

THE GIFT of SPEAKING in TONGUES – Part Five: THE GIFT of INTERPRETATION

1 Cor.14:1-4 – Follow after charity (love), and desire spiritual *gifts*, but rather that ye may prophesy. For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue (unknown language) speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men *to* edification, and exhortation, and comfort (strengths, encourages and comforts). He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself (strengthens himself); but he that prophesieth edifieth the church (strengthens the church).

The word prophesy here is speaking of preaching or teaching God's Word. You compare this scripture back to 1 Cor. 12:31 and all of chapter 13 in which Paul explains that it doesn't matter what gifts you have if you don't have love then it won't matter. And he says to desire to prophesy because that means to proclaim God's Word. He is not speaking of the gift of prophecy here. But he is speaking of prophesying which is to proclaim God's Word to His people so that they can know what He desires of them and how to serve Him. And proclaiming God's Word will ultimately help everyone but if someone speaks in tongues no one will understand them without an interpreter.

1 Cor.14:5-20 – I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater *is* he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret (unless someone interprets), that the church may receive edifying (strengthening or being built up). Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine (teaching or word of instruction)? And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound (if the trumpet does not give a clear call), who shall prepare himself to the battle? So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air. There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world (languages in the world), and none of them *is* without signification (meaning). Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice (if I do not understand a language), I shall be unto him that speaketh a

barbarian (foreigner), and he that speaketh *shall be* a barbarian (foreigner) unto me. Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous (eager) of spiritual *gifts*, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church (seek those gifts or abilities that will strengthen the whole church). Wherefore let him that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in an *unknown* tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful (I don't understand what I am saying). 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. Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit (Otherwise when you are praising God in the spirit), how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen (let it be so) at thy giving of thanks (How can those who don't understand you praise God with you), seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified (no one else is strengthened). I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding (five intelligible words), that *by my voice (by my words)* I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an *unknown* tongue (unknown language). Brethren, be not children in understanding (stop thinking like children): howbeit in malice (evil) be ye children, but in understanding be men (but in your thinking be adults).

If I stood up here speaking Russian to a congregation that speaks English it would be to no profit. The same thing applies when someone speaks in tongues in church and there is no interpreter. It isn't going to help the body of Christ at all.

These next scriptures 21-25, the church view and then Paul's reply, I explained in part two but let's read them again now.

1 Cor.14:21-25 - (Church view) In the law it is written, With *men of* other tongues (other languages) and other lips (foreigners) will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear Me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying *serveth* not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

(Paul's reply) If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues (unknown languages), and there come in *those that are* unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad (out of your mind)? But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or *one* unlearned, he is convinced of all (convicted of sin), he is judged of all (judged by what you say): And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest (as

they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed); and so falling down on *his* face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth (that God is really among you).

Speaking in tongues will not bring the lost to Christ. They will not understand a thing that is being said. It is better to teach, and preach and share God's Word and revelations from God in the known language of the place where the church is so that all can understand.

1 Cor.14:26-33 - How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm (song), hath a doctrine (teaching), hath a tongue (unknown language), hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying (Everything must be done so that the church may be built up). If any man speak in an *unknown* tongue, *let it be* by two, or at the most *by* three, and *that* by course (one at a time); and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him (the speaker) keep silence in the church (he must remain silent in the church meeting); and let him speak to himself, and to God (let him speak to God privately). Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other (s) judge. If *any thing* be revealed (a revelation) to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets (The prophets are in control of their spirits and can wait and take turns to speak). For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

The prophesying spoken of in this chapter is about instruction and teaching and revelations from God. It is not speaking of the office of a prophet.

[New Living Translation 1 Cor.14-26](#)

Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you.

1 Cor.14:34-40 - (Church view) Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but *they are commanded* to be under obedience (submission), as also saith the law. And if they will learn anything (if

they want to inquire about something), let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

I have taught on this and what it means as this passage is one that is used to attack women in the church today. If you don't understand these passages, I recommend you look up the teaching series "Women in the Church." Notice that they say the law says women cannot speak in the church. This was no doubt a Corinthian law of some sort because God has no law about this. The Corinthians had chaos in their church and did not understand their gifts and how to keep order in the church. For so long women had not been allowed to participate in learning, mainly only men had been taught and educated. Now God was doing a new thing and they did not know how to handle women and children now being together with the men in church settings. They used to sit separately and not as families. Men on one side and women on the other. So it would be disorderly if the woman was trying to ask her husband something in that setting. Let's be clear on this, God says there is no more man or woman, free or slave, Jew or Gentile but we are all equal in Christ Jesus. (Gal.3:28) He has given man and woman alike, gifts and talents, anointing and calls on their lives. When someone is trying to tear someone down who is pointing people to Jesus Christ, then you have to discern that this person needs to learn and grow and rightly divide God's Word or they have a wrong spirit.

(Paul's reply) What? came the word of God out from you (Did God's Word originate with you Corinthians)? or came it unto you only (are you the only ones to whom it was given)? If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual (gifted by the Spirit), let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. But if any man be ignorant (But if any man ignores this), let him be ignorant (they themselves will be ignored). Wherefore, brethren, covet (desire or be eager) to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.

I think it is interesting to note that the KJV now says to covet when one of God's ten commandments is not to covet. Paul here was reprimanding them for thinking they were the only ones with God's Word and that the women weren't allowed to participate. The men were not the only ones God was concerned with teaching and drawing to Himself. He loves everyone and wants everyone to be saved. God church has order.

INTERPRETATION of TONGUES

1 Cor.12:10-11 - To another the working of miracles (miraculous powers or power to perform miracles); to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits (the ability to discern whether a message is of the Spirit of God or from another spirit) ; to another *divers* kinds of tongues (the ability to speak in unknown languages); to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally (separately or individually) as He will.

Some Christians will receive the gift of interpretation of tongues (unknown languages). This is for building up within the church or body of believers that they are in. Let's learn more about that gift:

PASTOR ERUSTUS SHARED

Then tongues given by the Holy Spirit in the public or congregation is for edifying the body of Christ hence in such case there must be an interpreter for the edification of the body of Christ if no interpreter then one should not speak since it will be of no value to the body of Christ. So churches with no one with the gift of interpreting tongues, those speaking in tongues should pray for God to help them to interpret what they are speaking for others listening in the church to understand what God is saying through them.

When God gives a gift of speaking in tongues in a church then He will give another a gift of interpreting and if there is none, then one speaking must ask God for the interpretation so that as he speaks he will do it with understanding to others what God is saying. If not, it's better to keep quiet. God is a God of order not confusion.

In part three I showed you some examples of false teachers speaking in false tongues. Because we know there are false tongues in the church then we can derive from that, that there are also false interpretations of tongues in the church. This is going on in ungodly churches where the spirit is not being tested and where wrong spirits are in operation.

1 John 4:1 - Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Some ministers or people want to seem spiritual and fool everyone to believe God's power is in them and in their churches. So if someone speaks in tongues these false ministers will just make up something and use it to their advantage. Some will speak out a scripture or something that seems Godly. If the person is living a sinful life then you can believe that what was given as an interpretation was not of God. If you question something and are not sure, it is always best to keep it to yourself and pray about it to God.

If what is said does not line up with God's Word and His character, then it is not of God and must be rejected. If it is spoken out publicly in the congregation then it should be dealt with publicly in the congregation. This is so people can learn what is proper behavior in a church setting as well as learn and witness Godly discernment at work.

The gift of discernment can also be exercised when tongues and interpretation are used in the church.

If it is something that is not spoken by the Spirit of God then the one operating in this gift will be able to discern it. They can speak out and say why it is not the Spirit of God if a wrong Word or message is given in the church. The body should work together. Our gifts are ministries that the Holy Spirit has given each one of us to be used within the body of Christ. And He has given checks and balances within the church. God holds us to be accountable within the body. If this were truly being done then the churches would still be empowered by Him but many are seeking fame and fortune and are just entertaining and passing off demonic anointing now. God is not in many of the churches we see today.

There is no accountability going on in the mega churches or the tv churches and for that matter most of the regular churches either. They have let go of living truly righteous lives seeking to please God. Now they are about money, numbers, fame, fortune, power and entertainment and have just become a social club and a witch haven.

CLOSING

My last pastor made a point to stress to the church that God would never interrupt Himself. He is a God of order and not of confusion. So he was trying to

make sure that no one would be trying to speak in tongues or ask questions or what have you while he was preaching. And true, if the Holy Spirit is moving in the pastor to get the message out, He will not at the same time move someone to speak in tongues.

PASTOR ERUSTUS SHARED

Pastor: Besides those who are initially filled with the Holy Ghost, mostly they speak in tongues during worship sessions and when I lay my hands and pray for them. I used to have sometimes back a sister who could interpret tongues but she passed on. But at the moment I don't have one with the gift of interpreting tongues. At times God is able to reveal to us in my spirit what the person is speaking. In most cases many speak in tongues to edify their own spirits. And there must be order in the church and we should not allow confusion during the service where everyone is talking or interrupting what is being spoken.

We must be very sensitive in the spirit. Sometimes people will try to interrupt preachings, teachings etc. to cause confusion. In many cases it could be demons at work or some people who lack wisdom on how to handle or speak out spiritual matters. This calls for Pastors and leaders to teach their members on having order in the presence of God.

Again remember the devil is very crafty and subtle, some may speak tongues of demons living in them. That is why John the Apostle writes and says we must test every spirit I believe even the spirits behind every tongue which may be tongues moved by personal human mind or satanic spirit or Holy Spirit. Many are just living in the flesh, out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. For this reason it's why the gift of discernment is given in the body of Christ so that to help the church operate under the right Spirit and stop wrong spirits. Again we are given the gift of interpreting tongues to help out to know what these people are speaking, whether it's of God or not.

It's sad that so many churches are just faking God's presence and power. As Ms. Candy Cruncher said, many that enter those type of churches will not make it out. They will enter and never leave the entertainment churches. And some came seeking healing and the love of Jesus and left never realizing that they never even came into His presence in a church like that.

PRAYER

Church website: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit – Part One

<http://www.threeheartchurch.org/index.php/sermons/sermon/449-baptism-of-the-holy-spirit-part-one>

THE BAPTISM of the HOLY SPIRIT - Part One

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CA69-gDYkGY&t=1s>