

## “The Gift of Tongues” Lesson 47

\* Before discussing the gift of tongues, let me add one more gift to our spiritual gifts listing. This is the only new gift listed in the Ephesians passage.

1. The final listed gift is the gift of EVANGELISM or EVANGELIST. Ephesians 4:11
2. The gift of evangelism has to do with THE PREACHING of the GOOD NEWS, the gospel, to unbelievers. Certain people have an effective gift that enables them to speak FREELY and BOLDLY about the necessity of knowing Christ as Lord and Savior; i.e., Billy Graham, Luis Palau, D.L. Moody, etc., even our own Dr. Morken.
3. The final listing of gifts in 1 Peter 4:11 simply divides the previously listed gifts into two categories: SPEAKING gifts and MINISTERING gifts.

\* I would like to deal now with what I believe to have been a temporary gift. A gift practiced only in the early church. A gift which completed its usefulness with the completion of the Word of God. This gift ended, in the understanding of some scholars, in 70 AD with the fall of Jerusalem. This gift was to have been a sign to the Jews.

4. The GENUINE gift of tongues is a FOREIGN LANGUAGE not ECSTATIC UTTERANCE. Acts 2:5-12
5. GOD NEVER INTENDED for EVERYONE to speak in tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:27-30
6. All of 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12, EMPHASIZES that EVERYONE is given a spiritual gift. That gift is UNIQUE and is given BY GOD Himself. 1 Corinthians 12:11-18
7. God has told us NOT TO SEEK someone else’s gift. 1 Corinthians 12:31

\* The word “covet” in KJV is always a negative thing. The NIV translates the word “eagerly desire” and the New King James translates it “earnestly desire.” Paul has just spent the entire chapter explaining that all gifts are important and none is more important than another. The Greek here should not be translated in the imperative but rather in the indicative mode.

8. The better translation of 12:31 then, should be: “you are desiring the more SHOWY gifts WRONGLY.”
9. The term TONGUES OF MEN in 1 Corinthians 13:1 is a reference to language. The tongues of ANGELS, however, is hypothetical.

A. He didn’t say HE DID SPEAK the language of angels but rather the thought is “EVEN IF I DID.”

B. His point IS NOT language but LOVE.

- C. There is no BIBLICAL TEACHING of any special language of angels that men CAN LEARN TO SPEAK.
- D. Whenever angels speak in scripture, THEY SPEAK in the language OF THE PERSON they are speaking to; i.e., Abraham, Lot, Daniel, etc.
10. Tongues, according to Paul, will CEASE! 1 Corinthians 13:8
  11. The word cease in 13:8 means to end IN AND OF ITSELF.
  12. When studying 1 Corinthians 14, the word TONGUE speaks of the FALSE GIFT of angelic language or GIBBERISH. The word TONGUES speaks of the legitimate gift which was still functioning in the EARLY CHURCH. The only exceptions are verses 27 and 28 where it is one person speaking one PARTICULAR LANGUAGE.
  13. Even when the TRUE gift was functioning, it was an INFERIOR means of communication (vs. 1-12), an inferior means of PRAISE (vs. 13-19) and an inferior means of EVANGELISM (vs. 20-25).
  14. A better translation of 14:2 is "TO A god" because the Greek text has NO DEFINITE ARTICLE.
  15. The Bible records no incident of ANY BELIEVER EVER speaking to God in any other than NORMAL HUMAN language.
  16. A spiritual gift ALWAYS edifies the church, it is never for PERSONAL BENEFIT. 1 Corinthians 14:4 & 5, 12, 17, 26 (to list only a few such verses)
  17. The true gift of tongues, NOW EXTINCT, was not for believers, but the UNBELIEVER. 1 Corinthians 14:22
  18. The words in 1 Corinthians 14:23, OUT OF YOUR MIND mean to be in an UNCONTROLLED FRENZY. When the real gift was PROPERLY USED everyone understood in their OWN LANGUAGE. Acts 2:11
  19. Even if the true gift of tongues was still in use today, the modern charismatic movement WOULD BE DISCREDITED because, for the most part, THEY DON'T FOLLOW THE RULES listed in 1 Corinthians 14:27 and 28
  20. The KEY VERSE to this understanding of the gift of tongues as taught by Paul in Chapters 12, 13 and 14 is found in 1 Corinthians 14:33. God is the author of PEACE not the author of CONFUSION.
  21. The so-called gift of tongues CONTINUES to cause CHAOS and confusion in the church today even as it did in CORINTH nearly 2,000 years ago.

**Conclusion:**

I have not been able, in this amount of time, to cover this “gift” as I would like to, so I would point you to several sets of tapes in the library:

1. A four set tape by George Gardiner called “*The Charismatic Movement.*” Excellent tapes, very comprehensive.
2. The “*Truth About Tongues*” – John MacArthur
3. “*The Charismatic Movement, Something More, Something Less*” – John MacArthur

I am also including a paper written by my oldest son while a student at Biola University in which he does a good job of covering the subject in a general and historic way.