

**But speaking in tongues  
requires faith and trust.**





**At first, because you are still fighting with doubt, the words might come slowly.**

After your mind  
stops wrestling with  
doubt, the words  
will flow like a river.



After your mind  
stops wrestling with  
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### John 7:37-39

- <sup>37</sup> In the last day, that great *day* of the feast,  
Jesus stood and cried, saying,  
If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.
- <sup>38</sup> He that believeth on me,  
as the scripture hath said,  
**out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**
- <sup>39</sup> (But this spake he of the Spirit,  
which they that believe on him should receive:  
for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*;  
because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Pray to the Lord Jesus, and ask him to help you overcome your doubts. Remember, ALL the promises of God require FAITH. Our faith is in things we cannot see or understand.

You have already asked the Lord to baptize you with the Holy Ghost. Now ask him to help you speak in tongues. If you ask the Lord for bread, will he give you a stone?

Remember that speaking in tongues is only possible through the power from on high, the Holy Spirit inside you. The Spirit gives you the utterance. It puts the words in your mouth as you speak.

Close your eyes. Take a deep breath. Now, in faith, let your mouth speak without trying to invent words. For some people, it is easier to SING in tongues. Pick a melody you like and instead of singing in your language, use the prayer language.

The LORD has filled you with his Spirit. Let it flow like a river!

In the next lesson, we will look at speaking in tongues with its companion gift, the gift of the *interpretation* of tongues, and how they are properly used inside a congregational meeting.

## Questions to help you understand the lesson:

1. What are the two KINDS of tongues in 1 Corinthians 13:1?
2. Is the gift of tongues for talking to man or God?
3. In 1 Corinthians 14:5 Paul wrote, “I would that \_\_\_\_\_ spake with tongues.”
4. What are the two kinds of prayer in 1 Corinthians 14:15?
5. In Acts 2:4, the \_\_\_\_\_ began to speak with other tongues as \_\_\_\_\_ gave them utterance.

Each question is worth 20 points.



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