

*The Truth About Spiritual Gifts*  
**The Truth About the Gift of Tongues**

**I. Introduction****II. What Is the Gift of Tongues?**

A. I Corinthians 14:2 (NAS) *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.*

B. Tongues -- "Speaking forth a message to God in an unknown language."

**III. Objections to the Current Use of Tongues**

A. "A biblical gift of tongues is a known foreign language."

1. I Corinthians 14:2 (NAS) *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.*

2. I Corinthians 14:14 (NAS) *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.*

3. Tongues is not a mental activity!

4. I Corinthians 14:16 (NAS) *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?*

5. Acts 2:4 (NAS) *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.*

6. Acts 2:6-8 (NAS) <sup>6</sup> *And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup> They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?"*

B. Reasons God Gave These Foreign Languages on the Day of Pentecost

1. Because God wanted to communicate that this "Good News" about Jesus applied to everyone!

a. Now, the whole world fits into "God's chosen people"!

2. Because God was reversing the curse that fell on the human race at Babel.

a. "I'm breaking down all the walls, by creating one body of Christ, through the Holy Spirit."

C. "Tongues always need to be interpreted. So, if nobody interprets, then be quiet!"

1. I Corinthians 14:12-13 (NAS) <sup>12</sup> *So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church. <sup>13</sup> Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.*

2. I Corinthians 14:14-15 (NAS) <sup>14</sup> *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup> What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.*

3. I Corinthians 14:18-19 (NAS) <sup>18</sup> *I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all; <sup>19</sup> however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.*

**IV. What Is the Purpose of Tongues?**

A. I Corinthians 14:2 (NAS) *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.*

B. I Corinthians 14:14 (NAS) *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.*

1. Tongues is a way of praying.

2. Tongues is a way to praise God.

C. I Corinthians 14:16 (NAS) *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?*

D. Acts 10:46a (NAS) *For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.*

E. What are the purposes of tongues?

1. To pray

2. To praise God

3. To edify yourself

F. I Corinthians 14:4 (NAS) *One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.*

**V. What Kind of "Sign" Is Prophecy and What Kind of "Sign" Is Tongues?**

A. I Corinthians 14:20-25 (NAS) <sup>20</sup> *Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?*

<sup>24</sup> But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; <sup>25</sup> 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.

B. I Corinthians 14:24-25 (NAS) <sup>24</sup> But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; <sup>25</sup> 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.

#### **VI. What Are the Biblical Regulations on Tongues?**

A. I Corinthians 14:27-28 (NAS) <sup>27</sup> If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret; <sup>28</sup> but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God.

B. I Corinthians 14:18 (NAS) I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all.

#### **VII. Conclusion**