

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

1 Cor. 14

The Holy Spirit &
Spiritual Gifts Series

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

Acts 2:5-11

“...And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language....

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Acts 2:5-11

... And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these Galileans which speak? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?...

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

...Par'thi-ans, and Medes, and E'lamites, and the dwellers in Mesopota'mi-a, and in Judea, and Cappado'cia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phryg'i-a, and Pamphyl'i-a, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyre'ne, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.”

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

- Spiritual Gift of Tongues

= Ability to speak an
identifiable language
you did not learn.

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

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Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

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Tongues: Why the Confusion?

- 1 Cor. 14:33

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

Theme

Tongues:
Seek to edify, not to confuse!

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

- Wrong question to begin with:

Has the gift of tongues ceased?

The Bible does not state specifically that it has already ceased.

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

1 Cor 13:8

Tongues shall cease by itself (before the perfect comes)

- Perfect = completion of canon OR
perfection @ coming of Christ.

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

How should the gift of tongues be used?

Tongues:

Seek to edify, not to confuse!

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

1. The gift of tongues is inferior for edification of church (1-5).
2. The gift of tongues is to be exercised only with interpretation (6-19).
3. The gift of tongues potentially confuses everyone, even unbelievers (20-25).
4. The gift of tongues is to be exceptionally used in church under strict rules (26-33).

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

1. The gift of tongues is inferior for edification of church (1-5).

Spiritual Gifts: Beauty in Diversity

1 Cor 12: Use different gifts for the common good

- Purpose of Spiritual Gifts (v.7)

To 'profit withal' (KJV)

For the common good (ESV, NASB)

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

v. 5 that the church may receive edifying.

v. 12 seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

v. 26 let all things be done unto edifying (the church)

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

- 1 Cor 14:5

Effect:

I would rather more than the wish that we are all gifted with tongues, than that you use your given spiritual gift for the common good.

Prophecy for the 21st Century

2 June 2013

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2. The gift of tongues is to be exercised only with interpretation (6-19).

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

- 1 Cor 14:6

Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you...?

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

- Hearers do not benefit at all from what is not understandable.
- Example series from musical instruments (vv. 7–9) & foreign languages (vv. 10–12),

Applied to the Corinthians , “So it is with you” (vv. 9 and 12).

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

- **1 Cor 14: 12-13**

Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

■ 1 Cor 14:14-15

For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful (*i.e. produces no fruit to benefit other people*). 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.

i.e. I will interpret my prayer and my song.

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

- **1 Cor 14:16**

Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

- 1 Cor 14:19

Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

3. Speaking in tongues in church potentially confuses everyone, even unbelievers. (20-25)

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

- **1 Cor 14:23**

If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

4. The gift of tongues is to be exceptionally used in church under strict rules. (26-33)

Tongues: Why the Confusion?

■ 1 Cor 14:27-28

If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.



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Feb 17 – The Holy Spirit: Who, What, Why?

Feb 24 – The Holy Spirit: When, Where, How?

Mar 10 – Spiritual Gifts: Beauty in Diversity

Mar 17 – Spiritual Gifts: Beauty in Unity

April 7, 14, May 5 – Love: The #1 Channel of Gifts

May 19, June 2 – Tongues and Prophecy

June 23 – You asked for it! Summary