

Speaking In Tongues

Part 2 of 2

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Summary: Is the gift of tongues a dead gift – or one we will yet see in great use as doors open for preaching the gospel around the world? What are signs of genuine speaking in tongues vs the counterfeits? Are the Pentecostal and charismatic tongues movement the real thing – or not? We'll review examples in the Old Testament. How would you know you have received God's Holy Spirit? The answer may surprise you. How does speaking in tongues rank among God's gifts? What rules did the Eternal God lay down for when genuinely speaking in other languages? You'll learn this and more as we dive into this vital topic.

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Greetings, children of our heavenly Holy Father, and brothers and sisters with me in the Messiah.

Is the heavenly gift of "speaking in tongues" a dead gift or is it very much alive among the charismatics and Pentecostals?

- Is it true that since "everyone" speaks English, we don't need this gift any longer?
- Has God lost His desire to pour out this gift?
- Did this gift of speaking in untutored languages stop with the original apostles and the destruction of the temple? Many think so.
- If someone has this genuine gift, what are the rules laid out by Scripture?
- How important is this gift, and how does it rank among the gifts of the Spirit?
- Is it one of the most important gifts to show you have the Holy Spirit? How else could one know they have received God's Spirit?
- What was the main purpose of the gift of speaking in unlearned languages?

We'll answer these and more in today's message, which is Part 2 of a 2 part series on what Scripture really says about speaking in tongues.

In Acts 1, just 10 days or so before the Feast of Pentecost in Acts 2, the Christ commissioned His apostles to do something: preach to Jews – but go beyond the Jews and Judea – into despised Samaria and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). That statement should have made it clear to them that they could have a problem talking to people all over the world. It was a strong hint from the Messiah that the 'language barrier' would be a barrier no longer! They were going to be gifted with the ability to speak in other languages so that they could take the gospel message all around the world if they had that opportunity.

It was never Yahweh's purpose to exclude Gentiles from coming to the temple and to worship Him. It was not Yahweh's intention to have a wall around the temple and forbid Gentiles from

going further than a certain point. By the gift of languages, the apostles – which means “ones sent” – could go anywhere the Spirit led them, and speak to and teach anyone.

Why even bother with this topic? We’ve got to learn this topic correctly, because I think there is a double-pronged danger if we don’t:

- We could be deceived by a close counterfeit, from people who don’t even know they are counterfeiting what Scripture teaches us - - if we don’t carefully understand what God’s word teaches us on the subject.
- On the other hand, we might miss out on experiencing and witnessing the valid use of this stunning gift because we dismiss it entirely, out of hand, and don’t believe there is a valid “speaking in tongues.”

Remember Yeshua (Jesus) said that speaking in new, unlearned languages would be one of the signs that would accompany at least some of those “who believe” (Mark 16:16-18). Is it possible that many of the naysayers will never see this gift, or other gifts of God, because they simply don’t believe there is such a thing nowadays of valid, scriptural speaking in tongues?

Last time we read how the gift of other languages was a miracle in the hearing and in the speaking. It is not correct to say it was just the speaking, and neither is it correct to say it was just in the hearing. Scripture itself makes it clear.

Acts 2:4 – all 120 disciples *spoke* in other languages

Acts 2:6-11 – everyone *heard* them speak in their own language

Therefore scripture shows us, in the Acts 2 episode at least, it was a gift of speaking, as well as of hearing. After this, it seems to have been more a gift of speaking. The gift itself is called “*speaking* in tongues,” not “*hearing* in tongues.” I say this, because many use the account in Acts 2 to make a big point that the miracle was just in the hearing, or primarily in the hearing. The miracle of Acts 2 included both the speaking and hearing. ***After that, it was primarily a gift of speaking. But, in Acts 2, there’s not even any mention of any translators being needed.***

There is also the gift of understanding and interpreting the one speaking in an unlearned language. This is NOT just a matter of someone having a talent to translate languages quickly, or someone who could translate for someone else. The way scripture explains it is that both the speaker and interpreter were given instant gifts.

We also saw that in Acts 2, all the disciples – all 120 – spoke solidly, confidently and plainly (that’s what the Greek word “utterance” means in Acts 2:4) as the Spirit told them what to say. But note that, all 120. Even the women, therefore.

There were two other recorded times – in Acts 10 and Acts 19—when other small groups of people were all given this gift. But, otherwise, it is clear that this gift was not given to everyone who was ever given the Holy Spirit, as we’ll see even more clearly today. Of all those who received God’s spirit, some received the gift of languages, and some did not. I’ll prove it as we go along.

We also covered last time the topic of *“prayer languages”*. I contrasted how every recorded prayer in Scripture was a prayer easy to read and understand.

We also saw how when Paul said “though I speak with tongues of men and of angels...” – the Greek actually means and says ‘if’ or “if I could speak with men’s languages and angelic languages...” – 1 Corinthians 13:1-2. Most translations have it that way, even the new Faithful Version. In other words, we can’t take verse 1 to prove Paul spoke with angelic languages.

If you missed part 1, go back and hear that first as we covered even more material. Otherwise, let’s move on. We ended last time on these comments:

- Languages as we know them will cease (1 Corinthians 13:8) someday.
- **The gift of speaking in unlearned languages was to primarily edify the church and to glorify God, not ourselves. Sometimes it was to be a sign for unbelievers.** Though one could be edified himself by speaking in other languages, the main focus was to be that of edifying the church.
- **We are not to forbid the genuine speaking in tongues** – but I’ll say now – so long as it also fits within the rules laid down by Scripture.

A Brief Look at Old Testament Examples of Something Similar to This Gift

Numbers 11:24-30 recounts another example of when God poured out His spirit to the 70 elders who were with Moses. Two of them had stayed back in the camp and were not up on the mountain with Moses. Be turning to Numbers 11. As we read this account, keep in mind that when the Bible uses the word “prophesying,” it can mean the men were speaking under inspiration. They were either *foretelling* things that were to happen *or preaching* in an inspired way. The Hebrew is ‘*naba*’ – meaning “to speak or sing under inspiration.” That’s it.

In the Bible, to “prophesy” means “to speak or sing under inspiration.” What they were doing exactly has to be gleaned from the context.

Go ahead and read that account. We’ll find several interesting things:

- **Moses didn’t feel he had a corner on teaching and preaching to the people.** Now listen carefully. Some of you belong to groups and ministers who are very exclusive and forbid you from listening to anyone else. If you are listening to outright heresy, that’s one thing – but we’ve got to get past this immature *herding* – not *pastoring* – that some ministers are doing.

Numbers 11:27-30

27 And a young man ran and told Moses, and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." 28 So Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, one of his choice men, answered and said, "Moses my lord, forbid them!"

29 Then Moses said to him, "Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all Yahweh’s people were prophets and that Yahweh would put His Spirit upon them!"

Moses did not forbid these men from preaching and prophesying. He didn’t have his spies go out, listen in, and report back what they were saying. He didn’t ask if they were credentialed with his organization or not. In fact, just as Paul was thrilled to have Apollos’ help in the new covenant times, Moses was thrilled, and said in Numbers 11:29, “...would God that *all* Yahweh’s people were prophets, and that Yahweh would put His spirit upon them!”

We’re all human. I understand envy. I understand being protective and trying to own God’s sheep. These people, and all of us are, for that matter, “His people and sheep of His pasture” (Psalm 100:3). Yahweh calls His people “My Sheep.” Brethren – and you ministers hearing this too – we are just helpers of our Master. If God pours out His spirit on to the brethren and they become great preachers, praise the Eternal! Wonderful! Like Moses said, we’d only hope *everyone* could receive the Holy Spirit and prophesy! It doesn’t say they were preaching in an unlearned language, but keep in mind they were preaching, teaching, speaking out – to the Eternal’s glory.

There was another case like this one in the Old Testament. *Saul had just been selected to be the first king. God gave Saul His spirit, to the degree that he became a different man! Oh, that we could all say that we are totally different, “a different man”, because of God’s spirit.*

Again, **Samuel** – God’s main prophet at this time – shows no envy or exclusivity about talking about other prophets and that even Saul, on that day, would be a prophet. I’ll pick up at **verse 9-12**. You can read the story flow context yourself for the first few verses. For time’s sake, I will just read 1 Samuel 10:9-12 and you read the rest yourself later.

1 Samuel 10:5-13

After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying. 6 Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. 7 And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you. 8 You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do."

9 So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day. 10 When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. 11 And it happened, when all who knew him formerly saw that he indeed prophesied among the prophets, that the people said to one another, "What is this that has come upon the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" 12 Then a man from there answered and said, "But who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb: "Is Saul also among the prophets?" 13 And when he had finished prophesying, he went to the high place.

There’s another similar time in fact in **1 Samuel 19:20-24** where it happens again – and I can’t explain it all, but when God’s spirit came upon these particular people, they prophesied – or spoke and/or sang under inspiration.

I must say there were also false prophets who “prophesied” – same Hebrew word – such as the priests of Baal on Mt. Carmel (**1 Kings 18:29**).

Of course there was also Joel’s prophecy in **Joel 2** that “in the last days” men and women would receive the Holy Spirit (I prefer to avoid using “Holy Ghost”) and would prophesy and dream inspired dreams. Peter applied that to Acts 2, as you know. Go back and read Joel 2.

God starts by correcting His people and calling them to repentance, and as they do—He promises to refresh the land and the people. He speaks of the former and latter rain (Joel 2:23-24), which we should apply spiritually to the spiritual harvest of lives turning to the Eternal, even more than we should apply it to the physical harvest.

Peter applied it to Acts 2 and considered their day “the last days.” He wasn’t wrong. In a 7-thousand year plan, a day for a thousand years, Yeshua came at the end of the 4th day and beginning of the 5th thousand-year ‘day.’ By Thursday, everyone would be saying we were coming to the end of the week—after all day 1, 2, 3 and 4 had passed, and now you were in the beginning of the 5th day in Peter’s day. **Five is the number of grace.** I’ve shown in sermons before that Scripture has clearly called the time from when the Christ appeared onward, to be “the last days” (see Hebrews 1:2). Paul referred to the coming of Christ as “in the fullness of times” (**Galatians 4:4; Ephesians 1:10**). John even called his time “the last hour” – 1 John 2:18. So Peter didn’t get it wrong. It’s just that the last days are more than a thousand years or two. You can’t deny scripture on that.

By the way, many orthodox Jews don’t use the pagan names for the week – Sunday, Moon’s day, Woden’s Day, Thor’s Day and so on. Instead, they count up to the Sabbath each week, just as they count up to Pentecost. So they are very cognizant of where they are during the week relative to Sabbath. So Sunday is “first day” and Monday is “2nd day” and so on. So by Friday – 6th day- - afternoon, they are looking forward to the rest of Sabbath, and everyone greets everyone else with a jolly “Shabbat Shalom.” (You’ll note that John 20:1 also uses the term “first day”).

Joel says in Joel 2:28-29 that God will pour out His spirit on all flesh, not just Israel. That should have been a real hint that the ability to teach God’s way to all flesh in their languages would be needed – and Yahweh would supply that need.

Joel 2:28-29

"And it shall come to pass afterward

That I will pour out My Spirit on *all flesh*;

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

Your old men shall dream dreams,

Your young men shall see visions.

29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants

I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”

Praise him, you children of God. Believe him, you daughters of the Highest. Trust that He hasn’t lost this gift to instantly give you the ability to perfectly speak languages you never learned, you young men and old men and you ladies and you children.... And I’m confident one day soon even some of you will be given this gift if it’s needed and used to God’s glory.

Was, or IS, the Gift of Tongues a Required Proof of Having Received the Holy Spirit?

Are you a 2nd class citizen if you have never spoken in an unlearned language? Did you even receive the Holy Spirit? How would you know?

Some people are made to feel like total failures if they don't speak in Pentecostal-style tongues. Some even have training books and training sessions on how to prepare to speak in tongues. God's apostles and followers in Acts 2 did not have to practice, or get psyched up, or do anything like that.

Some teach that you have not had the full baptism of the Holy Spirit unless you speak in Pentecostal-style tongues. Some of those teachers also imply that speaking in tongues is the pinnacle of gifts you could have. It's solid, visible proof, they say, that God has given you his spirit. They imply every child of God who receives His spirit should, sooner or later, speak in tongues.

But is that true? Don't believe me, unless we prove it together in the Scriptures. Turn with me to Romans 12 first, where several gifts are listed, and let's notice a few things.

Romans 12:3-8 NKJV

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Now let's read carefully some of the gifts of God's spirit.

6 Having then gifts *differing* according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: [other translations just say 'we have different gifts!'] if *prophecy*, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or *ministry*, let us use it in our ministering; he who *teaches*, in teaching; 8 he who *exhorts*, in exhortation; he who *gives*, with liberality; he who *leads*, with diligence; he who shows *mercy*, with cheerfulness.

So, notice carefully that God's gifts are mentioned here and elsewhere – but in this particular case, the gift of “speaking in tongues” is not even mentioned.

If it was as important as some Pentecostals and other charismatics say, surely it would have been included, and listed first.

You, who feel speaking in Pentecostal-style tongues is so important, read God's words here – gifts of showing mercy, gift of teaching, exhorting, the gift of having a giving spirit – these are gifts from I AM (that's God, folks), as well.

Now let's look at the list of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 *for to one is given the word of wisdom* through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another *faith* by the same Spirit, to another gifts of *healings* by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of *miracles*, to another *prophecy*, to another discerning of *spirits*, to another different kinds of *tongues*, to another the *interpretation* of tongues. 11 **But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.**

This time speaking in other languages IS listed. But did you notice where God’s spirit puts it? First? Did you see? Brethren, dead last! I’m not minimizing it, but neither am I maximizing this gift. It is what it is. Paul goes on in Chapter 13 to speak of the greatest gift of all.

It’s also clearly stated, that some are given this gift, and some are given that gift - but not everyone is given the same gift. Certainly not everyone has the gift of tongues. That is clear.

The Spirit inspires Paul to write about gifts again, at the end of chapter 12, after warning everyone that we shouldn’t think we’re the big Sultani or the big Kahuna because we think we’re the mouth of the body, or the hand or foot.

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it. 28 And God has placed these in the church:

FIRST apostles, second prophets, third teachers, next, miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, managing, various kinds of languages. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all do miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? *Do all speak in languages? Do all interpret?*

31 *But desire the greater gifts.* And I will show you an even better way.

Did you get what he just taught us?

- he lists languages and interpretation dead last
- Then he says – “but I still haven’t taught you the ‘greater’ gifts” – and he goes on in Chapter 13 to teach what Gift we should earnest desire and pray for.

Are you ahead of me? What gift is that “greater gift?”

WHY the Gift of Tongues

But, let’s just clarify briefly now in case I run out of time later: what are the main reasons for being given the gift of tongues?

You’ll see clearly it was for 3 main reasons:

- to glorify the Living God
- as a sign to unbelievers (**I Corinthians 14:22**) that Yahweh was now also working with, calling, and converting Gentiles and bringing them also into the Israel of God. Every time a small group of people spoke in unlearned languages, there were Jews present who could

witness that God was using Gentiles too. This was clear in Acts 2 – where there were many proselytes (converts from Gentiles). It was true of Cornelius and his family. The Jews with Peter could only conclude God was working with Gentiles now too as speaking in unlearned languages quickly and easily proved to the Jews that these Gentiles now also had God’s spirit (**Acts 10:45-46**). It certainly was true in Corinth and Ephesus as well, that it was a visible sign to unbelievers or doubters.

- It also was the tool God used to be able to spread the gospel word around the world.

Especially in the case of Cornelius, it did make it crystal clear that God had given them His Holy Spirit (**Acts 10:44-45**). We’re now going to see that speaking in tongues was not the greatest gift of the spirit, or the sole proof of having God’s Spirit, as some claim.

The GREATEST Gift of the Holy Spirit

Before we go on reading in 1 Corinthians 13 next, I want to pose a question: when Jesus urged us to ask for things in prayer, do you ever recall Him telling us to ask for the gift of tongues even once?

He teaches us to ask for more of the Holy Spirit (**Luke 11:13**), and He implies we should be looking for more faith. He teaches us through James to ask for more wisdom (James 1:5). He also urges us to ask in His name (**Matthew 7:7, 11** and several times in John 14-16). He teaches not to forget the weighty matters of Torah – love, mercy, faith and so on (Matthew 23:23) and not end up majoring in the minors – tithing on mint, anise and cumin. But I never see a scripture where Yeshua is teaching us to ask for the gift of speaking in unlearned tongues.

Anyway, we ended 1 Corinthians 12 with Paul saying in essence, “OK, I’ve talked about lots of gifts. But you know what? I haven’t even told you of the greater gifts you should be asking for. So let’s cover that now” – and he dives into what we now read as chapter 13.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 Apologetics Study Bible

If I speak the languages of men and of angels, but do not have love,
I am a sounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

[Right off the bat, what’s he saying? That without love, the gift of tongues is nothing but a racket!]

2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,
and if I have all faith, so that I can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
3 And if I donate all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned,
but do not have love, I gain nothing.

If we’re honest with scripture and ourselves, its obvious Paul is not elevating this gift to the dizzying heights some do. I remember many of the Pentecostal meetings I grew up attending; they were often very emotional, sometimes very energetic, loud and raucous. Other times they were slow and somber – but once the tongues speaking began, combined with the dancing in the spirit, and being “slain in the spirit” – all while the minister or ministers were pumping the people up, casting out demons, shouting out “hallelujahs”—it was quite a show! To someone unaccustomed to Pentecostalism, it could even be downright scary.

Someone new to that kind of church service would describe it as bedlam, pandemonium. They’d say there was little sense of order or structure to it.

On the other hand, brethren, I think many of us in the more staid and traditional church services go overboard the other way. We have denominations that won’t even play any music, though the psalms are full of references to harp, lyre, trumpet, tambourine, cymbals and other instruments. Most “church of God” (COG) groups sing 2-3 hymns and then get on with it. The concept of a “**worship service**” is lost in that environment.

Many COG groups won’t raise their hands in prayer though there are records in scripture of David doing so (Psalm 141:2; 134:2; 63:4), Moses, Solomon, Paul, and so many others who talk about “lifting holy hands” in prayer (1 Timothy 2:8). It is absolutely Biblical. It is not a Pentecostal thing to do but something a small child automatically does when he or she wants her Daddy or Mommy. The toddler or child lifts up his or her hands and looks up, anticipating a loving father who will reach down with His hands and lift you up. When we praise and worship, we are lifting our arms up to Abba, our father, and looking up to Him in honor, adoration and love. There’s nothing wrong with that, and everything right with it.

And you probably would never dance in church in most groups. Charismatics often dance. I haven’t but one time myself. Perhaps we should be sensitive to cultural needs too. I would expect my Swahili brothers and sisters to want to dance to their Creator as they worship. It’s their culture, it’s in their blood. Good luck trying to get me to join them though. My staid western culture might make me too self-conscious instead of focusing on praising Yah. However, I don’t think I would stop *them*! Why? Because even King “David danced before Yahweh with all his might” (2 Samuel 6:14) as they brought up the ark to Mt Zion. In his ecstasy, he just had to! And Yahweh was pleased with it. Now, I don’t dance in church services, but listen -- in some circumstances, and especially by certain cultures, I think it could be very, very appropriate. I wouldn’t expect Finns and Swedes and Germans to generally want to dance in church, though. Nor would I require it of them.

Psalm 149:3—“Let them praise His name with the DANCE; Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp.”

Psalm 150:4 – “Praise him with the timbrel *and dance*; praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!”---now get the next verse – v 5—“Praise Him with LOUD cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals.”

Where and when have you ever seen anything like that in a Presbyterian or Lutheran or most churches? When have any of the various “church of God” groups ever done that? We can’t cut out the scriptures that don’t go along with what we practice or feel comfortable with. Instead, we should cut out what WE’RE missing and get in tune with God’s mind on these things as revealed in His scripture.

Are you hearing what I’m saying here? I don’t want Pentecostal types to think I’m against *them*. I’m not. My dad was a Pentecostal evangelist. How could I be against the people? I’m not. But, because of my Dad, I have prayed and studied on this subject for decades.

So, those of you who already claim to speak in tongues, be sure your experience is the Biblical one. Having said that, I think some groups could certainly learn from many of you what it means to praise the Eternal with ecstatic joy, heartfelt song and dance and real spirit behind your worship.

Is that fair? I hope you see I’m trying to be fair with scripture – not with what you or anyone else thinks.

Back to **1 Corinthians 13:8-9**—love never fails but speaking in languages will cease, or fail.

He concludes by saying in **1 Corinthians 13:13** – “And now abide faith, hope and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (“charity” in the KJV)

He ended 1 Corinthians 12 by saying we should want the greater gifts. He ends 13:13 by identifying the greatest of all gifts: agape love, God’s love that comes only as a gift of the Spirit. It’s not something we’re born with. Without love, everything else is just going through the motions, playing church charades, playing church. Without love, the other gifts become annoying and hypocritical.

So, I hope you are seeing that we want to focus on love far more than on speaking in foreign languages or tongues.

Do *not* buy in to the loud teaching by some that the *only* proof is that you have to speak in tongues Pentecostal-style. Here’s what one writer wrote – which is off base, when I compare what he says to scripture. We’ve already seen that God spread the gifts around; some got this gift, others got a different one; but they all received the Spirit. We also have seen, and we’ll continue to see, that speaking in languages was not the primary gift.

"Based on these observations we can conclude that the standard sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. Speaking in tongues is the physical, Biblical evidence that one is baptized in the Holy Spirit. You should not settle for anything less than the scriptural evidence."

I say-- “false.” TOO many of God’s children had God’s Spirit – and other gifts but not this one. And Pentecostal-style tongues is NOT what the Bible is talking about anyway as I’ve been showing.

How Would You Know You Have God’s Spirit or Not?

This portion is going to be short: it’s not by having the gift of tongues, for, in that case, John the Baptist for example – who never spoke in tongues – couldn’t have been full of the Holy Spirit. But, scripture says he was. And he never spoke in tongues.

What does scripture say is the way we know we have God’s spirit? How would YOU answer that?

Many of you will probably jump on to these answers:

- **By their fruits (Matthew 7:20) The Spirit has its fruit – Galatians 5.** What kind of fruit of God’s spirit are you and I demonstrating? It should be obvious to people that in us

resides the Spirit of the great God. I have to confess that I often have to repent for not being a better example of one filled with God’s spirit.

- By having a changed life and proof of conversion (really a variation of the first point)

Though I agree that in time THOSE 2 points have to be right – for even Yeshua said “by their FRUIT you shall know them” – I think we need to remember that real change and fruit can take some time. When God plants His seed of His spirit into us, it takes time for seed to germinate and eventually produce fruit. God created the laws around fruit and gardens.

So, what’s the simple answer to the question of how do we know we have God’s spirit? Some of you won’t like this answer – but it’s scriptural: by faith.

We can also know we have God’s Spirit by faith. All through Romans 3 and 5, and Galatians 3, we are told we accept the righteousness of God by faith, not of works lest any man should boast. But, on the other hand, Christ in us will live that same life He led all over again if we get ourselves out of the way. My series on Galatians 2:20 and the series on the Righteousness of God are so central to understanding this.

Galatians 3:2—“This is what I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?”

Galatians 3:14b – “...that we might receive the promise of the Spirit *through faith*.”

Ephesians 1:13—“...having *believed*, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”

Please read that carefully. It’s by faith. Galatians 3:5 says God supplies the Spirit among us by hearing of faith. Romans 1:17 says God’s righteousness is revealed from faith to faith. Starts with faith and ends with faith.

There is so much *faith* required in our walk with our Lord and Master. We trust – and obey. We obey because we trust what He tells us and we acknowledge Him as true Lord of our lives. When we are wrapped in our Master and from start to finish HE is our guiding light, faith is strong. When faith is weak is when you and I sin, and sometimes shamefully so.

But, in a nutshell – yes, in time, there will be evident fruit of the Spirit. But, in the beginning, especially when you’re still dripping wet from the baptism and the laying on of hands, you’ve got to believe that Abba in heaven was thrilled as can be to send His spirit into your life and body. You better believe there was REAL rejoicing in heaven over your repentance and baptism.

Our adversary will make you doubt, make you question – especially after a particularly shameful sin. But, you’ve got to get back on your knees. Fight Satan on your knees in prayer to our dear Father. Satan trembles when he sees the holy children of God on their knees, yes, even after a sin! Especially after a sin. Then, once again you go on the attack against sin, Satan and self. . . and the gates of hell (the grave) itself will not prevail!

So, speaking in tongues is NOT *THE* sign of having God’s spirit. Faith is. Having a changed life evidenced by gentle love, patient hope and faith, and trusting in Yah every step of the way.

Now, having said that, Yeshua did say these signs shall surely follow those who believe..... So, let's look next into the rules for speaking in unlearned languages.

Rules for Speaking in Unlearned Languages

Let's look now at the rules for speaking in unlearned languages – if and when you see that you have the Biblical form of this gift. As we review these points, just ask yourself if you find these rules being followed in traditional charismatic meetings. But, if one clearly has this gift, Paul says we are not to forbid speaking in tongues.

I dare say that most churches I'm familiar with, would forbid someone who genuinely has this gift. Be it as it may, scripture says don't forbid – but follow certain rules.

We ended with 1 Corinthians 13:13 – where Paul says the greatest of all gifts is love.

Oh, we claim to know this, but we will much, much more likely attend a meeting about prophecy - than we will a meeting about the Love of God. We will get far more excited about someone with the gift of healing, than someone with the gift of comforting and encouraging. Think about it! That's true. It's true of me too. It's true of you, if you're honest with yourself. But GOD is telling us, that's completely backwards! God's not impressed with someone he's gifted with healing powers, prophesying, speaking in tongues and wisdom nearly as much as He is with someone who is sharing the love of God. I preach to myself too. This is for me to learn, as much as for anyone.

Now let's pick up in 1 Corinthians 14 – as there were no chapter breaks when Paul wrote this. I gotta tell you: I personally would warn people that the biggest potential problem with receiving this gift, which is so apparent when one has been given it, would be the overweening pride that seemed to come with it. Paul addresses this in 1 Corinthians 14. Let's just read it for what it says.

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul contrasts speaking in unlearned languages with the gift of prophesying. **The word "prophecy" here, in the Greek, can mean either fore-telling (telling the future under inspiration), or inspired preaching.** It seems like the context in 1 Corinthians 14 would favor "inspired preaching" as the topic at hand. The Greek is *propheteia*, and it certainly can be predicting the future, but in the new covenant clearly has a meaning also of declaring the revelation of God, inspired preaching, or declaring something from God that could not be known by natural means. It means something supernaturally revealed; revealing the mind and counsel of God on a matter at hand. All of what I've just said came from Vine's Expository Dictionary of NT Words.

1 Corinthians 14:1-5

Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. 3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

Let me read 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 again - and let's heed what scripture says: It is more desirable to be a loving, kind person than to have the gift of tongues - verse 1. It is more desirable to have the gift of inspired preaching or prophesying about the future - than to speak in tongues (v. 1,4), for one who preaches edifies the church, and not just himself. Verse 5 - "He who prophesies is **GREATER** than he who speaks in tongues." Can it be any clearer that Paul, inspired by God, is not making more of speaking in tongues than should be made?

For now let's for now jump to verses 18-19. We will come back and read verse 6 onwards.

1 Corinthians 14:18-19

I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; 19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue. [Would others say this?]

Now let's read the whole context in between from God's word:

1 Corinthians 14:6-25

But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching? 7 Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? 8 For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle? 9 So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. 10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without significance. 11 **Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks will be a foreigner to me.** 12 Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.

13 **Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.** 14 **For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.** [So how good is that?] 15 *What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.* 16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? 17 For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified.

ARE YOU GETTING WHAT Paul is trying to tell us here? Paul is actually putting down, even condemning the notion that the "gift of tongues" be used as a prayer language!! Read it again for yourself. I know many will vociferously object to me saying all this, but read it again for yourself.

1 Corinthians 14:18-25

18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; 19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature. 21 In the law it is written:

"With men of other tongues and other lips
I will speak to this people;
And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,"
says the Lord.

22 Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe. 23 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? [remember Acts 2 - when even back then they were accused of being drunk?] 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. 25 And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you."

I hope, if we are all being honest with God's word, Scripture is becoming clear to us about this matter of speaking in tongues.

By the way, have you noticed that Scripture clearly indicates an open type of service - where unbelievers apparently could walk right in. Is that the way it is in your church?

Now Yahweh sets down some rules for our gatherings.

God is not the author of confusion but of order.

- If you see a meeting that is not done in an orderly way, it is not of God. "God is not the author of confusion" (1 Corinthians 14:33) and "Let everything be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40) - both in context of "speaking in tongues", by the way.
- A properly run church service will bring people to glorify God, not to be scared, and not to think everyone is out of their minds! We'll read that also in 1 Corinthians 14.

Neither do we read of anyone rolling in the aisles, running amok, weeping or speaking uncontrollably in this meeting. In fact, scripture is clear:

"the spirits of prophets are under the control of the prophets themselves" (NCV).

"And the spirit of the prophets are subject to the prophets" (NKJV).

Clearly, it is referring to the fact that in God's church services, the speakers are in control of themselves. Pentecostals often describe an experience where they spoke or wept or rolled on the ground "uncontrollably." That is not the experience we read about in Scripture, where in fact the spirits of the prophets are subject to control by the prophets (1 Corinthians 14:32-33) and church services reflect the honor, order and decency of worshiping before our great Abba, the Creator God - rather than a service described by loud and undisciplined outbursts, common to many Charismatic services.

The assemblies were becoming meetings of noise and showing off gifts. The focus was shifting off of God on to those with the gifts of preaching or tongues or healing. We were forgetting that we came to worship Yahweh, the Eternal living God, and not stand in awe of some mortal man. As we

continue reading in 1 Corinthians 14, let's compare the description of these church services with the ones we now have. Open your eyes now.

1 Corinthians 14:26-33

26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, and has an interpretation. Let all things be *done for edification*. 27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. 28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. 30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints

Let's review several key points being made here:

v. 26- the objective of whatever we contribute to the church services should be to build up or edify one another

v. 27- new rule: **no are to be no more than THREE maximum of those speaking in tongues** in any service. **ONE at a time, "each in turn."** Paul says we should never see lots and lots of people all speaking in tongues at the same time. Does that sound like any Pentecostal meeting you've been to or heard about? Again: one at a time, maximum three-if you have the true Biblical "speaking in tongues." I'll insert one more rule at this time: no women speaking in tongues publicly in church. We'll discuss that more when we come to verse 34.

v. 28 - **Any speaking in tongues should do so ONLY if there is an interpreter.** If there is no interpreter - then there should be no speaking in tongues! These are rules being set down under God's inspiration, and these should be obeyed (v.37).

v.29- - otherwise, let the speakers be primarily those who are prophesying, or preaching God's revealed word. These also were to speak "one by one", in order, (v. 31). These are people that this chapter makes clear - are the ones who are truly edifying the brethren.

v. 30 - implies the service at Corinth heavily involved a reliance on spontaneity of letting the Spirit speak through each of us, as vessels of God's spirit - not just one ordained man taking up most of the speaking time. As time went on, we read about Paul and others ordaining men in the various cities to be "overseers" and presbyters. But in 1 Corinthians 14:29-31 seems to be describing a very open kind of church service, with lots of the members participating in the teaching and speaking.

v. 32-This verse seems to tell me that the tongues speakers and other speakers never lost control of themselves as they spoke. They didn't just roll in the aisles, shouting and screaming and jumping up and down.

So, about those who do roll in the aisle and say they had uncontrollable speech going on - what's going on? Is this of God? It is not of God. I would not encourage it.

v. 33-in fact, God's church services are peaceful, and orderly, for God is not the author of confusion. That is why we start on time, why we honor God, as we also honor each other as

speakers take turns to speak and pay attention as each speaker speaks. Our services should be hallmarks of order and peace - not confusion, bedlam or pandemonium. Verse 40 - "Let everything be done decently and in order." Other translations say "done right, and orderly."

v. 34 - **women (Greek can also mean "wives") were to remain silent in the churches and not talking, interrupting or asking questions in church**, but more appropriately, should ask their husbands when they get home. Again, this is hardly what we see in Pentecostal meetings, where women are often the pastors, certainly quite often are the ones doing the speaking in tongues, and leading the men - all of which are against scripture, as a rule. The head of the wife is man. Women are not to be the pastors of churches. That's what scripture says. See 1 Tim. 2:8-15 also.

Paul sums it up in 1 Corinthians 14:37-38 to remind us He was merely passing on what the Almighty had taught and told him. Anyone denying it will be denied himself.

Is the Gift Over With?

We're out of time. I wanted to end briefly with this: is the gift over with? I personally don't think so, if we believe. I do NOT believe what is being CALLED "Speaking in tongues" in the Pentecostal or charismatic groups match with what the Bible describes, nor do they follow those rules we just went over. And neither is it true that one must speak in the gibberish that makes up most Pentecostal type of speaking in tongues before they can have faith that Yahweh has sent someone His Holy Spirit.

But, in the last days, we *must* get the word out. We will be doubted, we will be assaulted, we will be made the laughing stock of the liberal media – but if God's people could instantly be speaking in Mandarin, or Russian, Estonian, Bulgarian, Arabic, or Swahili, or Spanish, or Ilocano, or Tagalog – having never learned it -- what a *witness* that would be to unbelievers. There would still be many doubters in this instant age of computers and instant translations. I can write a phrase on my I-phone and have it translated into any of 30 languages, right now. So there would be doubters.

But, doubted or not, if we had an audience of Thai-speaking people in front of us, what a gift it would be to be able to speak to them perfectly, with perfect nuance, with perfect grammar in their home tongue or even their dialects – as we preach of the glories of our Great God and the Lamb of God and what He has done for the Jew and the Thai and the Ugandan – for all people! To be able to speak of a coming Kingdom that will replace the corrupt governments of this land. To be able to perfectly explain the coming sequence of events leading up to the return of the King of kings – Oh, brethren, BELIEVE and don't doubt – and TRUE speaking in other unlearned languages, instantly, fluently, perfectly, without any foreign accent – would be blessed indeed.

Praise be to God in the Highest, Yahweh the Almighty God, and to His Son, the King of kings! Hasten that day, Master, when you will reign on earth and that you now reign already in the hearts of your people.

Anyway, I'm finished for today and until next time, this is your brother in the Messiah, Yeshua the son of Yahweh, Jesus the Christ.