

The Case for Speaking in Tongues 7

Corinthian Considerations

DO ALL SPEAK IN TONGUES?

- **THE IMPLICATIONS OF "DO ALL SPEAK IN TONGUES?"**
- **You will need to understand the difference between a GIFT and a MANIFESTATION**

The Plain Fact

- **2 Peter 3:16** As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.
- One difficulty is that we think that anybody with a higher education is automatically 'learned' – this is not the meaning here.

The Riddle

- The purpose of this work is to explain this riddle.
- 1 Corinthians 12:30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?
- Do all speak with tongues?
- The various answers to this question have been the cause of much misunderstanding.

Let's Answer This Question

- **Do All Speak with Tongues?**
- **The purpose of this series to put this question into its proper context**
- **Then to provide you with a clear statement of understanding.**

The Answer in the Context

- **NO is not always the correct answer!**
- **The simple answer to this question is "NO"**
- **- but this is only in a certain context of church order.**
- **Outside of questions of church order the answer in a different context should be "YES".**

- **This is because we who are truly saved ALL have the Holy Spirit**

Will Tongues Cease?

- **THE STATEMENT "TONGUES HAVE CEASED":**
- **There is a simple answer to this if you read the text.**
- **1 Corinthians 13:8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.**

Consider this

- **Has knowledge vanished? NO.**
- **Are we in a time when true prophecies of the word of God fail? Hardly.**
- **¿Has knowledge vanished away? Hardly.**
- **So why then must tongues be ceased?**

- **They haven't ceased.**

Incredulous Attempts

- In order to get around this question there have been some simply ludicrous attempts at explaining what it is that is described by the term “when that which is perfect is come.”
- 1 Corinthians 13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

When you try to make it fit

- **Some bible teachers and scholars have always fallen over themselves to try and explain how the ever present now, the Lord Jesus Christ the same yesterday today and for ever has somehow placed his word and the revelation of his word into strict dispensational packets of time.**

A Tactical Error

- **I think that the Pentecostals made a tactical error with this in simply relying on a saying that suggests that the person with the experience is never at the mercy of the person with an argument.**
- **Everything that we Christians experience ought to be confirmed by the scriptures and in the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses of these scriptures.**

Building Castles in the Air

- **I have read answers to this that range from the arrival of the King James Bible in 1611 to a new movement of love and unity to bring all Christian churches into one meeting place or organisation.**

The One Hope

- **There is one hope that we are looking for and that is the physical return of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the promise of the word of God.**
- **We haven't arrived at this yet so "that which is in part" has not yet been done away.**

Have Tongues Ceased?

- **To understand whether tongues have ceased or not we need to consider the word of God.**

The Correct Setting

- To get the context of this we need to go back to
- At verse 17 Paul declares to them that he does not praise them because, when they come together, it is not for better but it is for worse.
- 1 Corinthians 11:17 Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse.

Let's read it

- **1 Corinthians 11:17-22 17 Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. 18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.**

Divisions Need Approved Oversight

- **19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.**

The Lord's Supper Overturned

- **20** When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper. **21** For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. **22** What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

- **I praise you not**

I Praise You Not

- **The above section deals with their attitude and behaviour concerning the table the Lord.**
- **This whole section of 1 Corinthians deals with what goes on when they come together as a church in a meeting.**

Church Order

- **These chapters are all about church order and the way in which meetings of praise, worship, prayer and the ministry of the word are conducted by the assembling together of the church.**

This Church Order Theme Continues

- **1 Corinthians 11:33** Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.
- Then he reiterates in verse 33 that when they come together they should tarry one for another.
- The context of the correction in statements is still when they come together as a church or a church meeting.

I Would Set in Order

- **1 Corinthians 11:33-34** 33 Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another. 34 And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

That You Come Not Together

- **V 34 that ye come not together the rest will I set in order.....**
- **All of his instructions are concerning the way in which church order is established and practised among the churches to the glory of God, the edification of the saints and the preaching of the gospel so that unbelievers will be converted.**

This Setting Continues

- **Having Dealt with the Table of the Lord**
- **Having dealt with the attitude and practices concerning the table the Lord he then moves on to spiritual gifts and the context is still church order, still within the framework of the church coming together or having meetings.**

Concerning Spiritual Gifts

- **The theme of church order continues concerning instructions about the use of spiritual gifts within the meeting context**
- **1 Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.**

Right the Way through Chapter 14

- The general instructions that follow from here all the way through to chapter 14
- Chapter 11 lays the foundation, apart from the break in chapter 13, and is dealing with, primarily, church order.

Consider This Verse

- You can see this in the following verse
- 1 Corinthians 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.
- when ye come together

This continues in

- **1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.**
- **And then goes on about the behaviour of women and various other aspects all within the context of the church coming together in one place and dealing with church order as such.**

He concludes with this admonition

- **1 Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.**
- **This is the context that the instructions and comments should be seen in.**

In fact he sums it up like this

- **1 Corinthians 14:39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.**
- **So the instructions are concerning church order and not part of our everyday walk in life.**

These Instructions

- **Let's take a closer look at these instructions concerning the operation of the gifts of the spirit.**
- **1 Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.**
- **When it comes to spiritual gifts God does not want us to be ignorant about them.**

1st of all

- **you can't speak by the spirit of God and call Jesus accursed and no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost.**

Now follow 4 verses

- **If you appreciate them you'll be able to understand the context of this teaching of the word of God.**
- **1 Corinthians 12:4-7 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.**
- **7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.**

We can see that:

- **There are diversities of gifts**
- **There are differences of administrations of gifts**
- **There are diversities of operations of gifts**

But

- **It is the same spirit**
- **It is the same Lord**
- **It is the same God that work at all in all**
- **But the manifestation of the spirit is given to every man to profit everybody.**

Now comes the description

- **and outworking of these gifts and the manifestation.**
- **So we have different gifts that have different manifestations and have different operations.**

This Is the Body of This Teaching

- **The body of teaching of this passage to the Corinthians is about the manifestation of an operation of these gifts in the context of the church coming together in one place.**
- **He sets out the conditions, the administration, of the operation of the manifestation of these gifts.**

He reminds them that

- **it is a same spirit, Lord and God operating in them all.**
- **The aim is that everybody is edified and the church is comforted.**

This includes

- **prophecy, discernment of spirits, divers kinds of tongues and interpretation of tongues.**
- **He instructs that all of these work by the one and self same spirit divided to everybody severally as he wills.**

The explanation in verse 12

- **is because the body, although it is one, has many members and the members although many are in actual fact one body.**
- **It is one body with many members. Each member needs the other because they make up one body.**

Verse 25 sums it up

- **to say that there should be no schism in the body and that the members should have the same care one for another.**
- **Verse 27 so we are one body of Christ and members in particular.**

Now comes the description of

- **the type of members that God has set in the body**
- **1st Apostles, 2nd prophets, 3rd teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments and diversities of tongues.**

He then asked the question –

- because there are many members and those members have different manifestations, administrations and operations
- Are all Apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?
- The answer to this string of questions in this context is emphatically NO

In the operation of the church

- the answer is no.
- Verse 21 tells us to covet earnestly the best gifts and then he says I show you a more excellent way which is 1 Corinthians 13 about charity and how this holds the church together in the purpose of God.

We need to consider chapter 13

- **because verse 8 tells us that charity will never fail but prophecies will fail tongues will cease and knowledge shall pass away.**
- **He says we know in part and we prophesy in part BUT when that which is perfect is come then that which is in part shall be done away.**

Charity Will Last

- **This is the 1st explanation and endorsement of charity**
- **– charity will last – charity is the only one of charity, hope and faith that will make it through into the next life.**
- **The word charity in the context of the King James Bible always only means love between brethren in Christ Jesus in between God and the children of light.**

King James Bible Charity

- **The word charity is never used in reference to the unsaved.**
- **I have always found this to be interesting because we turn around and use the word charity to indicate actions of love towards those less fortunate than ourselves and particularly to those outside of the body of Christ.**

Know As I Am Known

- He adds that it is like being a child and speaking as a child and then becoming a man – the childish things are put away
- He then makes a statement about seen through a glass darkly but then face to face, about knowing in part but then I shall know even as I am known.

This is the face-to-face meeting

- **This makes it clear that he is talking about our face-to-face meeting with the Lord Jesus Christ when he returns the 2nd time.**

Chapter 14 begins with instructions

- **to follow after charity but to desire spiritual gifts but rather that we prophesy.**

This Is Important

- **Verse 2 tells us an important thing about speaking in tongues – we don't speak unto men but we do speak unto God – no man understands what we say but in the spirit we speak mysteries.**
- **This is why when you speak in tongues in the church, that is when there is a meeting happening, there must be an interpretation of those tongues otherwise you are not in order.**

No Gift of Interpretation

- **if there is no interpretation of tongues manifest then you must keep silence or speak those tongues under your breath.**
- **1 Corinthians 14:28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.**

Pray That You Interpret

- **You are exhorted to pray that you may interpret**

- **1 Corinthians 14:13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.**

Would that they ALL spoke in Tongues

- Verse 5 he says that he would that they all spoke in tongues but rather that they prophesied because the church must receive edifying.
- 1 Corinthians 14:5 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, that the church may receive edifying.
- that the church may receive edifying

Edify Yourself

- **When you prophesy, according to verse 3 you speak to the congregation edification, exhortation and comfort. When you speak in tongues you edify yourself and not the church**

Edify the church

- **When you speak in tongues and those tongues are interpreted then according to verse 5 & 6 the church will receive revelation, knowledge, prophesying and doctrine these are the things that build up the body of Christ and edify the church.**

This Will Not Edify the Body

- **Speaking in tongues without interpretation cannot achieve the edification of the body of Christ because, simply, nobody understands what is said.**

An Uncertain Sound

- **In fact speaking in tongues without interpretation gives an uncertain sound and you become a Barbarian as far as the congregation are concerned.**

We Should Be Zealous of Spiritual Gifts

- **Verse 12 says that we should be zealous of spiritual gifts so that we may excel in edifying the church and so verse 13 if you speak in an unknown tongue you should pray that you may interpret.**

This Is the Endorsement

- **Verse 14 & 15 endorses speaking in unknown tongue with prayer and song but obviously not in a church setting if there is no interpretation.**
- **Therefore he is advocating speaking and singing in tongues in your every day life and prayer life.**

I Speak in Other Tongues Daily

- **Daily everyday speaking in tongues**
- **Why? Because when you speak in an unknown tongue you speak mysteries unto God and you edify yourself and build yourself up.**

Verse 16 if you bless in the spirit

- **1 Corinthians 14:16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?**
- **– praise God by speaking in tongues – how shall someone who is unlearned and say amen at your giving thanks?**

They can't join in

- The answer is they can't but the truth is you are giving thanks well but the other is not edified so he says I will give thanks in fact I thank God that I speak in tongues more than you all yet in the church he says I'd rather speak 5 words of my understanding than 10,000 words in tongues.

See the difference here

- **Paul is obviously making a difference between talking in tongues in his everyday life and speaking in tongues in the church. Both have their place.**

Tongues are a sign

- **1 Corinthians 14:21** In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.
- **Verse 21** tongues is spoken of in the law and tongues are a sign to the unbeliever or those that believe not whereas prophesying serves those that believe.

A False Premise

- Suggesting when the whole church
- Speaks, prays or sings in tongues together is a sign to the unbelievers is not on.
- This is not an excuse for us all in a church meeting to pray or sing in tongues so that we can be a sign to the unbelievers that might be there.

- The scriptures have already made this quite clear.

The scriptures are emphatic

- **1 Corinthians 14:23** If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?
- In fact verse 23 go so far as to say if therefore the whole church is come together in one place and all speak with tongues and there come in one that is unlearned or unbelievers will they not say you are mad?

- **I mean, how clear is this.**

The rule is clear

- **When we are all together in one place worshipping the Lord tongues have to be interpreted and prophesying serves to reveal the secrets of the heart and any unlearned or unbelievers become convinced of all and are judged of all.**

Done unto edifying

- **1 Corinthians 14:26** How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.
- Verse 26 underlines this by saying “let all things be done unto edifying” when we come together we may have a Psalm, a doctrine, a revelation or a tongue and interpretation.

- **Let all things be done unto edifying**

Yes there are limits

- **1 Corinthians 14:27** If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.
 - **1 Corinthians 14:29** Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.
 - We will see that there is a limit to these manifestations but everybody – that is the spirit filled members of the body – are to be open for God to move upon them with a manifestation of the gifts of the spirit in this operation.
-
- **let it be by two, or at the most by three**
 - **speak two or three**

The whole council of the scriptures

- **When you consider the full body of the scriptures it is plain to see that the promise of the Father is the gift of the Holy Spirit to every believer that is manifested by speaking in other tongues.**

The Spirit Prompts

- **The Spirit moves but we are responsible**
- **This operation is exercised at the volition of each believer.**
- **1 Corinthians 14:32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.**
- **We received this gift by faith and we can pray and/or sing in other tongues as we decide to or are moved on by the spirit of God.**

Motivated to edify the church

- **When we come together as the body of Christ in the name of the Lord Jesus we should be desirous of having the spirit of God use us to edify and build up our brethren in the body.**

God edifies his church

- **God does this by manifesting one of the gifts of the spirit through us for that particular occasion.**
- **If that manifestation is speaking out loud in other tongues then that manifestation must be interpreted in a language that is understood by the assembled congregation that consists of brethren in Christ and the unsaved.**

The Gift & the Manifestation

- It is important to understand, I think, that there is a difference between a gift and a manifestation.
- We all have the gift of the Holy Spirit and can, if we but realised it, speak in unknown tongues to worship and glorify God and build ourselves up in the inner man.

This Is a Manifestation of the Spirit

- **The operation of the gift in a meeting**
- **The operation of this gift of the Holy Spirit in a meeting is really a manifestation.**
- **We don't operate this as a personal gift, we need to be moved on by the Holy Spirit each time in the meeting as such.**

- **Although we do become very much attuned as to when the spirit of God would want to move on us in such a way.**

Not ours to manifest as we like

- **This manifestation is not ours to demonstrate when and how we like.**
- **We are accountable to abide within the guidelines of the scriptures when bringing tongues messages in meetings.**

So then

- **In our daily walk we talk, pray and sing in tongues giving thanks well, praising God and building ourselves up in our most holy faith**
- **At church we wait on the Lord and if we speak out in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance we know that interpretation of tongues will also be manifested that the whole church will be edified.**

The Sum of the Matter

- **1 Corinthians 14:39-40 39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.**

How is it then brethren

- **When we come together we have liberty but we have order that the “other” is edified.**
- **We limit our liberties, gifts and manifestations for the good of the whole**

And so charity flows

- **In the congregation that is carried throughout every member to the glory of God.**