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IS TONGUES FOR EVERYONE?

It is obvious that not all Christians today speak in tongues. Not even all believers in Pentecostal or charismatic congregations speak with other tongues. There can be various reasons for that. I Corinthians 14:5, ***“I would that ye ALL speak with tongues...”***

The most common reason has to do with teaching or the lack of teaching. Some churches and pastors teach that it is not for today. Some claim it was only for the early church of the apostles. They also say that the gifts of the Spirit (I Cor. 12:4-11) were only for that time and those gifts have permanently ceased. This teaching is false.

Some pastors and teachers take a “middle ground.” They neither deny it nor affirm it. This means they do not teach you about it either way. They are not going to seek it or ask God for it if they know nothing about it.

Then, there are the believers who know about it but simply think it is not for them. They will get what they think: nothing.

There are others who know about it and would desire to have the Holy Ghost infilling, but for some reason they have been unable to receive it. There may be various reasons for that. Be assured, however, that God desires that every believer receives it, not just certain ones.

One of the biggest hindrances is a person’s tendency to keep control of their own tongue. They seem unable to “let go” and allow sounds and syllables that sound like “nonsense” to be spoken in their mouth. Yet it is this very submission that the Holy Ghost needs in order to “fill you up” with Himself and His anointing of power in your temple (body). It is human nature to “be in control” of yourself. The Holy Spirit needs that control.

Sometimes the hindrance may be from instructions of people “helping” you who tell you to do this or that in order to receive. (raise your hands, or repeat thank you Jesus, or other such instruction). I see this as a form of manipulation. Their intentions are good, but they might be hindering you in other ways.

I Corinthians 12:31 says ***“but covet earnestly the best gifts.”*** God has a purpose for those who are “filled with (baptized in) the Holy Ghost.” He wants to use you in some powerful ways here on earth for the betterment of the kingdom of heaven and the church body. Tomorrow we will look at some of those powerful ways. We will investigate the “gifts of the Spirit” that are listed in I Corinthians 12:4-11.