

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Do All Speak With Tongues?

1 Corinthians 12:27-30

Sunday, May 28 - June 11, 2017

"²⁷All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. ²⁸Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages. ²⁹Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? ³⁰Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not!

To some sincere Christians, this would seem to be the end of the discussion. They would then say, "There is obviously no need for me to pursue this gift of the Spirit. All do not speak with tongues."

Ah, but is it that simple? No, it is not.

After a closer examination of the relevant verses, we can see that our text refers only to certain ways that God uses unknown languages. The truth is that the New Testament reveals that there are four different uses of tongues; two for public ministry, and two for private use. There are, therefore, four distinct ways the Holy Spirit communicates through us using this gift, or manifestation.

TONGUES IN PUBLIC

- **As a sign to those who are skeptical or are unbelievers:**

1 Corinthians 14:21-22

²¹It is written in the Scriptures: "I will speak to my own people through strange languages and through the lips of foreigners. But even then, they will not listen to me," says the Lord. ²²So you see that speaking in tongues is a sign, not for believers, but for unbelievers.

While a minister was preaching, a woman began to pray in tongues not loudly, but simply for personal reasons; or so she thought. After the service, a man two rows ahead told her that she spoke French perfectly. He added that not only did she speak it fluently, but with the perfect accent of the ancient dialect. He said "I am of French teacher and I have never encountered anyone who speaks the language as perfectly as you!

Not only that. You would quote from Scripture, and the minister would then ask us to turn to that same text!"

It was a sign to him; the same as on the day of Pentecost. **(Acts 2:11 - "We all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!")**

- **For interpretation:**

There are, evidently, languages in existence that do not resemble any dialect on earth. They are heavenly languages. Some can be enabled to give only a sense of what has been spoken. Jesus, for instance, has a name that no one knows but Him; possibly in a heavenly language.

Revelation 2;17b - "And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it." NLT

Revelation 3:12 - "And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God-the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God. And I will also write on them my new name." NLT

These two fit into the category mentioned in **1 Corinthians 12:27-30**.

1 Corinthians 14:22-23

²²So you see that speaking in tongues is a sign, not for believers, but for unbelievers. Prophecy, however, is for the benefit of believers, not unbelievers. ²³Even so, if unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your church meeting and hear everyone speaking in an unknown language, they will think you are crazy. NLT

Is this a contradiction? No.

If everyone speaks out at once in tongues, it certainly would sound crazy to those unfamiliar with them. But if it is done in an orderly way, blessing will follow.

1 Corinthians 14:27-28

²⁷No more than two or three should speak in tongues. They must speak one at a time, and someone must interpret what they say. ²⁸But if no one is present who can interpret, they must be silent in your church meeting and speak in tongues to God privately. NLT

TONGUES IN PRIVATE

For personal prayer:

1 Corinthians 14:14-15

¹⁴For if I pray in tongues, my spirit is praying, but I don't understand what I am saying. ¹⁵Well then, what shall I do? I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand. NLT

This is a prayer language for the benefit of the one speaking.

Jude 1:20

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

- **For Intercession**

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

The Holy Spirit knows what the needs are in people's lives.

In 1 Corinthians 14:5a, Paul said "I would like every one of you to speak in tongues..."

Some say that this was just Paul's wish for the Corinthians, but this is holy, inspired Scripture. This is the desire of God. Paul simply picked up on it.

1 Corinthians 14:39-40

39 So, my dear brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and don't forbid speaking in tongues. 40 But be sure that everything is done properly and in order.

All don't pray in tongues, but all can. Why don't you speak with tongues? You have not yet yielded to it.