

The Lion, Serpent and Tongues (Part 2)

Acts 2:4-11; 1 Cor 14:2-4; 1 Cor 14:14-15; 1 Cor 14:22;

Rom 8:26 - 27

ICEBREAKER QUESTION: Gather in a group of 5. Write “Holy Spirit” in the middle of A4 paper. Ask the group to write as many words as possible they associate with the Holy Spirit.

Ask the group to share each of their words. Why do those words make you think of the Holy Spirit?

Aim of today’s discussion: to understand different types of tongues and their functions.

Introduction:

- When we turn to Christ and invite Him into our lives, there is a new way of living.
- John 20:21-22 – When Jesus breathed on the disciples as they received the Holy Spirit, instantly their spirits were made alive.
- Speaking in tongues is the initial evidence of someone being baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- There are four kinds of tongues that the Holy Spirit may give to a believer.
- 1 Cor 14:2 – 4 – When we speak in tongues, we are speaking to God. Since people won’t be able to understand, we will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, and it will be mysterious.

- **2 for Public Ministry and 2 for Personal Ministry.** Each of these types of tongues have their own special role in building up the believer, in growing the church and advancing the Kingdom of God.

1. Tongues which are a sign for unbelievers

- Acts 2:4-11 – the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. The believers were not from Galilee but they were speaking the native language of Galilee. The unbelievers were amazed and perplexed.
- Ps John Bevere’s staff member felt to pray in tongues while Ps John was preaching on the stage. At the end of the sermon, a gentleman sat nearby told this staff member that her French was excellent, that her French accent was impeccable. He explains that while she was declaring the scriptures, Ps John Bevere would then turn to the same scripture she was declaring as he preached.
- That was a sign to this gentleman because this lady didn’t know French at all, she was simply praying in tongues. 1 Cor 14:22.

2. Tongues given for interpretation

- When an individual gives a message in the gift of tongues at a public gathering of the Church, Paul goes on to require that these tongues be interpreted.
- When the gift of tongues is interpreted corporately, it functions very much like prophecy— also seen as God speaking words to the Church for the building up of the body of Christ.
- Why won’t God use the earthly languages but use this type of tongues that requires translation? Because it speaks to the spirit directly and it then transform the mind.

3. Tongues for personal prayer

- Rom 8:26 – 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.
- 1 Cor 14:14 – 15 - Tongues as a personal prayer language builds up our relationship with God.
- Paul said in 1 Cor 14:39, "don't forbid speaking in tongues."
- If someone praying and singing in Spanish in the church, we will never go and stop them. In the same way, when someone is praying and singing in tongues, we will not stop them in the church.
- The situation in Corinth reveals that people were calling attention to themselves to demonstrate their spirituality with the gift of tongues. This was not building the church or encouraging the people. Paul was addressing the local pastoral issue rather than addressing a universal problem when he wrote 1 Cor 14:27

4. Tongues for intercessions

- Rom 8:26 – 27 - The Holy Spirit will help us to pray according to God's will.
- The Holy Spirit will alert us to pray for someone or something. As we pray in tongues, we are interceding for someone. The Holy Spirit is praying through us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

QUESTION:

1. Are you baptised with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues? Share your journey in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
2. Reflect on your day. Did you notice how different it was when you invited the Holy Spirit to help you with situations by praying in tongues?
3. Did you have any experience interceding for someone in tongues? Share your experience with the group.

Things you can do:

1. Revisit Week 5 in the Discipleship 360 – Make Disciples book to understand more on the baptisms & the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
2. Sit for a minute or two and quiet our spirit before the Lord. Put your hand on your heart and tell the Holy Spirit that you give Him full permission to show you anything that you rely on instead of Him. Ask Him to fill your life with power and contentment and help you to focus back on Him.