

Greater Works Christian Church
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Prayer- Tongues, Part 2

Introduction and Recap: In our first study we found that prayer is the most important part of Church Life.

Mark 11:17

And He *began* to teach and say to them, "Is it not written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS'? But you have made it a ROBBERS' DEN."

We also found that as believers we are to Pray- **A Lot!** Prayer should be the main focus of our relationship with God.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

pray without ceasing

Jesus commands “Men” to Pray without giving up.

Luke 18:1

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart

This verse is part of a Parable where Jesus not only commands Men to pray, but shows that when Men won't Pray they have actually made themselves lower than women that are considered accursed (widow woman).

Tongues

1 Corinthians 14:39

Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

Notice that this verse tells us to “Not” forbid to speak in tongues. This is directed towards ourselves as well as to others.

We are not to keep people from speaking in tongues, nor are we to not speak in tongues ourselves.

1 Corinthians 14:5

I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies *is* greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

Paul states that he wished that every believer spoke in tongues. This is interesting in that this gift is open to everyone that is Born Again. Once filled with the Holy Spirit we will speak in tongues.

For Paul to say this to the Corinthian Church is to imply that not all of the Corinthian believers were filled with the Holy Spirit. This is sad since the Gift of the Holy Spirit is for every believer.

Question: Last week we focused on the importance of continual prayer. Did last week's outline help you in your prayer life? If so, how?

Tongues in 1 Corinthians- *a Brief Overview*

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

- 1 Paul, called *to be* an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes *our* brother,
- 2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:
- 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul wrote this epistle to the Church in Corinth. He did not write this to an individual, but to every believer in an entire city.

v.2) "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:"

"To the Church of God which is at Corinth..." This epistle is for the corporate body, not merely an individual.

1 Corinthians-

Chapter 11= Passover/Communion (Corporate)

Chapter 12= Gifts of the Spirit (Corporate)

Chapter 13= Love (Corporate)

Chapter 14= Prophecy and Tongues (Corporate)

This will help us to understand the context of this study. Paul wrote to the corporate body, not an individual. The context is how prayer is to be established and used in the church (corporate body). This is important to know for we will need to understand the proper context in order for us to understand what Paul was actually trying to convey.

Question: 1st and 2nd Corinthians was written to the Corporate Church, not an individual. Knowing this, do you get a better understanding of these books? If so, how? Do you get a better understanding of the Gift of Tongues? If so, how?

Tongues- A Gift from God

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

- 1 Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:
- 2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.
- 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.
- 4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
- 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.
- 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*:
- 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,
- 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,
- 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
- 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

The first thing that needs to be established and understood is that Tongues and their interpretation is a gift of God. Many in the body of Christ discount Tongues and their importance. Many say, "Tongues aren't for today" and some have gone as far as saying, "Tongues are of the devil." This is scary to me since it is clear that Tongues are a gift freely given to us by the Holy Spirit of God. Tongues are not something that we can obtain on our own, nor can we earn Tongues, but Tongues are truly a gift from God.

Whether it is Tongues, or any of the gifts of the Spirit, it helps to understand that since these find their origin in the Holy Spirit, these gifts are first holy, and supernatural. The reason we can say that they are holy is because they come out of the Holy Spirit of God. Also since they originate in God they are supernatural. Not one of the gifts of the Spirit originates in man, nor are they obtained through natural means. These find their origin in God, and are supernatural in their expression.

When a person speaks in Tongues he/she is speaking supernaturally. To attempt to bring Tongues down to a natural language and/or expression is like trying to create God in man's image. To understand Tongues, and their use we cannot think in natural terms. Instead we must think of Tongues as a supernatural gift that is given, motivated, and directed of God, for supernatural purposes.

All the Gifts of the Spirit are given to Edify (build up) the Body of Christ, including Tongues.

Questions: All the Gifts of the Spirit are given to Edify the Church. How does Tongues Edify the Corporate Body?

Tongues- What is it?

Tongues- The supernatural ability to speak in a language (or languages) not previously learned. These languages would include known languages of the world (i.e. Spanish, Farsi, Chinese, Japanese, etc.) as well as “tongues of angels”.

1 Corinthians 13:1

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

Tongues are recognized in these three:

1. As a **Sign to the Believer** of God’s outpouring and filling with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:11

Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

2. For **Strengthening the Church**- Corporate (this needs an interpreter).

1 Corinthians 14:27

If anyone speaks in a tongue, *let there be* two or at the most three, *each* in turn, and let one interpret.

3. As a **Private Prayer Language**.

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Each of these are given by the Holy Spirit and are Spirit empowered to build up and edify the Body of Believers.

Question: There are three Points on Tongues. Which point impacted you the most and why?

Pray in the Spirit

Jude 20-21

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Notice that these are associated with one another:

- Building yourself up on your most holy faith
- Praying in the Spirit (tongues)
- Keeping yourself in the love of God
- Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life

Praying and Speaking in Tongues builds us up spiritually which causes the other things to be more easily grasped. Tongues creates within us a strength that empowers us in these other areas.

Question: Why is Praying in the Spirit (Tongues) included in this passage (list)? What does Tongues have to do with “Keeping yourself in the Love of God”?

Conclusion:

1 Corinthians 12:1

Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

Ignorant (50) *agnoeo*

- 1) to be ignorant, not to know
- 2) not to understand, unknown
- 3) to err or sin through mistake, to be wrong

God does not want us to be “ignorant” about the Gifts of the Spirit and their use. The Gifts of the Spirit are given to edify (build up) the Body of Christ, including Tongues. When the Gifts are used properly everyone is blessed by them. Tongues is a Gift that can be understood and used to build the Body.

Question: Everyone in GWCC is impacted by this gift in some way. What about Tongues has impacted you the most?