

Remnant Life Church
March 30, 2014
I Corinthians 12:10

"The Power and Purpose of Tongues"

- The purpose and understanding of tongues in the church has become blurred and muddled over the past 50 years
- Much of that is due to three things:
 1. Not fully understanding their purpose and use
 2. Inaccurate teaching
 3. Fear mixed with pride (looking/sounding foolish)
- The biblical word for tongues in the Greek glossa (glow-sah) meaning 'language'. From where we get the word glossary
- Def: A supernatural manifestation where the individual is speaking in a language that is unknown and unlearned to them.
- First we will begin with what tongues are **not** so we can immediately put those things aside:
 - **They are not a status symbol of greater spirituality**
 - The Corinthian church was rife with Christians trying to get ahead of each other to be noticed
 - Paul told them very clearly in **I Cor. 3:3** that they should not act this way toward each other
 - He continues with this in the **12th** chapter by using the analogy of the body stating that no one part is more important than another
 - **They are not a shortcut to spiritual maturity**
 - Only time in the Word can graft the Word into our hearts
 - Speaking in tongues does not take the place of any other aspect our spiritual lives
 - Maturity is demonstrated by the on-going, consistent fruit in our lives through life situations where we continue to honor God in spite of what is happening
 - **They are not some hypnotic, trance-like state that the speaker has no control over**
 - God created and placed our will within us at creation giving us the choice to accept or reject Him – why would anything He gives us remove that?
 - It has also been called “ecstatic speech” which it is not because in its full context that is not supported in the Bible
 - Ecstatic – (syn: entranced, giddy or intoxicated) - this is NOT what the Word says this is. There is not a loss of control and someone who is that way is not under the authority or influence of the Holy Spirit

- Caution against being “drunk in the spirit” – **Acts 2:13-14**
 - They are being made fun of when this is said
 - Peter refutes it and says NO – **Acts 2:14**
 - Demonic influence wants to remove our free will (zombie-like)
 - What are tongues according to the Word of God?
 - **It is seen initially as a response to the baptism in the Holy Spirit**
 - **Acts 2:4** - *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*
 - It is also known as “praying in the spirit” - **I Cor. 14:14-15**
 - God linked the baptism and tongues together at the very outset
 - **This means there are two distinct uses of tongues that, unless they are understood, often serve as a primary source of confusion**
 - **Intercessory tongues** – praying either out loud or silently in a language you do not know or understand
 - **Eph. 6:18** - *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.*
 - This is most often referred to as a person’s “prayer language”
 - It may be a known/earthly language or what is often called a “heavenly” language or “tongues of angels” (**I Cor. 13:1**)
 - This is personal and unique to the individual
 - Used at the person’s will as a way to speak more intimately with God outside the confines of the mind
 - I will often use my prayer language at times when I just don’t know what to say
 - This does not require or come with interpretation – it is strictly between the one praying and God. (**I Cor. 14:2**)
 - **The Gift of Tongues (I Cor. 12:10)**
 - The giving of a message intended for the church body for the purpose of *edification, exhortation* and *encouragement*
 - The gift of tongues and prophesy are nearly identical in their purpose
 - Paul writes to the Corinthian church the way tongues should be used to be of any value
- I Cor. 14:1-18**
- There must be an interpretation so that everyone may benefit from the word given
 - Without it, Paul says, there is no value – (**14:6**)
 - The interpretation itself is one of the 9 gifts
 - If a word is given with no interpretation it should be dismissed as either a word given when it should have been

kept silent or a misunderstanding of its purpose by the speaker

- We still love that one
- Always seeking to learn and grow
- This is a safe place to step out AND be protected

○ **The cautions -**

- Tongues, like all the gifts, are given “as the Spirit wills” - **I Cor. 12:11**
- It must be in order – **I Cor. 14:26-40**
 - If you feel you have a word to give in tongues bring it to a person in leadership
 - If God gives you the interpretation make that known as well
 - If God has not given you the interpretation then we will wait on the Lord for a moment to see if there is revelation
 - Spiritual gifts never bring chaos or disunity
- We must be on guard for counterfeit
 - **I Tim 4:1-2** - *The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.*
 - Signs and wonders performed by demonic powers (**Matt. 7:22-23**)
 - Deceitful workers disguised as God’s servants (**2 Cor. 11:13-15**)

NEXT WEEK:

- How do we determine if the gift, tongue or prophesy is genuine? (Discerning of Spirits)
 - **Is what is being said in line with the Word of God?**
 - If it does not, regardless of the manifestation or appearance, it is not of God
 - This is why we read and study to be ready to defend the Gospel
 - **Who is this person?**
 - Are they known?
 - Do we know their relationship with Jesus?
 - This is why I ask that you pray for this church, for me, the leadership, and each other regularly so that we (and you) have spiritual eyes to see
- **Tongues are just one of the gifts that God provides for His children**
 - They are given according to His will
 - They are given to encourage and benefit the church
 - They point to God alone to give Him all the glory