

Introduction:

- Review
- Speak to the languages of Acts 2:5-11.
 - These languages were a sign and a wonder.
 - God was working a miracle
 - The miracles can't be accurately used to explain away tongues because of: *"For if I am praying in a tongue, my spirit is engaged in prayer but I have no clear understanding of what is being said."* (1 Corinthians 14:14, TPT)
 - And verse 18 where Paul says he speaks in tongues more than all.
 - These Galileans knew lots of languages (not possible...accused of being drunk.) The point is, a miracle is happening here for many people to also be amazed so they would be ready to hear the Gospel.
 - Acts 8 Simon the sorcerer saw that Holy Spirit was given through laying on of hands. If nothing miraculous was taking place he would not have wanted 'the gift.'
- Tonight I want to look at many of the reason a person would want to pray in the Spirit.

I. The Gifts of God

- A. All of the gifts that God has given us have been motivated by love.
- B. Jesus - Jn 3:16, Rom 6:23
- C. The gift of the Holy Spirit and the language of the Spirit.
- D. Spiritual Gifts
- E. Paul talks of speaking in the tongues of angels but his focus in doing so is that we operate in love. *"If I were to speak with eloquence in earth's many languages, and in the heavenly tongues of angels, yet I didn't express myself with love, my words would be reduced to the hollow sound of nothing more than a clanging cymbal."* (1 Corinthians 13:1, TPT)

II. Reasons To Speak In Other Tongues

- A. The 120 received what Jesus had promised. Jesus promised they would receive the Promise of the Father, the Helper, the Spirit of Truth, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. And in Acts 2, it was their collective experience to have received the Holy Spirit, and with Him the gift of speaking in tongues.
 1. The gift of the Holy Spirit is for every Christian, just as water baptism is for every believer.
 2. The gift of speaking in other tongues is for all who believe. IE. It is like a diamond you put on your bride-to-be's finger. It means something, and to say no also means something.
 3. We want to receive what God promises to us. As such a gift is given we want to know its value, purpose, and benefits.
- B. John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus also spoke of Him saying, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." God wants his people to know that it is important for us to know Jesus as Savior and as the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Jn 1:12-13; Mt 3:11-12.
- C. As noted in point A, Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit. But to receive Him requires humility. It takes humility to pray in other tongues because it is all by faith, 1 Cor 14:14 our

minds do not know what we are saying. Tongues have a way of crucifying the flesh and pushing down our pride.

- D. The manifestation that came with the gift of the Holy Spirit was speaking in other tongues.
 - 1. Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6 No mention of tongues, but they saw Holy Spirit being given. Acts 8:18-19
 - 2. If this is how God wants to work this, then Amen!
- E. Speaking in tongues was the first sign that the church had been born! When a baby is born, it sucks in air and cries. When God's church was born it sucked in Breath/Holy Spirit and started praying in tongues! Acts 2:4; Heb 12:23
- F. The Gentiles speaking in tongues was what convinced Peter that they could be saved. Acts 11:15-23.
- G. Paul received the Holy Spirit in Acts 9:17 and he went on to say that He spoke in tongues more than anyone. Paul taught more on speaking in tongues than anyone else in scripture. If it was good enough for Paul and offered by God to all, then I want to be all in for what He desires for me.
- H. The Corinthian church, that Paul pioneered, excelled so well in the gifts that Paul had to bring understanding to the church by writing two chapters dealing with the subject. His conclusion in chapters 12 and 14 of 1 Cor.: *"Desire earnestly to prophesy and forbid not to speak with tongues"* (1 Cor. 14:39)."
- I. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit, for the most part, followed salvation. Acts 19:1-7 Believers in Ephesus. Acts 8:14-18 In Samaria, under Philips ministry many were saved. The apostles went immediately to lay hands on them so that they would be filled with the Holy Spirit. This was something urgent to the apostles.
- J. Jesus commanded the disciple to wait until they received the gift of the Father. It was not a suggestion. It was not of convenience. It was something that Jesus was urging them to receive. Acts 1:4.
- K. Mark 16:14-20 One of the sign that Jesus said would follow those who believe is that they will speak with new tongues.
- L. Our Spirit language enables us to have spirit to Spirit communication with God. 1 Cor 14:2 When we pray in the Spirit, *We speak not to men but to God.*
- M. When we speak in other tongues we build ourselves up. 1 Cor 14:4; *"But you, my delightfully loved friends, constantly and progressively build yourselves up on the foundation of your most holy faith by praying every moment in the Spirit."* (Jude 20, TPT)
 - 1. The flow of the Spirit through the believer is like water rushing over a turbine in a dam. It produces the power.
 - 2. When we pray in other tongues we are strengthening ourselves.
 - 3. It stirs up other spiritual gifts.
 - 4. I have had countless time that I have received wisdom and understanding of things and especially the Bible as I have prayed in the Spirit.
- N. Proverbs 18:21 says that death and life are in the power of the tongue. If that is so, and it is, then I am going to pray in the Spirit all the time that I can. I need life, I want to offer life, I want to be an example of a living Christian that speaks life to people.

- O. 2 Tim 1:6 Paul encourages Timothy to stir up the gift that is in him. We do that by praying in the Spirit. Tongues becomes the divine activator!
- P. Downloads from God come by praying in the Spirit. IE. Trinidad. Angel and instantly knowing the message for the night and details about the church. 1 Cor 14:2
- Q. Spiritual warfare. *"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere."* (Ephesians 6:18, NLT)
- R. Romans 8 26-27;34 Intercession. With groans, Spirit knows the heart of man and of God. In tongues our prayers are aligned with Gods.
- S. 1 Thes 5:17 pray without ceasing. Praying in the spirit helps us to fulfill that scripture. Romans 8:26
- T. Worshiping God. 1 Cor 14:15; John 4:23 Worship in Spirit and in truth.

Conclusion:

- I am hungry for more Holy Spirit activity in my life!
- *"Praying in tongues empowers us when we are weak, comforts us when we are saddened by life's circumstances, intercedes for us according to the will of God, and is a faithful friend on whom we can always depend. When we do not know how to pray as we ought, we can just turn the praying over to our spirit language and the praying will go directly to the heart of the matter with the wisdom and power of God to meet the need. Our trustworthy spirit language arises as a mighty warrior and does spiritual warfare against our opposition and enemies. Our spirit language fills us with the love of God and the fruit of the Spirit and enables us to manifest the mighty gifts of the Holy Spirit. Now we can more fully understand why Jesus told His disciples that it was best for them that He go back to the Father and send them the Holy Spirit"* Bill Hamon
- Let's welcome the Holy Spirit to fill and move through us.