

The Power of Tongues

Speaking in tongues or your language you received from heaven is another of the biggest controversies in the Christian church today. Many churches have split and denominations have been at “war” because of a misunderstanding of this “phenomenon.” One of the arguments is that the Holy Ghost was given to the initial disciples to establish Christian doctrine and was not necessary to complete it as the power was released and therefore inherent in all other Believers. However it could be equally argued that if the power of the Holy Ghost was needed by the initial disciples who walked with Jesus, how much more does the Body of Christ need it today?

What must be realized is that the Baptism in the Holy Ghost was not something that just “happened” on the Day of Pentecost, but was prophesied in the Book of Isaiah centuries earlier. The prophet prophesied concerning a coming day as he said:

9 “Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message?

Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts?

10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.”

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people,

12 To whom He said, “This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,”

And, “This is the refreshing”; Yet they would not hear.

Even with this promise in verse 11, many minds have been blinded to this Truth and instead of praying for understanding or allowing that which one does not understand to flourish [knowing that if it’s of God that they cannot stand against it], some people have gone into an “attack mode” to try and destroy what God intended to fix the confusion He released in Genesis chapter eleven at the Tower of Babel.

However, the Holy Ghost with its evidence which is people speaking in another language is here to stay and will be until the Church is taken home to be with the Master forever.

Most people do not realize that this is a power that God gives to His people that makes them more sensitive to His voice and spiritual things while empowering them have greater authority over their flesh. This gift has been abused and misused even by those that have been baptized in the Holy Ghost, reducing the experience of this evidence as a support that they’re going to heaven and argue that those who don’t speak are not even saved. This is also not true.

We must be balanced in the use of this gift understanding that salvation is a separate act and is based on someone’s confession of faith in Jesus Christ and that alone.

1. As best you can, describe (a) what you believe is the purpose of speaking in other tongues and (b) whether you believe that every person that is a Christian can or should speak regardless of their denominational belief.

2. The apostle Paul said *"I thank my God that I speak in tongues more than all of you."* Having been baptized in the Holy Ghost, have you considered the benefits of speaking on a consistent basis and do you pray/speak in tongues other places besides the church during a prayer service or during our worship experience?

3. Read the following scriptures and give your interpretation for each one, using definitions where you feel greater clarity is needed.
 - a. John 7:37 – 39; Mark 16:17
 - b. Acts 1:6 – 9
 - c. Acts 2:38 – 42
 - d. Acts 8:9 – 20
 - e. Acts 2:1 – 21;
 - f. First Corinthians 14: 1- 25
 - g. First Corinthians 14:26 – 40 (Emphasizing the difference between vss. 1 – 25)
 - h. Luke 11:11 - 14

4. Acts 19:1 – 7 ends saying, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" This gift is presented to you today and if you desire this spiritual gift, God will give you nothing other than what you desire. If you are not baptized in the Holy Ghost, take a moment and "receive the Holy Ghost" and do it today!