

Spirit-Baptism and Speaking in Tongues

Text: Mark 16:15-17

15) He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16) whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17) and these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues 18) they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

(1) What is it? Gift of tongues – The divine enabling of a believer to use a language, unknown to the speaker. It is a divine gift in response to faith. (Mark 16:17)

It was foretold in the Old Testament.

1 Corinthians 14:21 (NKJV) — 21 In the law it is written: “With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,” says the Lord.

Isaiah 28:11 (NKJV) — 11 For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people,

In the New Testament, up to the present, Tongues is a gift of the Holy Spirit that is given to individual believers. And because it is a gift, some may or may not have received it yet, but it does not mean that they won't – it is for all who desire. (Acts 2:4; 1 Cor. 12:7-11; 12:30)

(2) What is it for? There are two uses in the church.

a) One is to edify the one speaking in a tongue (Romans 8:26; Ephesians 6:18, Jude 20; 1 Cor. 14:14-15)

Tongues for self-edification does not necessarily need interpretation.

b) To edify other believers (1 Cor. 14:26; 4-5). Such requires interpretation which is also a gift of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:26 (NKJV) — “has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.”

1 Corinthians 14:4-5 (NKJV) — 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 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.

The context of Paul's exhortation in these verses was about equipping and strengthening of the saints. Paul desires that the church exercise more prophetic gifts than personal tongues.

(3) How to observe in public meetings? - Needs to be done in order – take into account the environment – refrain from disrupting the service (1 Cor. 14:27-28).

The gift of the Spirit must operate in the fruit of the Spirit in particular love and self-control (Gal. 5:22; 1 Cor 13:1).

1 Corinthians 13:1 (NKJV) — 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.

1 Corinthians 13:8 (NKJV) — 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

The lying threats of the devil are no match to the unmistakable power of the Holy Spirit. Ask and receive a fresh work of Holy Spirit power each day. Let the power of Jesus Christ bring “great grace” upon you right now.