

Why Speak in Tongues?

Special Study – Pastor Jerry Cooley

Many people ask the question: “**Why do I have to speak in tongues?**” The scriptural evidence is very clear and irrefutable.

First, it was prophesied: “For with **stammering lips and another tongue** will he speak to this people.” - Isa 28:11.

Second, the Lord “commanded them (the disciples) that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but **wait for the promise of the Father**, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**” - Acts 1:4,5 KJV. The Lord went on to say: “But **ye shall receive power**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. - Acts 1:8 KJV

On the Day of Pentecost, the commandment of the Lord was fulfilled and the evidence accompanying this phenomenon of the infilling of the Holy Ghost was “tongues.” “**And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**” - Acts 2:4 KJV

So, why speak with tongues?

- 1. Speaking with tongues is a specific fulfillment of prophecy.**
(Isa 28:11 KJV) “For **with stammering lips and another tongue** will he speak to this people.” (Joel 2:28 KJV) “And it shall come to pass afterward, that **I will pour out my spirit** upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:” (Acts 2:16 KJV) “But **this is that** which was spoken by the prophet Joel;” (1 Cor 14:21 KJV) “In the law it is written, **With men of other tongues and other lips** will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.”
- 2. Speaking with tongues as the Holy Spirit gave the utterance was the unique evidence that accompanied the infilling of the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.**
(Acts 2:4 KJV) “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and **began to speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
- 3. Speaking with tongues was experienced by the Gentiles when they were first preached to by Peter at Cornelius house, and were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit.**
(Acts 10:44 KJV) “While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.”
(Acts 10:45 KJV) “And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that **on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.**”
(Acts 10:46 KJV) “**For they heard them speak with tongues**, and magnify God. Then answered Peter;”
- 4. Speaking with tongues was a phenomenon of the early church. In Samaria, the supernatural sign of tongues was obviously present since Simon, the sorcerer, tried to buy this power with money. - Acts 8:5-18. Tongues was evident at Ephesus, twenty years after Pentecost.**
(Acts 19:6 KJV) “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and **they spake with tongues**, and prophesied.”
- 5. Speaking with tongues was ordained by God for the Church.**
(1 Cor 12:28 KJV) “And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, **diversities of tongues.**” (1 Cor 14:21 KJV) “In the law it is written, **With men of other tongues and other lips** will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

6. **Speaking with tongues is a proof of the resurrection and glorification of Jesus Christ.**
(John 16:7 KJV) “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for **if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.**” (Acts 2:22 KJV) “Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: (Acts 2:25 KJV) “For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: (Acts 2:32 KJV) “This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.” (Acts 2:33 KJV) “**Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.**”
7. **Speaking with tongues is a sign OF the believer.**
(Mark 16:17 KJV) “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; **they shall speak with new tongues;**” (John 7:38 KJV) “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, **out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**” (John 7:39 KJV) “(But **this spake he of the Spirit**, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”
8. **Speaking with tongues is a sign TO the unbeliever.**
(1 Cor 14:22 KJV) “Wherefore **tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not:** but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.”
9. **Speaking in tongues can be a means of preaching God’s power and goodness to others in their own language.**
(Acts 2:6 KJV) “Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that **every man heard them speak in his own language.**” (Acts 2:7 KJV) “And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?” (Acts 2:8 KJV) “And **how hear we every man in our own tongue**, wherein we were born?” (Acts 2:9 KJV) “Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,” (Acts 2:10 KJV) “Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,” (Acts 2:11 KJV) “Cretes and Arabians, **we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.**”
10. **Speaking with tongues is a spiritual gift for self-edification.**
(1 Cor 14:4 KJV) “**He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself;** but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.”
11. **Speaking with tongues accompanied by the gift of interpretation is a spiritual gift for edification of the Church.**
(1 Cor 14:5 KJV) “I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than **he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.**” (1 Cor 12:10 KJV) “To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; **to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:**”
12. **Speaking with tongues is a spiritual gift for communication with God in private worship.**
(1 Cor 14:2 KJV) “For **he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God:** for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.”
13. **Speaking with tongues is a means by which the Holy Spirit intercedes through us in prayer.**
(Rom 8:26 KJV) “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but **the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**” (1 Cor 14:14 KJV) “For **if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth**, but my understanding is unfruitful.
14. **Speaking with tongues is a spiritual gift for “singing in the Spirit.”**
(1 Cor 14:15 KJV) “What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: **I will sing with the spirit**, and I will sing with the understanding also.” (Eph 5:18 KJV) “And be not drunk with wine,

wherein is excess; but **be filled with the Spirit;**” (Eph 5:19 KJV) **“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”**

15. **The Apostle Paul was thankful to God for the privilege of speaking with tongues.**
(1 Cor 14:18 KJV) **“I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:”**
16. **The Apostle Paul desired that all would speak with tongues.**
(1 Cor 14:5 KJV) **“I would that ye all spake with tongues,** but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.”
17. **The Apostle Paul ordered that speaking with tongues should not be forbidden.**
(1 Cor 14:39 KJV) **“Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.”**
18. **Isaiah prophetically refers to speaking with tongues as a “rest.”**
(Isa 28:12 KJV) **“To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.”** (1 Cor 14:21 KJV) **“In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.”**
19. **Isaiah prophetically refers to speaking with tongues as a “refreshing.”**
(Isa 28:12 KJV) **“To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.**
20. **Speaking with tongues follows as a confirmation of the Word of God when it is preached.**
(Mark 16:17 KJV) **“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;”** (Mark 16:20 KJV) **“And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”**