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THE PURPOSE OF TONGUES

The apostle Paul spoke of tongues being a heavenly language like as angels. ***1 Cor. 13:1, "...I speak with the tongues of men and angels..."*** He also said (1 Cor. 14:18), ***"I thank my God, I speak in tongues more than ye all."***

Paul also wrote in 1 Cor. 14:39 ***"...forbid not to speak with tongues."*** How many churches and Pastors today forbid it? Many (most) do, and they are in direct disobedience to the bible. May God have mercy on their rebellious souls.

The first purpose of speaking with "other tongues" (languages unknown to the speaker) is as a natural physical evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is the only "for sure sign" of that infilling of Holy Ghost anointing.

The Second purpose is to receive power to be an effective witness of the gospel to the lost souls. Nobody is saved unless the Holy Spirit draws them, and this anointing brings souls to Jesus more effectively and powerfully. Remember that Peter's first two sermons saw over eight thousand saved after he was baptized with the Holy Ghost and power.

A third purpose is seen when God wants to give a special message to the church, something akin to speaking an "oracle" of God. Three of the "gifts of the Holy Spirit" found in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 are such gifts that bring God's "now word" (Rhema). One is the gift of prophecy in which a person speaks the word in their own language by the Holy Spirit. However, the word can also be delivered in a manner which serves as a "sign" that it is of the Holy Spirit. In this manner, the "gift of tongues" (divers kinds of tongues, v. 10) gives God's message in "another tongue" unknown to the speaker. This is followed by an interpretation given in the language of the attending church body. This is the "gift of the interpretation of tongues."

Fourth, and the most common purpose, is the ability to pray in a manner superior to any thoughts or processes of your own natural mind. If the prayer is of praise, your praise in tongues is a more excellent praise than you could know or express in the natural.

If the prayer is a petition or supplication (Eph. 10:18), you could be praying "in the spirit" for a person or situation of which you know nothing about. The Holy Spirit knows the need and can "pray it out" through you. Miraculous interventions often occur from this although you likely will never have knowledge about it. This is important because our words are "life and death". Proverbs 18:21 says, ***"Death and Life are in the power of the tongue."*** Jesus afterwards said that we are to speak (or ask) what we will, and it shall be done. If we do not know of a certain need, the Holy Spirit can use our tongue to speak to that need (unknown to us) in an unknown tongue and cause it to be met by our spoken word. It does not matter that we know anything about it, this is why Holy Spirit needs control of our tongue. Since the tongue is "unruly" (James

3:8), that is also why it is the sure sign that we are “Holy Ghost Baptized” because it is the evidence that we have given up our control of it to the Holy Spirit.

We will speak more on this subject tomorrow, so stay tuned.