

THE MANIFESTATION OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

“Tongues in the New Testament Church”

Introduction-

1. Where We've Been-

A) Tongues in the Old Testament

Isa 28:9-12

9 They complain about me. They say, "Who does that man think he's teaching? Who needs his message? It's only good for babies that have just stopped nursing!

10 He is trying to teach us letter by letter, line by line, lesson by lesson."

11 If you won't listen to me, then God will use foreigners speaking some strange-sounding language to teach you a lesson.

12 He offered rest and comfort to all of you, but you refused to listen to him. TEV

As we saw when we began this series, Paul quotes a section of this Scripture in 1 Cor. 14:21. It is from there that we saw the correlation between Old Testament prophesying and New Testament speaking in tongues. As the Old Testament saints prophesied when they received the Holy Spirit, so the New Testament saints speak in tongues because God said he would talk to His people in foreign languages because they were not listening to clear prophesy.

B) Tongues and the Tabernacle of David

Acts 13:32-34

32 "We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers

33 he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: "'You are my Son; today I have become your Father.'

34 The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words: "'I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.' NIV

The resurrection of our Lord was a fulfillment of a promise given to David. This should give us an indication of how integral to the Gospel message David's story is.

Acts 15:14-17

14 Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.

15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:

16'After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up;

17 So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things.' NKJV

We saw that the tabernacle of David was a place of praise, worship, and prayer. All of these functions and more are being done when we speak in tongues. The church is the tabernacle of David fulfilled and it is to be filled with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

2. Where We're Going-

One would think that in a message entitled "Tongues in the New Testament Church" we would spend a lot of time on the protocol of speaking in tongues during a church service. But is the church service the totality of the church? No.

Now, many have lighted upon 1 Corinthians 12-14 and from them decided that tongues are either not available at all today, or only available to some, or simply best avoided for the problems they may cause. With regard to this subject (among others), the Corinthian church gets a lot of retrospective grief from us because all their problems were written down for all to read. One wonders how our churches would fare under such a lamp!

And what of their problems with spiritual gifts? Paul wrote to them about how to walk in them in the church context. What would have been his reaction if there had been no gifts in evidence at all? Well, if Acts 8 is any indication, a lack of spiritual manifestation in the saints that is indicative of the reception of the Holy Spirit warrants nothing less than an apostolic visitation! In other words, no gifts are a bigger problem than misused ones.

It is obvious from a Biblical perspective that the lack of the manifestation of speaking in tongues in the body of Christ is a greater problem than tongues run rampant in a church service! Paul wrote to the Corinthian church that they should not forbid speaking in tongues (1 Cor 14:39). Though I know of some denominations that do just that, I consider our lack of encouraging this manifestation to be a forbidding by attrition.

It was to partly remedy this situation that we have been examining this manifestation in Scripture. Tonight we are going to look at the connection between hope and spiritual utterance, the history of tongues in the first century church, and how we are to receive the Holy Spirit in manifest evidence with regard to speaking in tongues.

I. Hope and Spiritual Utterance (Doctrine)

1. The Spirit's Cry

A) Papa

Gal 4:6

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." NIV

The Holy Spirit (the Spirit of his Son) cries out "Abba!" The Spirit cries out to the Father. He is a Spirit of intimacy and communication. When He came into our hearts, he cried out to God, "Abba!"

Rom 8:15

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." NIV

Since He is crying out "Abba!", we by Him cry out to the Father. This is the intimate cry of a child to its father, "Dada, papa!" This is part of the doctrine of spiritual utterance: we are to speak what the Spirit speaks in us. He is already in our

hearts crying out “Abba.” We need to open our mouths and by Him cry out with Him.

B) Praise

Mark 11:9-10

9 Then those who went before and those who followed **cried out**, saying: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!"
10 Blessed is the kingdom of our father David That comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" NKJV

“Cried out” is the same word in the Greek as “cry” in Romans 8:15. I share this verse because it shows that this crying out can be praise as well. And look at the words in verse 10 “Blessed is the kingdom of our father David.” Again, the report Gentiles receiving the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues caused James to declare that the tabernacle of David was being rebuilt!

C) Prophecy

Rev 10:1-3

1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.
2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,
3 and **cried** with a loud voice, **as when a lion roars**. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. NKJV

Here we see the Lord crying out like the roar of a lion. And what is the result? The seven thunders utter!

Amos 3:7-8

7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.
8 The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy? KJV

Surely this is a key to spiritual utterance! Jesus cried out for us to receive the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39). Once we do, we are able to hear the Lion of the tribe of Judah roar. And when the Lion roars, who can but prophesy?

2. The Spirit’s Testimony

A) His Spirit with our spirit

Rom 8:16

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. NIV

The Spirit testifies with our spirit. As the KJV puts it, it “beareth witness.” The Greek term used means to testify jointly. This means that the Spirit is bearing witness

and our spirit is bearing witness that we are children of God. He speaks and we speak.

B) Our spirit with our mind

Rom 2:14-15

14(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law,
15 since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) NIV

This is the conscience, which resides in the spirit of man, bearing witness with the mind, which is in the soul of man. Conscience has the same relation to our soul with regard to conviction as the Holy Spirit has to our spirit. These verses in Romans paint vividly for us that we do talk to ourselves with regard to moral dilemmas. Both parties are speaking, the conscience and the mind.

C) Our conscience with His Spirit

Rom 9:1

I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, NKJV

This is the ultimate, our conscience speaking that which the Holy Spirit is speaking. The Holy Spirit speaks. If we are obedient to God, we will be enabled to speak what the Holy Spirit is speaking.

3. The Spirit's Groaning

A) The creation groans

Rom 8:19-22

19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.
20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope
21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.
22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. NIV

All of creation is groaning for our revealing! The KJV says, "the manifestation of the sons of God!" When is it made manifest that we are sons of God? When we cry out by the Spirit, "Abba, Father!" If you want to see some interesting things, note how the creation reacts when you speak in tongues.

B) We groan

Rom 8:23

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. NIV

Having received the firstfruits of the Spirit, we groan inwardly as we wait for the final redemption of our bodies. When the Spirit cried out in our hearts “Abba!” we knew for sure that this world was not our home! Having received the deposit of the Holy Spirit, we wait for our final redemption.

2 Cor 5:1-5

1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling,

3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.

4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

5 Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. NIV

While we are in this tent (there goes that tent thing again), we groan and are burdened because we wish to be clothed. God sent us His Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing our ultimate clothing. Have you noticed how tied to the Spirit of God and our hope this groaning is? Why is this? Because the Spirit groans.

C) The Spirit groans

Rom 8:23-28

23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?

25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us **with groans that words cannot express.**

27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. NIV

“In the same way,” verse 26 says. In the same way as what? As hoping for that which we cannot see, the Spirit prays for things which we cannot say. The groaning in Romans 8 is our groaning and the groaning of the Spirit of God. In that it is words that we by ourselves cannot express, it stands analogous to the utterances that the Spirit inspires. Groaning, hope, and the Holy Spirit are intricately tied together (Rom 15:13). As hope is the bedrock of our faith, so the groaning of the Spirit is the bedrock of our prayers. What is the expression of these inexpressible groanings? The manifestation of speaking in tongues.

1 Cor 14:14-15

14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.

15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. NIV

Praying in the Spirit is not something we do as an after thought once we are done going through our prayer list. No, praying in the Spirit is to be the bedrock of our prayer life, a builder of our faith, and a preserver of our hope.

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. NKJV

II. Tongues in the 1st Century Church (History)

1. The Day of Pentecost – Acts 2

Acts 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. KJV

We dug into this verse somewhat extensively last time. This is the seminal occurrence of speaking in tongues. I want to share a comment from the United Bible Society's New Testament handbook series.

UBS Handbook Series-

Acts 2:4

The Holy Spirit enabled the believers to talk in other languages, that is, to speak a language which was different from the one they normally spoke. As the Spirit enabled them to speak represents a Greek construction that suggests the ability to speak in other languages was given successively to them as individuals, and **not to all of them at the same time.**

That the language is a meaningful language, fully intelligible to the hearers, is suggested not only by what comes in the following verses but by the word which Luke chose for "speaking." This verse is used both in the Septuagint **and in classical Greek to indicate solemn or inspired speech, but not ecstatic utterance.** Elsewhere in the New Testament this verb occurs only in Acts 2:14 and 26:25.

To talk in other languages must be rendered in many instances as "to speak the languages of other peoples," "to speak foreigners' languages," or "to speak like the strange people speak." Some languages simply do not have a noun for "language," but express the same concept by means of a verb "to speak."

The clause as the Spirit enabled them may be rendered in many languages as "it was the Spirit who caused them to speak" or "it was the Spirit who made them able to speak." **It**

may be useful to employ a verb form meaning "speak in turn" or "speak one after the other."

And what was it that they were speaking?

Acts 2:11

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

2. The Household of Cornelius – Acts 10

Acts 10:44-46 NKJV

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.

45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered,

*While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on them. The word for "fall" is no weak word. It means to embrace or seize with more or less violence. It is used of the father falling on the neck of the prodigal and the press of the crowd upon Jesus. It leaves one with the impression that this is an experience that by all rights should be **felt**.*

Acts 11:15

"And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. NKJV

Peter states that the experience of Cornelius's household was like that of the apostles on the day of Pentecost. This means that the Holy Spirit fell and then one spoke, and then another, and then another and the disciples heard them! Hallelujah!

3. The Church at Ephesus – Acts 19

Acts 19:6

When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. NIV

Clearly, the experience of the first century church was that when one received the Holy Spirit, once spoke in tongues.

III. Receiving the Holy Spirit (Practice)

1. The Universality of the Manifestation

A) All flesh

Acts 2:14-18

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

"Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!

16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 "In the last days, God says, **I will pour out my Spirit on all people** [KJV – all flesh]. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. NIV

Peter calls this event a fulfillment of Joel's words that God's Spirit would be poured out on all flesh. Verse 18 leaves nobody excluded, particularly when you combine it with sons and daughters. Since all prophesy and since this is the analogous Old Testament manifestation to speaking in tongues, then all may speak in tongues.

B) Given to every man

1 Cor 12:7 KJV

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

The manifestation is given "to every man."

C) I would like every one to speak in tongues

1 Cor 14:5

I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified. NIV

God would not express a desire for us that He could not fulfill in us. He doesn't say, "I want every one to speak in tongues, but I'll only give the ability to a select few."

2. Common Hindrances to Receiving

A) Lack of repentance

Acts 2:37-39

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." NIV

What gave his words weight? What had caused the ruckus to begin with? They had all spoken in tongues. What would be the expectation of the people to whom he promised that they would receive the Holy Spirit if they repented? To speak in tongues. Please note that this promise is also to children. You don't have to be an adult to receive the Holy Spirit.

B) Demonic influence

Acts 8:9-18

9 Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great,
10 and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is the divine power known as the Great Power."
11 They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic.
12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
13 Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.
14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.
15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,
16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.
17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money NIV

Even though they had been born again and many of them set free, demonic strongholds still kept them from taking a hold of the Spirit of God. When Peter and John laid hands on them, they received the Holy Spirit in visible manifestation.

C) Ignorance

Acts 19:1-6

1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples
2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."
3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied.
4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus."
5 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.
6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. NIV

How are people who have never heard of the Holy Spirit supposed to receive Him? Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ. We've taken some strong measures to deal with this problem. We are not ignorant anymore of the Holy Spirit and his promise.

3. Steps to Receiving the Holy Spirit

A) Ask the Father

Luke 11:9-13

9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?

12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" NIV

Our Father is a good father and He desires to give us good gifts. We need to ask Him to give us the Holy Spirit.

B) Receive the Spirit by faith

Gal 3:1-3

1 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.

2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?

3 Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? NIV

Do you see how sorcery can cause a hindrance to receiving the Holy Spirit? The Spirit is received by faith.

C) Speak!

Acts 2:4

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. NIV

1 Cor 14:14

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. NIV

Scripture is clear, they spoke. That we speak is our responsibility, what we speak is His.

Conclusion-

One use of the Greek word epipto [fall] appears in Rom 15:3 where Paul quotes Ps 69:9. The Hebrew comparative word is naphal. Naphal is used in the Old Testament some 434 times.

Within these uses, it shows up in combination with ruach in ten verses. Of those ten verse, only one deals explicitly with the Holy Spirit falling upon one.

Ezek 11:5

And the Spirit of the LORD fell² upon me, and said unto me, Speak; Thus saith the LORD; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind [*Heb. ruach, spirit*], every one of them. KJV

When the Spirit falls upon us, we need to speak!