**Speaking in Tongues**

Speaking in tongues was the New Testament sign that people had received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. But what benefit is it to be able to speak in tongues? This teaching will answer that and many other questions.

Ephesians 6:18 teaches us to continue to pray in the Spirit.

**18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**

It is interesting that this verse follows on from the armour of God. To me, this says that praying in the Spirit is a part of our warfare against the devil. What we can learn from this is that we need to pray in the Spirit continually. When you are driving you can pray in the Spirit; when you are in the shower you can pray in the Spirit.

* My testimony of my upper room encounter with the Holy Spirit.
* Acts 2:2
* Acts 2:3 – the word ‘cloven’ suggests an acceptance – see Leviticus 11.
* Acts 2:3 – the word ‘upon’ means *to superimpose* or *to cover*.
* We speak about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit – the word ‘baptise’ means *to immerse and take on*.
* Example of dying a white garment blue.
* After the baptism the disciples spoke in Hebrew, but their words were heard as Latin, Greek, Syrian etc.
* Tongues in Russia.
* Tongues are not from the devil. Many people who live like the devil never speak in tongues.
* Acts 19:6 – speaking in tongues was the New Testament evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit after the laying on of hands.
* Why did God choose to show His Holy Spirit through our tongues and not our ears, hands or feet?
* James 3:2-10 gives us the answer.
* If we speak in tongues we allow God to have control of our lives.

Now there is a difference between what are commonly referred to as personal tongues and public tongues. Understanding the difference will help us. First Corinthians Chapter Fourteen is perhaps the most comprehensive chapter about tongues. We can see examples of both personal and public tongues in this chapter.

Verses 1- 5 personal tongues

Verses 12 – 13 public tongues

Verse 19 public tongues

Verse 27 public tongues

Verse 28 interpretation of a public tongue

Essentially a personal tongue is our personal prayer language. It is when we have prayed in English but need to pray more and use our heavenly prayer language. A public tongue is when God speaks to the congregation through a tongue and then it is interpreted. A public tongue should be followed by an interpretation.

Speaking in tongues refreshes you and gives you rest (Isaiah 28:11-12).

Speaking in tongues will keep you moving with God (1 Corinthians 14:2).

Speaking in tongues will help you emotionally (1 Corinthians 14:4).

**Speaking in Tongues is a Gift**

In 2 Timothy 1:6 Paul told Timothy to stir up the gift of God which was in him. What is Paul talking about here? You might have heard people say that the gift was love or maybe the gift of the Holy Spirit. But was it? Notice that the gift was given by the laying on of hands – love does not come that way, but what about the Holy Spirit?

The word for ‘gift’ in this verse is the Greek word *charisma* (Strong’s 5486) which is always used of a gift given **by** the Holy Spirit. But when the Holy Spirit was given **as** a gift the Greek word used is *dorea* (Strong’s 1431). We can see this in Acts 2:38, Acts 10:45, Hebrews 6:4.

The first time that *dorea* is mentioned in the Bible is in John 4:10 when Jesus is speaking to the woman at the well about Himself.

Speaking in tongues is the only gift that operates under the will of a person, therefore we can stir it up. The result of stirring up this gift of praying in tongues will be the manifestation of love, power etc. as 2 Timothy 1:7 tells us.

**Speaking in Tongues – What to Do When Your Prayers Seem Unanswered!**

Many of us have, at one time or another, had an unanswered prayer; or maybe it is more correct to say a prayer unanswered in the way or timescale we want it to be. This is particularly so in the area of healing. So how can we address this issue of seemingly unanswered prayer? We can learn a lot from the cursing of the fig tree.

**Lessons from the Fig Tree**

When Jesus cursed the fig tree, the effect of this curse was not seen immediately by the disciples. The next day, just twenty-fours later, the disciples saw the same tree withered. So what happened between the curse and the withering?

What happened is revealed in **Mark 11:15-20**:

**15 And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves;**

**16 And would not suffer that any man should carry *any* vessel through the temple.**

**17 And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.**

**18 And the scribes and chief priests heard *it*, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine.**

**19 And when even was come, he went out of the city.**

**20 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.**

After Jesus cursed the fig tree, He went in to Jerusalem and overturned the tables of the moneychangers in the temple courts, cleansed the temple and restored it to a house of prayer. What we can learn from this is that when we have prayed in faith over a situation and are waiting for the manifestation, we need to set ourselves to prayer. Now, I don’t mean begging God – that is not prayer.

So many times I hear people in so-called prayer saying things like, *“Oh God this is a terrible situation we need you to hear us and do something”* or *“God without you coming through this is an impossible situation”* etc. etc. This is not prayer – it is doubting God’s ability or willingness to respond in a positive way to your prayer. These words are said because you don’t see an immediate answer to your prayer.

Let me illustrate prayer this way. Imagine finding many weeds in your garden and deciding to pour on some weed killer. You know that the weeds are as good as dead as soon as you pour on the weed killer but you also know that those same weeds are not going to shrivel up and die within minutes. A few hours later or the next day, you don’t call the company that made the weed killer and say that their product does not work. No, you have to exercise some patience. That is why we read about faith and patience going hand-in-hand.

If we apply this principle to ministering healing we see that as soon as we curse a sickness, it is as good as dead even if there is no immediate manifestation. What we should do is ‘cleanse the temple’ as it were and pray in the Spirit. While we are praying in the Spirit God is removing the ‘thieves’ from our lives. That is, God is removing the sickness that has been stealing our health. When we honour our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit and houses of prayer, our bodies cannot remain as a den of thieves, a den of the devil. After all, we must remember that the devil is a thief (John 10:10) and he wants to steal our health.

Praying in tongues is like anointing ourselves with incense. In the Old Testament incense was used in the temple. This incense was reputably able to keep away snakes ad scorpions (which as we know are often used as representations of the devil). Likewise, we can allow the ‘incense’ of the Holy Spirit to work in our temple, our bodies, keeping away sickness which is attributed to the devil (Acts 10:38).

**King Hezekiah’s Example**

At one point in his life King Hezekiah had to cleanse the temple. This temple had been desecrated by King Ahaz who had sacrificed to false gods and destroyed the temple furniture. His final act in the temple was to shut up its doors.

**23 For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him: and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, *therefore* will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel.**

**24 And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God, and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and shut up the doors of the house of the Lord, and he made him altars in every corner of Jerusalem.**

**2 Chronicles 28:23-24**

Now, King Hezekiah was a righteous king who loved the Lord. Notice that the first thing he did was to open the doors of the temple that King Ahaz had closed. That is a significant spiritual act.

**3 He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the Lord, and repaired them.**

**2 Chronicles 29:3**

Later in Chapter 29 we read that the priests went into the temple to cleanse it and to remove the debris that had been left behind. Again, we apply this principle to the healing of our bodies, the temple of the Holy Spirit. The first thing we must do is to open the ‘door’ to our temple. We do that by opening our mouths.

**3 Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.**

**Psalm 141:3**

When we open our mouths we are opening the ‘door’ of our temple enabling us to pray in the Spirit. Our ‘temple’ is then repaired from the inside out. In other words, work is being completed but it can’t be seen immediately. Just as happened in the actual temple under King Hezekiah’s instruction.

During this time when your mouth is open and you are declaring the goodness of God in your body the devil will come along and try to get you to close your mouth. Don’t let him. Open the door of your temple and declare the goodness of God.

**Pentecost and Speaking in Tongues**

On the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples the first thing they did was to speak in other tongues.

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

**Acts 2:4**

The disciples were now able to speak directly to God in an unknown language – unknown to man and the devil.

**2 For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.**

**1 Corinthians 14:2**

When we speak in tongues we are speaking to God in a language the devil does not know; that is why the devil tries to stop people speaking in tongues. You see, when we speak in English, or any other known language, the devil knows what we are praying and can try to hinder our prayers. But when we pray in tongues it is like a secret code that the devil cannot break! That is good news for us, and all the more reason for us to pray in tongues more often. Especially when we read that praying in tongues build us up.

**4 He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.**

**1 Corinthians 14:4**

The Greek word translated ‘edifieth’ is *oikodomeo* which means ‘to build a wall as of a house’. Another definition is ‘to repair’. Don’t forget the word ‘himself’ includes our physical body. So by speaking in tongues we can build up or repair our physical bodies. That means healing. So what do we do in between saying “Amen” and seeing the manifestation of our healing? Well, one of the things we do is we pray in tongues. Amen.