



## Why Does God Give Us The Gift Of Speaking in Tongues?

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Inspired by Michael Natt's, "30 Reasons for Speaking in Tongues."

What would you say if God came up to you and said, "I have a gift for you that I know you really need. In fact, I have recorded in the Bible at least 30 reasons why this gift is important. Do you want it?" How would you respond? You'd probably say, "Yes! Of course!" Which of God's gifts are we talking about? It's speaking in tongues. Speaking in tongues means speaking in languages you have never learned. Let's see what the Bible says about it.

**A. God Gives Us Spiritual Gifts** - "Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant ... There are diversities of gifts, but the same (*Holy*) Spirit... for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge, through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another **different kinds of tongues**, to another the interpretation of tongues" (1 Corinthians 21:1, 4, 8-10). Thank You, God, we don't want to be ignorant about Your gifts.

**B. God Witnesses through His Gifts** - "God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will" (Hebrews 2:4). God uses His gifts to testify that His gospel and salvation are real and powerful!

**C. The Holy Spirit Gives Us The Gift of Speaking in Tongues** - "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4). These languages can even be "the tongues of men and of angels" (1 Corinthians 13:1).

**D. Isaiah Prophesied God Would Speak to People in This Way** - "For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, ..." (Isaiah 28:11). Often, when a person starts speaking in tongues for the first few times, they will start with stammering lips. Paul referred to Isaiah's prophecy when he was explaining about speaking in tongues. "With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people" (1 Corinthians 14:21). **Isaiah Continues** - "... This is the **rest** with which You may cause the weary to rest. This is the **refreshing**" (Isaiah 28:12). That's great! We all need times of rest and of refreshing!

**E. What Are God's Purposes for Giving Us The Gift of Speaking in Tongues?**

**1. The Spirit Often Makes Intercession for Us as We Speak in Tongues** -

Intercession means to intervene in behalf of another. "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Romans 8:26). While speaking in tongues we sometimes feel the Spirit groaning inside us.

**2. What Are We Doing When We Speak in Tongues?** - "For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God" (Acts 10:46). "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God ... in the spirit he speaks mysteries" (1 Corinthians 14:2). "you bless with the spirit" ..., your giving of thanks" (1 Corinthians 14:16).

**3. It Builds Our Faith** - "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit" (Jude 20). Sometimes, there's a situation that seems so impossible, that even though we are trying, we're having trouble having faith and are afraid. When we pray about it in tongues, peace, confidence, and faith rise up inside of us. When we are finished, we have the faith that we were lacking before! Thank You, God!

**4. Sometimes It's Better to Pray in Tongues Than in Our Native Language** -

When would that be? Here are three examples: when we are **a)** rejoicing "with joy inexpressible and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8), or **b)** have such heavy burdens that we have trouble expressing them (Romans 8:26), or **c)** we're not sure what God's will is so the Holy Spirit prays through us. "Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:27). So Paul concludes, "I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding (*in his own language so his mind understands*)" (1 Corinthians 14:15).

**5. The Church is Edified When A Message in Tongues Is Delivered and Interpreted** - If God is delivering a message to the church in tongues, He will give the interpretation to someone present, so the whole church will be edified (*built up, spiritually strengthened*). "... he interprets (*tongues*), that the church may receive edification" (1 Corinthians 14:7). If there is no interpreter, then the person has 3 choices. "But if there is no interpreter, **a) let him** keep silent in church, and **b) let him** speak to

himself and **c) (let him speak)** to God” (2 Corinthians 14:28). The Bible also encourages us to pray that we can interpret the tongues (1 Corinthians 14:13). That can help us open up to receiving the gift of prophecy. “Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and **do not forbid to speak with tongues**” (1 Corinthians 14:39).

**6. We Build Ourselves Up Spiritually and It Prepares Us to Prophecy** - Paul said, “He who speaks in a tongue edifies (*builds up, spiritually strengthens*) himself ... I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied” (1 Corinthians 14:4-5). We all need our spirits to become stronger.

**7. Our Spirit Can Pray and Even Sing in Tongues** - “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding (*mind*) is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding (1 Corinthians 14:14-15).

**8. We Should Desire Spiritual Gifts** - “But **earnestly desire** the best gifts” (1 Corinthians 12:31). Which are the best gifts? It depends on your or others’ needs. If someone is sick, ask God to give you a gift of healing. If someone is confused, ask for a word of wisdom. If you need to build up your faith, or your spiritual strength, or receive rest and restoration, ask to speak in tongues. If you want to edify the church, ask for prophecy or to interpret tongues. “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills” (1 Corinthians 12:11). In a church meeting, the Holy Spirit will give out the gifts to those present, according to the needs. If you are willing, He can give you different gifts at different times.

**9. Thank God for The Ability to Speak in Tongues** - “I (*Apostle Paul*) thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all” (1 Corinthians 14:18). **We’re Always to Pray in the Spirit** - “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit” (Eph. 6:18).

#### **F. What Else Does The Bible Say about This Gift?**

**1. It’s Part of God’s Order for Church Services** - “How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification” (1 Corinthians 14:26). “And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, **varieties of tongues**” (1 Cor. 14:28).

**2. Speaking in Tongues Is A Sign That Someone Has Been Filled with (or Baptized in) the Holy Spirit** - We all receive the Holy Spirit when we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior. “In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” (Ephesians 1:13). We should know we belong to God because we have received His indwelling Spirit. “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:16). Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is an even more powerful experience where the Holy Spirit fills us. “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:4). (See also Acts 10:44-46 and Acts 19:6.)

**3. Jesus Commanded Us to Receive “The Promise of The Father,” The Infilling of the Holy Spirit** - “And being assembled together with them, He (*Jesus*) commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father ‘which,’ *He said*, ‘you have heard from Me’” (Acts 1:4). Then they were all filled and spoke in tongues (Acts 2:4).

**4. Speaking in Tongues is a Sign of Who Are Believers to Unbelievers** - Jesus said, “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues” (Mark 16:17). “Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers” (1 Corinthians 14:22).

**5. What Was Paul’s Wish?** - “I wish you all spoke with tongues” (1 Corinthians 14:5).

**G. Would you like to be filled with (baptized in) the Holy Spirit? Would you like to receive the gift of speaking in tongues?** - It is possible to receive it at home while you are worshiping God and asking Him for it. Sometimes, it is easier to get it at church with others praying with you, helping you. **Suggested Prayer:** “Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for offering to fill us with Your Holy Spirit and to give us the gift of speaking in tongues. Now that I understand better, I do want to receive both. Please, fill me with Your Spirit and give me the gift of speaking in tongues. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen!” Please, come visit us at our church:

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