

Reading: Acts 2:1-11

*“I wish that you all spoke with tongues” (1 Cor 14:5)*

Speaking in tongues, that is speaking in languages unknown to the speaker, is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:10). Unfortunately it has become a controversial issue in Christendom. It is because of the extreme views people hold on this subject. For some, this gift is everything, whereas for others it is nothing. Both are wrong.

There is no direct teaching as a doctrine in the Scriptures that speaking in tongues is the only sign or evidence of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. On the other hand, there are ample examples of people speaking in tongues when they were baptised or filled with the Spirit.

All the 120 disciples who received the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost spoke with other tongues (Acts 2:4). When the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius and his family the Jewish believers who had come with Peter “heard them speak with tongues and magnify God” (Acts 10:46). When Paul laid hands on the disciples in Ephesus, “the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied” (Acts 19:6). Paul also wrote, “I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than you all” (1 Cor 14:18; Acts 9:17,18). When the Samaritan believers received the Spirit, there was something that people like Simon the sorcerer could “see” as a supernatural manifestation (Acts 8:17,18). On the basis of these examples, we may normally expect a person to speak in tongues while he receives the Spirit. However, in the absence of a direct “teaching” we cannot say that a person is not baptised with the Holy Spirit until and unless he speaks in tongues.

Every believer must be encouraged to seek God to enable him to speak in tongues through the Spirit because of its tremendous devotional value. Of all the nine gifts of the Spirit, tongues are the only one primarily addressed “to God” in prayer and praise (1 Cor 12:7-10; 14:13-17). The speaker is also edified (1 Cor 14:4). I speak in tongues daily in my private prayer since the time I received the Holy Spirit in 1963. It helps me build up myself and be refreshed (Jude 20; Isa 28:11,12). But it is also possible to speak in tongues without love for fellow-men (1 Cor 13:1-3). Therefore Tongues are not the stick to measure one’s spirituality.

*O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,  
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace;  
My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread thru all the earth abroad the honours of Thy Name!*  
(Charles Wesley, 1707-1788)

**OCTOBER 11**

**PRAYER**

**Subject: Holy Spirit**

*Reading: Acts 2:1-11*

*Memorising: 1 Cor 14:5*

Heavenly Father,

We worship You for Your greatness, goodness and graciousness. We thank You for Your love which is lavishly showered on us. But for Your love, we would have been lost. But for Your grace, we would have perished. But for Your kindness, we would have been condemned. But for Your patience, we would have been consumed. O for a thousand tongues to sing Your praise! We join Psalmist David singing, "My tongue shall speak of Your righteousness and of Your praise all the day long!"

Father God, we thank You for Your abiding presence with us. Thank You for seating us at Your right hand with Your Son in the heavenly places. Our hearts rejoice and our tongues are glad. Your peace and restfulness fill our soul. Truly there's fullness of joy in Your presence. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who releases our inner man to break forth into rapturous worship. Thank You for His enablement to worship You in spirit and in truth.

Dear Lord, we thank You for Your Word which reveals You to us. May it richly fill our hearts so we may overflowingly sing and praise You with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who helps us make melody in our hearts to You. Thank You for His gifts through which we can pray unto You and praise You with a deeper devotion and more enthusiastic celebration. We are really blessed by His enablement so we may pray and praise You in tongues. What an edification! Your ways are beyond explanation! You are All-wise and All-holy!

Dear Lord, we pray for a greater outpouring of Your Spirit, as we approach the end of endtime, according to Your promise. May the fresh breeze of Your Spirit drive away all suffocation from our Churches. May the gracious flow of Your spirit flush out all stagnation and stink from our Assemblies. Visit us again, O Lord! We are weak. Empower us through a fresh anointing. Let rivers of living water flow from us into the parched communities around us. Let the fire of Your Spirit burn the chaff in our personal lives and Church life so only Your fragrance would get diffused through us everywhere. Anoint our tongues again for sobbing prayer and stirring proclamation.

In the Name of Jesus our Heavenly Intercessor, Amen!

*(Psa 16:9,11; 35:28; 150:2; Lam 3:22; Mt 3:11,12; 28:20b; Col 3:16; Eph 2:6; 5:18-20;  
1 Cor 12:10; 14:4,15; Jn 4:24; 7:38; Acts 2:4)*