



SAVED TO SERVE
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THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PART 2
SPEAKING IN TONGUES

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study the work of the Holy Spirit in giving spiritual gifts to the church. We will also address the Biblical understanding of speaking in tongues.

“...If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit. Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death. Whenever minor matters occupy the attention, the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church, and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in infinite plenitude.” {AA 50.1}

2. What is another work of the Holy Spirit mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4, 7?
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3. **Note:** Let us read 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28 and notice the various spiritual gifts that are given to the church.

4. Why are spiritual gifts given to the church? Ephesians 4:11-14
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5. **Note:** In most evangelical churches, the gift of speaking in tongues is heavily emphasized as a sign that one has received the Holy Spirit. Their belief is that speaking in tongues means speaking gibberish in an unknown language. They claim that if a person isn't doing this, then they do not have the Holy Spirit. Let us examine these claims from scripture.

6. What happened to the apostles in the upper room on the day of Pentecost? Acts 2:1-4
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7. Were there only people from one nation present when the apostles spoke to the multitudes in tongues? Acts 2:5
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8. How does the Bible define speaking in tongues as seen in Acts 2:6-11?
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9. **Note:** The Greek word for “tongues” is “Glossa” and is number 1100 in the Greek Lexicon. It means “language.” Additionally, it is clear that the reason the apostles were given the ability to speak in other languages was to further spread the gospel to people of every nation.

10. Read Acts 10:44-47. When Peter witnessed to Cornelius and other Gentiles, they received the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues. Peter was a Jew. Was Cornelius also a Jew? Acts 10:1
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11. **Note:** When Cornelius and Gentiles spoke in tongues, they spoke in a real language which Peter understood. This confirmed in Peter's mind the reality of Cornelius' conversion and that God was working through him. Acts 11:1, 12-17 confirms that the same gift which Cornelius received was the same gift of the Spirit which was given to the apostles in Acts 2.

12. In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul outlines guidelines as it relates to speaking in tongues because those in Corinth were abusing this gift of the Spirit. How many at most should speak in tongues in a congregation, and who should also be present?
1 Corinthians 14:27
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a) What should a person do if an interpreter isn't present? 1 Corinthians 14:28

b) Paul, himself, had the gift of tongues. What does he say he would rather do? 1 Corinthians 14:18-19

13. On the subject of speaking in tongues and prophesying without interpreters, what God say? 1 Corinthians 14:33

14. **Rebuttal:** Read 1 Corinthians 14:2, 14, 28. They are some who argue that it is okay to pray in tongues because they pray unto God and not men, and therefore, it is not necessary to have an interpreter. However, Romans 8:26 tells us that the Holy Spirit interprets our prayers to God. Thus, it would be unnecessary to pray to God and speak in a language that we ourselves do not understand. Furthermore, Jesus never taught His disciples to pray in that manner. See Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 26:39-44.

15. **Rebuttal:** Another argument people use to justify speaking in unknown tongues is found in 1 Corinthians 13:1. What does it mean to speak in the "tongues of angels"? We will answer this by first looking at it from its spiritual application and then, its literal application. What does an angel represent in scripture? Galatians 4:14; Acts 6:8, 15

a) **Note:** Besides 1 Corinthians 13:1, where in scripture do we find an angel speaking and the word "tongues" is used? It is Revelation 14:6, where God's faithful messengers preach the everlasting gospel which will go to people of every nation and tongue or language. The angel preaching or speaking represents a world-wide, heavenly message that will be understood by everyone in their own language.

b) **Note:** In a literal sense, whenever we see real angels from heaven speaking in scripture, they ALWAYS spoke in languages that could be understood by the humans they spoke to. See the following examples: John the Revelator (Revelation 1:1), Lot (Genesis 19:1-2), Joseph (Matthew 1:20), Zacharias (Luke 1:11-13).

16. Will everyone who receives the Spirit of God, receive the gift of tongues? 1 Corinthians 12:4, 29-30.

a) Who are examples of people that received the Holy Spirit but never spoke in tongues? John 1:33-36; Judges 15:14-16

17. **Note:** Let us now focus on how to practically receive God's Holy Spirit. What does Jesus instruct us to do in order to receive the Holy Spirit? Luke 11:13

"Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, and preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God. Companies of Christian workers should gather to ask for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that they may know how to plan and execute wisely. Especially should they pray that God will baptize His chosen ambassadors in mission fields with a rich measure of His Spirit. The presence of the Spirit with God's workers will give the proclamation of truth a power that not all the honor or glory of the world could give." {AA 50.2}

18. What other instructions does Peter give us about receiving the Holy Spirit? Acts 2:38

19. What does Jesus say about His Word? John 6:63

20. Since Jesus' Words (The Bible) are spirit and life, what must we do with His Word to have the Holy Spirit dwell in us? Psalm 119:11

20. How can we be assured that we have the Holy Spirit? What traits will be manifested in our lives as evidence of that fact?
Galatians 5:22-23

a) When the Holy Spirit abides in us, what does He help us to avoid? Galatians 5:19-21, 24-25

21. As seen in the life of Jesus, what should we desire the Holy Spirit to do in our lives? John 1:33
