

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?



HOLY SPIRIT

THE LANGUAGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

(Part 5 of a 7 part series 'THE HOLY SPIRIT')

This series is focusing on teaching and equipping our church about who the Holy Spirit is, what He does and how we live by His power. In this Group Study we are going to look at the **language of the Holy Spirit** - speaking in tongues as a gift given to us at Pentecost. On this day, **God poured out His Spirit** as He promised - the day **He empowered the church to be His witnesses** - the **day the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues** (Acts 2:1-4).

KEY VERSE

Acts 2:1-31

The Holy Spirit Comes

"1 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. 6 When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

7 They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, 8 and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! 9 Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, 10 Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" 12 They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. 13 But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!"

DISCOVERY

The language of the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, is a supernatural gift that is given to us by the Holy Spirit. This divine manifestation is first witnessed in the book of Acts, particularly on the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, empowering them to speak in other tongues as a sign of God's presence and the inauguration of the church age.

DISCUSSION

Starting Question:

Think of a time when you encountered someone who spoke a different language and that you did not understand. *Tell any stories that happened.*

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Exploring Questions:

What is the purpose of speaking in tongues?

As with any spiritual gift, it is to glorify God, build up the individual believer and the church, facilitate communion with God, and advance His kingdom on earth. It is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit's presence and work in the lives of believers, intended for the common good and the glory of God.

Spiritual Edification: Speaking in tongues can serve as a means of personal spiritual edification or building up of the individual believer. The Apostle Paul speaks of this in 1 Corinthians 14:4, where he says, "Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves." It also allows believers to commune with God in a unique and intimate way, bypassing the limitations of human language and expressing the depths of their spirit to God.

Speak about times when the power of speaking in tongues has edified you and brought you closer to God.

Prayer and Intercession: Speaking in tongues can also be a form of prayer and intercession. Romans 8:26-27 describes how the Spirit helps us in our weakness by interceding for us with groans that words cannot express. Speaking in tongues enables believers to pray in alignment with God's will, even when they may not know how to articulate their prayers in their native language.

Chat about some breakthroughs you have seen in the spirit when you know praying in tongues has been a key element of prayer.

Sign of God's Presence and Power: On the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was accompanied by the miraculous phenomenon of speaking in tongues. This served as a sign of God's presence and power, marking the beginning of the church age and empowering believers for witness and ministry.

Share openly some fears and concerns you may have with speaking in tongues.

Building Up the Church: In a corporate setting, the gift of tongues is accompanied by the gift of interpretation, allowing the message to be understood by others for the purpose of edification and instruction. 1 Corinthians 14:5 states, "I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified." Therefore, when exercised in accordance with biblical guidelines, speaking in tongues can contribute to the building up of the body of Christ.

Take this opportunity of a corporate setting to trust God for the edification of your group through the interpretation of tongues. (This can be done at the end along with the DEVOTION time)

Actions Questions:

- *What are some practical ways that you can encourage yourself to put into practice speaking in tongues often?*
- *Commit to writing down how this gift will mature your faith.*
- *If you have already been practising the gift of praying in tongues, perhaps speak to the Holy Spirit about receiving new tongues.*

DEVOTION

Let's encourage one another to prioritise praying in tongues frequently. This language will help to unlock some of the most wonderful gifts God has for us.

Take some time to pray for each other - lean into what the Holy Spirit would do in your group.

Take time to pray for those who desire the gift of speaking in tongues.