

I Corinthians 14:1-25

The meaning of tongues

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

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Baptism</h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">Indwelling All Christians Link to Church</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Filling</h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">Outworking Some Christians Link to Ministry</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 10px auto; width: 80%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Maturity</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Charismatic experience</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pleroo</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pimplemi</td> </tr> </table>	Maturity	Charismatic experience	Pleroo	Pimplemi
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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? ⁷ 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.**

“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 man 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.**

I Corinthians 14:1-25

“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.**”

- ✓ **Tongues (without interpretation) edify the speaker but not the church.**

“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 a 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. ¹⁶ 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.**

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 Charismatic Movement'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

Boldness
 Freedom
 Power
 Faith
 Love
 Expectation
 Lead by Spirit
 Ecumenical
 Zeal for God

Negative

Poor self-awareness
 Sensual worship
 Spectacular focus
 Lack of wisdom
 Spiritual cast system
 Experience = authority
 Power conflicts
 Divisive record
 Pride

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.

- ✓ **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

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