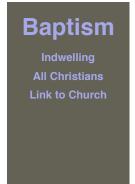
## I Corinthians 14:1-25 The meaning of tongues

For more information go to apttoteach.org theology file #603, #604





"1 Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual {gifts,} but especially that you may prophesy. 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. 3 But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. 4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church. 5 Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, 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."

I Corinthians 14:1-25

√ Tongues (without interpretation) edify the speaker but not the church.

#### I Corinthians 14:1-25

"6 But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what shall I profit you, unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching? <sup>7</sup> Yet {even} lifeless things, either flute or harp, in producing a sound, if they do not produce a distinction in the tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp? 8 For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle? 9 So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air."

√ Tongues are not rational speech.

- "10 There are, perhaps, a great many kinds of languages in the world, and no {kind} is without meaning. 11 If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be to the one who speaks was barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me. 12 So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual {gifts,} seek to abound for the edification of the church. 13 Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 What is {the outcome} then? I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind also; I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the mind also. 6 Otherwise if you bless in the spirit {only,} how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? 17 For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified. 18 I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all; 19 however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind, that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue."
- ✓ Tongues need interpretation if used in the church meeting.

"20 Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be babes, but in your thinking be mature. 21 In the Law it is written, "By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people, and even so they will not listen to Me," says the Lord. 22 So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers; but prophecy {is for a sign}, not to unbelievers, but to those who believe. 23 If therefore the whole church should assemble together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad? 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted men enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; 25 the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you."

√ Tongues can be a sign of unbelief.

What is the proper role of tongues?

- ✓ Tongues will edify the speaker. This is a gift worth pursuing.
- Tongues can edify the church when interpreted. Interpreted tongues function as prophecy.
- ✓ Tongues without interpretation in the church are a sign to the church that it does not have an ear to hear. It is a curse.
- ✓ Tongues can be faked, fleshly, and manipulative. Tongues have been a problem in every century.

### The point of this text

# Tongues are to be desired and welcomed like all other gifts

but also are to be used with humility and for edification of others.

### **Observations**

- Charismatic gifts have always been controversial. This does not mean that they are to be avoided.
- Charismatic ministries tend to be segregated within the Christian community. Most churches are very pro or very con.
- ✓ Charismatic ministries tend to come and go in the history of the church. The Spirit blows where he will.
- Charismatic ministries tend to need lots of support. They thrive only where they are central to the church's ministry.

### The Charasmatic Movament's history

- ✓ Early American revivalism Individualism, sense experience of God.
- ✓ Methodism's theology Second work of grace
- ✓ Holiness (Charles Finney) Second work of grace = "Baptism with the Spirit"
- ✓ Baptism with the Spirit = Speaking in tongues -N.C. 1876, Kansas 1901, California 1906
- √ Full Gospel Business Men International Interdenominational spread
- ✓ International spread from America Missions

General observations of the Charismatic Movement.

**Positive** Negative **Boldness** Poor self-awareness Sensual worship Freedom **Power** Spectacular focus **Faith** Lack of wisdom Love Spiritual cast system **Expectation** Experience = authority Lead by Spirit **Power conflicts Ecumenical** Divisive record

Advice to those who speak in tongues.

- ✓ Use the gift properly. Private edification does not always equal Public edification.
- Don't demand or push the gift on others. This gift is not for everyone and it cannot be willed into existence.
- Respect diversity in God's design for the Body. Use your gift and receive ministry from others with mutual respect.
- Major on the majors. Tongues are not the most important part of Christian life and ministry.

Advice to those who do not speak in tongues.

Pride

- ✓ Don't despise the gift or those who have it. It is worth pursuing.
- ✓ Accept and respect the proper use of revelatory gifts. Grant the same honor that you expect to receive with your gifts.
- Don't feel that God does not love you because you do not have this gift.
   Tongues are not a sign of authenticity.
- Just because someone may misuse the gift does not mean it is to be discarded. Tongues have a role.

I Believe in the Holy Spirit by Michael Green

Zeal for God

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