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GIFT OF TONGUES  
AND INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

These two are companion gifts that work in tandem. The “message in tongues” is an oracle of God just like the message from the gift of prophesy. (see yesterday’s Newsletter article 5-8-2020). It is usually delivered in the same manner; however, it requires an interpretation in order for it to be understood. The interpreter is often a different person as this is the surest sign that it is from Holy Spirit; however, it could also be from the same person that gave the message in tongues (especially if no other interpreter is present).

These two gifts together are equivalent to the one gift of prophecy. In either case, it is a word of God delivered by Holy Spirit to the people. It is supernatural. It does not come from the speaker’s mind or own thoughts; it comes through the speaker by unction from Holy Spirit.

There may be more than one interpreter present. When one renders the interpretation, it is likely that anyone else present who “operates” in that same gift will also know that the interpretation is accurate. Sometimes an interpretation does not come. That is usually because sometimes someone that God wants to use hesitates to do it. If they have never interpreted before, there may be a real apprehension about it, a “fear” of stepping into the “new” unknown. The first time to be used in this way may take a “giant leap of faith” as Holy Spirit might give you only the first two or three words to speak, so you wonder, “surely this must not be for me.” He is testing your obedience to His leading. If you respond by speaking out these two or three words, He promptly gives you more. A “first timer’s” fear is a fear of failure; speak the two or three words that came to your mind and if nothing else comes; that is the fear. But, if in faith you speak those words, more will follow. After this first time, you gain confidence that you heard from Holy Spirit. Now Holy spirit can trust you with this gift. The same apprehension might be experienced by the one who was prompted for the first time to speak the message in tongues.

Understand, however, that this is only one way that tongues are used in believers. Only certain people are given the “gift of tongues,” but every believer can and should use tongues for other purposes. It benefits every believer. We shall delve more into the subject of tongues after we complete the “Gifts of the Spirit” study. Then, you will understand why Paul wrote in I Corinthians 14:5 “I wish you all spoke with tongues,” (NKJV).

Tomorrow we will begin to look at the “power” gifts.