

“Speaking in Tongues—Holy Spirit’s ‘Love Language’” June 21, 2015

1 Corinthians 14:1-5; 13-15

- Much of Paul’s letter to the Corinthian church was instructive & corrective RE: gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Despite obvious extremes and misuse of these gifts (*primarily the gift of tongues*), Paul did not “shut them down”—instead, he guided them in a “more excellent way” (*i.e., the “way of love”*) (1 Corinthians 12:31)

PROP- “Speaking in tongues” is learning an entirely new spiritual language through which we connect & communicate with God—our spirit to His.

Acts 2:1-4

- Declared the “wonderful works of God” (2:11)
- “Magnified God” (10:46)
- “Prophesied” (19:6)

1. CONNECTS US WITH GOD

[NOTE: 1st step in cross-cultural connection—a new language]

- It’s a language (“Glossalalia”- *i.e., glossary*)
- It’s taught by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:13- “...expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words”)
 - NOTE: Not always fluent on the 1st day!
 - Uninhibited expressions (*i.e., Pastor Hari- “Embarrassingly adoring”; Brazilian pastor speaking in English*)
- It brings us into “one accord” (Lit.- “to harmonize”) with the H.S. (Zeph. 3:9- “For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord.”)
- Join with H.S. in a place of deep adoration of Jesus!

2. TRANSCENDS OUR MIND

- 1 Cor. 14:14- “If I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.”
- 1 Cor. 14:2- “For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.”
- Takes us above our thoughts and logic!
 - Causes us to live “spirit first” not “head first.”
 - (Eph. 4:20-24) There you “learn Christ”—becoming “renewed in the attitude of your mind”!

- Brings you into a place of increased revelation & enhanced perception!
- Your soul is refreshed, your mind is renewed, and your faith is increased!
- NOTE: Gifts flow in clusters (Tongues is usually accompanied by wisdom, words of knowledge, & prophecy! Atmosphere of revelation!)

3. STRENGTHENS YOU

- 1 Cor. 14:4- “edifies” (to build an “edifice”—a “*house of intimacy*” out of which flows *true ministry*)
- Moves you from a place of self-reliance→ to being powerfully resourced from Heaven
- NOTE: In this place of intimacy, any “crisis of belief” is replaced by “the certainty of faith”!
 - Eph. 3:16- “strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man”!
- Makes resting a reality! (Enter a new dimension of His Presence)

PRACTICAL ENCOURAGEMENT:

1. ASK (AND RECEIVE)

NOTE: His “gifts” are not frivolous options; we need them!

2. PERSIST

(Lit.- “Ask...and keep on asking”; 1 Cor. 14:1- “eagerly desire”)

- Overcome two biggest misconceptions:
 - Not for today!
 - Not for me!
- Yet, don’t obsess or give in to discouragement
- Pray that you may “interpret” (1 Cor. 14:13)...then write down and meditate on what He has given to you!

3. RISK

NOTE: We never grow without risk (*i.e., walking, swimming*)

Open your mouth & speak out loud (*Lit.- “They yielded & began to speak”*)

4. HAVE FUN!!

He gives us “all things richly to enjoy.” (1 Timothy 6:17)

NOTE: These are “GIFTS”!