

All In Week 11 Spoken Gifts

Intro

The gifts of the Spirit... There are Nine Spiritual Gifts in Scripture. Utterance of Wisdom... Utterance of Knowledge Faith... Healing... work of miracles.... Prophecy... Distinguish between Spirits... Various kinds of tongues... Interpretation of Tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:1 (ESV) 12 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.

Paul speaking to the Corinthians and to us Brothers.... fellow followers of Jesus. I want to make sure that you are informed.. I want you to know about Spiritual Gifts.

Note that Paul says.... I want you to know about Spiritual Gifts. Interesting. Paul was focused on making sure the message of God was passed down from him to future generations.

Throughout many of his letters, he teaches on the Spiritual gifts often. Many say that the gifts of the Spirit were only given to the original apostles or ended with their lives.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians around 56 AD. By then many of the original apostles had died or been martyred. Paul knew his time was short.

So to those who believe that all the gifts ceased at the end of the first century.... I would ask you to consider.... why did Paul spend so much time teaching about something that was soon to be obsolete? Particularly if the gifts were only for a select few?

1 Corinthians 12:4–7 (ESV) 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Note that isis the same God who empowers them in EVERYONE. To each is given.... doesn't sound exclusive.

Do you see the Trinity in this verse? Same Spirit... Same Lord... Same God Variety of Gifts.... Varieties of service.... Variety of activities

Note that God empowers all the gifts. To each is given... The Manifestation of the Spirit... Note the reason... For the Common Good.

Spiritual Gifts are given to you... for others Your gift is not about you... Your gift is not evidence of your maturity God gives out gifts... to everyone... for the common good

1 Corinthians 12:8–11 (ESV) 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to

another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

9 Gifts listed here... Utterance of Wisdom... Utterance of Knowledge Faith...Healing...work of miracles.... Prophecy...Distinguish between Spirits... Various kinds of tongues... Interpretation of Tongues.

Note the repeat...All are empowered by one and the same Spirit. The Holy Spirit apportions to each as HE wills He decides which gift...how strong it is... When it is given...when it is evident We are simply vessels...

Earlier in the Spring, we studied the Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV) 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law

All of these fruits grow in us as we develop deep roots They are a natural byproduct of our relationship to the Holy Spirit As He lives and grows in us...as we deepen our relationship with Him

There is growing evidence of Supernatural Fruit in our lives. We love like Jesus loves...we have an internal peace and joy that is not from this world... People see in us a kindness that is not of us..Gentleness of restrained power... People are drawn to us because the Holy Spirit transforms us to be more like Jesus.

If we have surrendered our lives to Jesus... If we have believed and trusted in Jesus to save us. Then at that moment of Repentance...the First Baptism... The Holy Spirit enters us...begins transforming us... As we surrender...pull weeds...develop deep roots.. We all begin to manifest all the fruit of the Spirit.

But now Paul is talking about.... Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

These gifts have nothing to do with our maturity They are not rewards of stamps of approval for your strong faith. They don't tell others of your Spirituality...

Gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to every believer Even brand new baby Christians... Can manifest profound Spiritual Gifts The Holy Spirit distributes the Gifts as He wills

We struggle with this...because we have a western world view To us...everything is a hierarchy We earn our way up through the ranks The best gifts...best rewards...go to those who earn them

Not so with Spiritual Gifts... They have nothing to do with your maturity as a believer I know some very immature believers... Who remarkably manifest The Gift of Prophecy Gifts of the Spirit are less like rewards... And much more like a really cool... Inheritance. You receive them not because of what you have done... But rather because you are in the family

So today... We begin to look at Speaking in Tongues and the Interpretation of Tongues

These are very public...very obvious...very controversial gifts. Today I want to talk about what the gifts are... In a few weeks we will learn how they are to be used correctly In a way that honors God...

Speaking in Tongues... We spoke last week about that moment at Pentecost... The Holy Spirit fell on the Disciples And in that moment...they received the Spirit and spoke in tongues

Acts 2:9–11 (ESV) 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”

These Galileans...these uneducated men... Each of us hear in our own native language
They are speaking to us...in our own native language

They are telling of the Mighty Works of God and we are seeing it happen Acts 2:12 (ESV)
12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

Great Question...What does this mean? And people have been asking the same question for centuries Speaking in tongues...what does it mean? So we...like those at the temple that day..see the gift of tongues... and are either drawn to understand and investigate or to mock and dismiss..

The topic of Speaking in Tongues... Has been one of the most controversial teachings of the Bible not surprising that Satan seems to oppose this gift the most

Satan works overtime to sow doubt, confusion and fear... in the minds of believers concerning this gift. I think anything Satan opposes we should pursue.

In fact I think one of the greatest tragedies in Church History Is the way Satan has made this gift so controversial We have been misled to use this topic to divide believers

All we need to know about Speaking in Tongues... Is that it is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

If God loved us enough to send His Son If Jesus loves us enough to send the Holy Spirit... If the Holy Spirit loves us enough to give us a gift.. Why would we be afraid of it?

I think fear often comes from a lack of understanding... once we begin to understand...what was once fearful Becomes useful.

Much of the confusion regarding tongues... Has to do with the theological misuse of the term... In Scripture there is a difference between... **The Gift of Tongues and the Grace of Tongues**

The Spiritual Gift of Tongues The supernatural ability to speak in a known language In order to better witness to people

The Spiritual Gift of Tongues given out by the Holy Spirit. To whom He wills. As He desires...for His purposes. Someone needs to hear about Jesus... There is a language barrier... The Holy

Spirit empowers someone... Who does not know that language To speak it perfectly in order to tell the Good News.

The Spiritual Gift of Tongues is exactly what we saw at Pentecost. And Caesarea..and Ephesus Just to recap... Spiritual Gift of Tongues... Known earthly language... Gift from the Spirit for witnessing.. You will receive power...this is one of the power tools

Various Kinds of Tongues? Paul in his writings speak of two kinds of tongues...Gift and Grace Much of the confusion about tongues comes from not understanding.. The Difference between the Gift of Tongues and the Grace of Tongues.

The Gift of Tongues...Usually accompanied by the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues. Public proclamation..in known earthly languages For the purpose of witnessing to others Done in public..aimed at the non-believer

The Grace of Tongues...is a private prayer language between you and God Paul often encourages believers to spend time privately... Praying in tongues.

Grace is bestowed upon all. Every believer, I believe has the Grace of Tongues.

Listen to Paul contrast these two 1 Corinthians 14:2 (ESV) 2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

The Tongue Paul is speaking about here... Is not aimed at the unbeliever...like at Pentecost.. This is not a known language with an interpreter This is not for witnessing... In fact..this tongue...no one understands. This tongue is spoken to God...It is the heavenly language between the Holy Spirit, Jesus and the Father. It is the internal language of the Trinity. For God's understanding only.

If we have the Holy Spirit in us. He communicates on our behalf. He leads us to worship in the Spirit and pray in the Spirit. Spiritual things are done in a spiritual language.

What do we call speaking to God? Prayer Paul is talking here about a prayer tongue Literally uttering mysteries in the Spirit

We will study this in a few weeks.. But Paul tells them this gift..this prayer tongue is not for public worship It disrupts...makes no sense to anyone..and turns away those who are seeking.

The Paul tries to make it even clearer

1 Corinthians 14:6 (ESV) 6 Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

1 Corinthians 14:9 (ESV) 9 So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.

1 Corinthians 14:10–11 (ESV) 10 There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, 11 but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me.

Paul tells them that this private prayer language is between you and God.

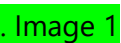
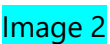
In a nutshell here is what Paul teaches... The Gift of Tongues and the Grace of Praying in the Spirit have very important roles to play in the life of a believer, but creating uninterpreted chaos at public worship services that completely freak out visitors isn't one of them

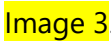
Let's unpack this prayer language a bit This Grace of Tongues


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

Look at 3 key points... 1. If I pray in a tongue 2. My Spirit prays 3. But my understanding (my mind) is unfruitful

My Spirit prays but my mind does not? What is he talking about?

Well we were originally designed in three parts. Spirit, Soul (mind) and body.  We experience life in our bodies, our bodies send information to our minds, and our minds send our thoughts to the Spirit for confirmation and direction on what to do. God's Spirit explaining the world to us and guiding us. It was perfect, We didn't have to figure anything out...we just asked the Spirit what was true and what we should do about it. Our Soul became a processor and reporter of information not a decision maker.  We have thoughts ideas and feelings but we weren't designed to determine the significance for them. We just shared them with Spirit and obeyed.

But then Adam and Eve Sinned and the Spirit became detached from us. Man denied the Spirit and basically said we don't need you, we got this. Unfortunately for us, we were never designed to figure everything out and to know what to do in all circumstances. We were just designed to notice and report. So every man born has essentially been Spiritually Decapitated . No longer could we take our feelings, ideas and thoughts to the Spirit, we had to make sense of everything ourselves and we were totally unequipped for that. So everyone stresses out trying to control what they have no business doing.

But for Believers, the Spirit of God is brought back into us and becomes our guide again.  We become complete spiritual beings now in sync with our original design. We don't have to understand and interpret everything, we just present it to the Spirit and obey. So once believers have the Spirit in them, the Spirit at times will pray.

But Paul says...there is a way...that you can pray... Where your Spirit prays...but your mind is unfruitful There is a way to pray...Praying in the Spirit...that bypasses your mind

Romans 8:26 (ESV) 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

The Spirit prays for us...He intercedes for us.. With groanings...utterances...tongues...too deep for words

Then Paul sums this up.... 1 Corinthians 14:15 (ESV) 15 What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

Think about it this way...Graphic 3 Prior to surrendering to Jesus...you existed for the most part in the physical realm But then you surrendered to Jesus...and you were born again The Spirit of God now lives inside of you Graphic 4 That Spirit that is now in you...wants to pray and worship

All Christ followers...can..and Paul says should Pray and Worship in the Spirit As normal experiences for believers IF the Holy Spirit is in you..of course He wants to pray for you And worship through you.

So we must understand... The difference between the Gift of Tongues... And the Grace of Tongues

Why? Because the Gifts of the Holy Spirit Are distributed as the Holy Spirit decides He does not give the Gift of Tongues to every one

However....and this is critical... I do believe that He has given the Grace of Tongues to every believer

The Grace of Tongues The moment we are baptized with the Holy Spirit we are all graced with a heavenly prayer language. Our Spirit praying and worshiping through us. We possess it regardless of whether we realize it, activate it or not.

I believe that Paul was clear... That praying and worshiping in the Spirit Through tongues...is available to those who choose to be open to it Not the Gift of Tongues---given only by the Holy Spirit to whom He chooses But the Grace of Tongues- The Holy Spirit praying and worshiping through you

The Original Desire of the Holy Spirit Is that the ability to deliver and encouraging message in tongues And the ability to pray in the Spirit...to let the Spirit pray through you Would be a wonderful blessing to the individual believer and the body of Christ

The Gift of Tongues would encourage the church...and help the unbeliever The Grace of Tongues would spiritually strengthen the individual

Both..and don't miss this... Would be available to the most immature believer Who had received the Holy Spirit.

They are only two of the many possible ways... The Holy Spirit wants to work in and through us... They should never be a source of religious pride or a stamp of spiritual maturity.

Friendship with the Holy Spirit is not hard and speaking in tongues is not a prize... Or the only acceptable proof of that relationship.

I want to encourage you to be open To the possibility of praying in the Spirit To be open to the idea that the Holy Spirit.... If you are open to it..wants to take you and I To a deeper place in our prayer time

I want to encourage us to not box in what God may want to do Don't let Satan's attempt at confusing us on this topic succeed I believe everyone who has the Holy Spirit in them Has the opportunity to surrender and let the Holy Spirit pray and worship through you

You will not understand it...it is not a mind thing It is a Spirit thing... Don't intellectualize it... Just be open to experiencing it.

Let me share with you.... Another reason why I believe this grace is available to all of us Many are familiar with Ephesians 5...the Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10–18 (ESV) The Whole Armor of God 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

The Armor of God is available to all who are fighting in the Spiritual Realm It includes the weapon of Praying in the Spirit We are instructed to take up the WHOLE armor of God

We need to be built up for the God size task we have been given.

Jude says it this way... Jude 20–21 (ESV) 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

Build yourselves up...praying in the Holy Spirit

Let me close and challenge us to reflect on this Question If the Grace of Tongues is from the Holy Spirit....and if the Bible says Praying in Tongues builds me up...Why would I not want that?

God have I received everything from the Holy Spirit that you want to give to me? Am I as full as you desire? Am I open to Speaking in Tongues? Praying in Tongues? Interpreting tongues? Am I humbly ready to receive...or pridefully trying to take?