

## Speaking in Tongues

### The New Testament Texts

The New Testament texts of “speaking in tongues” is Mark 16:17 (Jesus’ promise to the disciples), Acts 2 (Pentecost), Acts 10:46 (Cornelius with his relatives and close friends), Acts 19:6 (12 men in Ephesus), and 1 Cor. 12-14.

In every single case above, without exception, the Greek word for “tongue” is *glossa*. And the twelve times that the phrase “to speak in tongues” is used<sup>1</sup>, the same Greek verbage is used. This means that to “speak in tongues” is the same as that which occurred on the day of Pentecost, namely, that the apostles spoke, through the miracle of the Holy Spirit, in human languages/dialects that they themselves never learned.

### Ecstatic or Strange Language in 1 Corinthians 14?

1 Corinthians 14 is a challenging passage. To make matters worse, some Bible versions insert words in this passage that are not present in the original Greek, or different words are used for the same Greek word! This may confuse people into thinking that “tongues” in 1 Cor. 14 is a strange, ecstatic language. Here are a few examples:

- The word “unknown” in the King James Version (1 Cor. 14:2, 4, 14, 19, 27) has no support in the original Greek
- The New King James Version, New American Standard Bible, Revised Standard Version, New Revised Standard Version are correct in omitting this word.
- Today’s English Version uses the word “strange” before the word “tongue(s)” in 1 Cor. 14. This is not in the Greek.

The point is that in 1 Corinthians 14, the apostle Paul is not describing a strange, unknown, ecstatic “heavenly” language, but rather the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues—an unlearned, human language.

**The gift of tongues is not the most important gift or proof of Holy Spirit baptism; many baptized people received the Holy Spirit (or the Holy Spirit is never mentioned) and never spoke in tongues (Acts 5:32; 8:17, 38; 9:17; 11:21; 13:12, 48, 49; 14:1, 21; 16:15, etc.)**

<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:30; 13:1; 14:2, 4, 5 (twice), 6, 13, 18, 23, 27, 39.

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Scripture quotes taken from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise indicated



# WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT & WITH FIRE

S E R M O N   S E R I E S

## STUDY GUIDE 9

## THE HOLY SPIRIT & SPECIAL MATTERS

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The study guides in this 9-part series only scratch the surface for much more can be said, especially the Spirit's activism in the life of Jesus. For this last lesson we'll cover several, random but important topics.

## How Can I Know I Have the Holy Spirit?

This is an important question, but one that is easily answered with another: *Do I have Jesus in my heart? Or, Am I in a relationship with Jesus?* If you answered "Yes", it is only by the Spirit a relationship is possible.

- **John 15:26:** "When the Helper [Holy Spirit] comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will **Testify** about Me."
- **1 John 4:13:** "By this we know that we **Abide** in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

Paul said, "If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him...if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies *through His Spirit who dwells in you*" (Rom. 8:9, 11).

**If you have Christ, you have the Holy Spirit.** Remember, however, that a relationship always has terms, so walk with Jesus according to what the Spirit says to your conscience (see 1 John 2:6).

## What is the Unpardonable Sin?

Jesus said (Matthew 12:31, 32):

**"Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man [Jesus], it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come"**

What caused Jesus to say these frightening words? You must read the story of a blind-mute man who was suffering under demon possession.

### • Read Matthew 12:22-30 •

1. Two spiritual powers have been operative since the beginning of our world: the **Holy Spirit** who works good, truth, and holiness, and **Satan**, who employs evil, deception, and destruction. They are polar opposites in our human experience.

2. Circumstances may arise when the actions of these two opposing powers will be so clearly displayed that one must make a conscientious **Decision** to which power such displays are attributed.

Jesus recognized that His messianic role was such that it was easy for people to take offense at him (Mat. 11:6); the things He did and taught were unconventional (but right) at times, to say the least. But when someone goes beyond the point of speaking against Jesus to that of asserting that Jesus' messianic power is of *satanic origin*, he is beyond salvation.



**To doubt in Christ or in His existence, or to succumb to temptations is detrimental, but God continues to beseech through His Spirit. To spurn the Spirit as evil is to cut God off from communicating what is holy and sin, right and wrong; all lines are severed.**

## What the Holy Spirit is Not

### A Genie for Every Occasion

The Holy Spirit is not at our command to fulfill our every whim (some are good, some not). With our strong desires and drives, we must ask if they are compatible with God's will (revealed in the Bible). We cannot ask the Spirit (or God, or Jesus) to strengthen and guide when our wishes may be self-destructive to our eternal interests.

### A Purchase

Simon the Magician was the first century's *Samaria's Got Talent* winner (Acts 8:9, 10). But when Peter and John came to Samaria to pray for the newly baptized people that they may receive the Holy Spirit (Simon himself was baptized), Simon was impressed with this power (of course! considering his magic background). Career-driven, he offered them money, requesting "Give this authority to me as well so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit" (Acts 8:18, 19). Peter's reply was a strong one (see Acts 8:20-23):

**"May your silver perish with you because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!...Repent of this wickedness of yours."**