



The Wonderful Benefits of Praying in Tongues Sunday February 06, 2005

INTRODUCTION : ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS

Q1. What is praying in tongues ?

1 Corinthians 14:2

- Speaking in an unknown tongue "tongues of men and of angels" (1 Corinthians 13:1)
- Speaking directly to God
- Speaking mysteries (1) things unknown to my human mind, but known to the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10,11) (2) the wisdom, plan and purposes of God (1 Corinthians 2:7)
- My spirit prays enabled by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 14:14)
- Also referred to as "praying in the Spirit" (1 Corinthians 14:14-16)

Whenever Paul referred to "praying in the Spirit" he always mean "praying in tongues". This is the only way the Early Church understood it. Praying in the Spirit does NOT mean to pray with greater fervency, or deeper emotion or with more energy – as some would explain it to be. Praying in the Spirit means to pray in tongues, although this may also be accompanied by intensity, passion, fervor, emotion and energy.

Q2. What are "diversities of tongues"?

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Diversities or Differences

Greek "*diarseis*" = distinctions, differences, distributions, varieties.

There are:

- Diversities of **gifts**. Gifts Gr. "*charisma*" = a spiritual endowment, a divine gratuity, a free gift. The same Holy Spirit is the source of all these gifts.
- Diversities of **administrations**. Administrations Gr. "*diakonia*" = service rendered by a servant, ministries, offices, etc. The same Lord is being served.
- Diversities of **operations**. Operations Gr. "*energema*" = the effect of a thing wrought (from *energeo*, to operate, perform, energize). operation, working. The same God is at work.

The same gift (e.g tongues) can be used in a variety of services/ministries with a variety of operations or producing a different effect or outcome.

Some people mistakenly think there is only one kind of tongues : WRONG!! There are different kinds of tongues

Some people mistakenly think that tongues serve only one kind of purpose : WRONG!! Tongues are used in a variety of administrations (services/ministries). Depending on which ministries it is being used its purpose is different.

Some people mistakenly think that tongues operate only one way : WRONG!! There are different operations. Tongues can be operated in different ways each producing a different effect or outcome.

1 Corinthians 12:10

Kinds of tongues. Kinds Gr. "*genos*" = "kin", different offspring of the same stock, countryman, kindred, diversity, etc.

There are different kinds of tongues. They have the same source, the Holy Spirit, but they differ in their service and operation.



1. Tongues as a personal prayer language 1 Corinthians 14:4 – available for all believers
2. Tongues for interpretation 1 Corinthians 14:13,27,28
3. Tongues for deep intercessional groanings of the Spirit Romans 8:26
4. Tongues as a sign to the unbeliever 1 Corinthians 14:22
5. The ministry gift of Tongues 1 Corinthians 12:28

The way tongues flow, the purpose they serve and the effect or result they bring and the guidelines for their use in each of the above are DIFFERENT.

Tongues could also be categorized or classified based on their benefits, etc.

Q3. Can every believer pray in tongues?

YES!!

Every believer can, although we know that not all believers do!

Just like the gift of salvation. Every person can be saved, although we know that not all end up being saved.

On what basis can we say that every believer can pray in tongues?

1. because of Mark 16:17.
2. because of Acts 2:17,18,38,39 and the consequent records we see in the book of Acts. The Promise of the Spirit is for every one. Every time the Promise of the Spirit was received in the book of Acts, it can be seen that the recipients immediately spoke or eventually spoke in tongues. There is nothing to indicate in the New Testament that God stopped this pattern of working.
3. because of the admonition concerning spiritual gifts: 1 Corinthians 12:31, 1 Corinthians 14:1,5,39.
4. because of the admonition concerning prayer: Ephesians 6:18, Jude 20.

But what about 1 Corinthians 12:28-30?

1 Corinthians 12:28

“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.”

1 Corinthians 12:28 is referring to ministry appointments in the church, and not to spiritual gifts previously listed in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 which are available for all believers.

All believers can teach the word, but that does not mean all believers who teach have been set in the church in the ministry appointment of a teacher.

All believers can help, but that does not mean all believers who help have been set in the church in the ministry of helps.

All believers can pray in Jesus name for miracles and healings, but that does not mean all believers who pray for miracles and healings have been set in the church in the ministry appointment of miracles and gifts of healings.

Similarly, all believers can speak in tongues but only some have been set in the ministry function where they operate the diversities of tongues. Only some people have been set in the church where they have a ministry (service, administration) that involves diversities of tongues.

Q4. Can I pray in tongues at any time I want to?

YES!!

1 Corinthians 14:15

You can pray and sing in the Spirit at your will – any time, any where.



Q5. Do I need to scream, shout, shake and be weird to pray in tongues?

NO!!

Since it is in the control of your will, you determine how you conduct yourself when you pray in tongues.

Q6. Can I pray in tongues in church, when we are all gathered together?

1 Corinthians 14:23,27,28

Yes! You can pray in tongues in group setting, so long as you keep it between yourself and God without becoming disorderly and disruptive.

Only if you deliver a message in tongues, should it be interpreted.

THE MAIN MESSAGE : THE WONDERFUL BENEFITS OF PRAYING IN TONGUES

1. Praying without boundaries – praying the mysteries of God 1 Corinthians 14:2
2. Praying according to God's perfect will Romans 8:26,27
3. Helps overcome the weaknesses of the flesh Romans 8:26 Matthew 3:11,12 The baptism in fire at a personal level has to do with the burning up of the chaff, the things of the flesh.
4. Personal edification – builds you up spiritually 1 Corinthians 14:2 Jude 1:20 Ephesians 3:16
5. Rest and refreshing Isaiah 28:11,12 (1 Corinthians 14:21)
6. Another way to praise and magnify God Acts 10:46
7. Enables your spirit to receive the mysteries (hidden secrets) of God for your own life. Very often the meaning of what you are saying is conveyed to your own spirit as you are praying. 1 Corinthians 2:7-16 1 Corinthians 14:2
8. Helps stir up the gifts of God within you 2 Timothy 1:6 – being the most basic spiritual gift, when you stir yourself up in this area.

Should I pray in tongues a lot ?

Yes! 1 Corinthians 14:18

PRAYER & MINISTRY TO RECEIVE THE OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT AND THE ABILITY TO PRAY IN TONGUES

Luke 11:11-13 Galatians 3:13,14

God is ready to fulfill His promise in your life. Just ask and receive by faith.