A STUDY GUIDE TO

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
&
THE MISUNDERSTOOD GIFT OF TONGUES

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Has the Gift of the Spirit passed away?

Several years ago as a Divisional Superintendent, I would minister in one of our new Foursquare churches and I always faced the same resistance when it came to the gifts of the Spirit.

The pastor was one of the most loving I had ever met, but the problem stemmed from his traditional evangelical background. As it had turned out, as he was seeking for more of God, he received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of tongues, and was forced to resign from that church.

After that, he began a Foursquare Gospel Church, preaching Jesus as (1) Savior, (2) Healer, (3) Baptizer with the Holy Spirit and (4) soon coming King! Many of his people came with him because of their love for him, but not out of obedience to the Lord’s command to be baptized with the Spirit.

One evening, while preaching from 1 Corinthians 12, I had one of the greatest “revelations” ever. I pray it helps you as well. Read with me 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

1. Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:
2. You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.
3. Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.
4. There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
5. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
6. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.
7. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:
8. Or to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit.
9. To another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit.
10. 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.
11. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. (NKJV)

As I was reading aloud, about the time I reached verse 9, I saw it! I asked forcefully, “HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT PASSED AWAY?” They replied, “No, the Holy Spirit has not passed away.” Then by the Spirit of God within me I said, “THEN THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT HAVE NOT PASSED AWAY EITHER!”

If you will read and study this book with an open mind, you will be set free too, as well as becoming able to set others free. That is my prayer for you.

These truths have not lost one iota of power since I first discovered them and began living and preaching them in 1972.

Dr. Max O. Flynn, Greenville, North Carolina USA
This study guide is the result of my own personal study of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues. This study was initially done to clear up my ignorance and misunderstanding of the subject. I had no idea it would be so rich and rewarding. My first source of study was the Bible, not books or denominational teachings. I am thankful for my training at Luther Rice Seminary (1971-74) and for their strong stand on the Word of God. As a conservative Baptist, I automatically believed the Bible as God’s word to us and final authority on any subject. Therefore, it was a simple process—after my mind was opened on the subject—to go to the Word and find out what God said, and then obey Him rather than men!

Through continual study and practice, the material has grown into this expanded outline. It is now sent forth as a guide to show you the way and build your faith to receive these great promises of God. After receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit the enemy came in like a flood and tried to rob me and cause me to throw away my experience. Most of my confusion came when I asked those who were not baptized with the Holy Spirit about this truth. Then I asked those who were baptized with the Holy Spirit, but they did not know anything apart from their tradition or emotions. Being a minister of youth at a Southern Baptist church and a student in a Baptist seminary just added to the assault from every side with more doubts, fears, denials, and questions. But the old serpent is a loser! I finally woke up and overcame him with the Word! Therefore, I know the need of this study and the frustrations saints go through trying to become established in their Christian heritage.

The second reason for the study guide is that it works! After walking in this for over eight years now, I can tell you it is more than a teaching; it is a reality in my life. The results have been tried and proven.

Third, the study guide is the result of preaching these truths and seeing peoples’ lives dramatically changed. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is like salvation; it must be experienced. With it comes unexplainable joy, love, and power. It is continually being proven through preaching and experience.

Then at the same time I see such a basic need for the saints to become established in this area. The baptism of the Holy Spirit and tongues are not the only thing in God’s kingdom! But until a person obeys this command, how can he go on to other areas?

As I go preaching in churches, having a burden to share what God is teaching me and working out in my life, I find they are not even founded in the basics. Therefore, I have to go back to the first principles of the doctrine of Christ and relate that foundation and try to encourage them to exercise what God has given them. This is another reason for this teaching.

The Study Guide is divided into three parts: Historical, Technical and Practical.

HISTORICAL—Looking at how God ordained it in the past (basically taking the book of Acts as our pattern), and how we are to have it and enter into these same experiences today.
I once read a statement by an esteemed Bible teacher concerning the Book of Acts. He was actually attempting to discredit our pattern of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and tongues because he, and others who said the same things, used it as a pattern in other areas. He wrote, “The Book of Acts is not a doctrinal book, but a historical book and cannot be used for a pattern today.”

Others say, “It is a transitional book and therefore cannot be used as a pattern today.” They are both wrong because Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” Therefore, this historical study is important and profitable for us to see and understand our pattern.

TECHNICAL—This section is designed to answer certain questions that have been raised about the misunderstood gifts, ministries and functions in the church. This understanding is important to take you into the practical application.

PRACTICAL—Above all, this is the most important section. If something were not practical and not able to be applied, it would be of little use.

We live in a day where we exalt the intellect and usually the practical side suffers because of that. However, God is practical. He deals first with the heart, then head knowledge will follow if you will believe, confess and act on His Word (Romans 10:9-13). If anyone wants to know the truth about any Bible subject, he must be willing to obey that truth, whether he understands it or not. Then, and only then, will he know the truth. Jesus said in John 7:17, “If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak myself.” Put me to the same test and let God bless you!

Max O. Flynn
Wilson, North Carolina
June, 1980
PART ONE—HISTORICAL

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a personal and separate experience for each BELIEVER beyond salvation (after being born again, receiving the Word of God).

1. The Holy Spirit baptizes us all into the body of Christ at the time of salvation.
   “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into body, whether we be Jews or gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been made to drink into one Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:13

2. Jesus baptizes us with the Holy Spirit for service.
   “And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said to me, Upon whom you shall see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizes with the Holy Ghost.” John 1:33

All who are born again have the Spirit of God living in them. When we are “saved”, we are baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit, who comes to live within us, making our spirit alive unto God. But that is not the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Salvation is an “inward” or “inside” experience. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is always spoken of as a coming “upon” or “on”—an outward experience.

OUR EXAMPLES

I. JESUS
   A. Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit.
      “She was found with child of the Holy Ghost.” Matthew 1:18-20
      “For that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.”

   B. Jesus was then baptized with the Holy Spirit for service.
      “And Jesus when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him.” Matthew 3:16 (Also Luke 3:22; Mark 1:10)

   C. Jesus prayed to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
      “Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him... and a voice came from heaven, which said, You are my beloved Son; in you I am well pleased.” Luke 3:21,22

II. JOHN THE BAPTIST

   A. John was born full of the Holy Spirit.
      “For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb.” Luke 1:15

   B. John declared Jesus as the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit.
“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoe I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.” Matthew 3:11 (Also Luke 3:16 Corinthians 14:15; Mark 1:8; Acts 1:5; 10:47; 11:16).

C. But when Jesus came to him, John confessed his need to be baptized by Jesus with the Holy Spirit. (See context of Matthew 3:11-14.)

“But John forbid him, saying, I have need to be baptized of you, and you are coming to me?” Matthew 3:14

To be “full of the Holy Spirit” and “baptized with the Holy Spirit” can be two different things, although they should not be. You can be no more filled with anything than you allow.

There are many that empty themselves in submission to God, who are inwardly “filled with the Holy Spirit.” That happened to me before I was baptized with the Holy Spirit. But I had been taught that I “got it all when I was saved,” therefore, I did not know for what I was looking. So if I did “get it all when I was saved” and I had been “filled with the Holy Spirit,” for what was I still looking or what was I still lacking? It was the other part—the baptism with the Holy Spirit!

Just because a person, by faith, has been “filled with the Holy Spirit,” does not necessarily mean that he has been baptized with the Holy Spirit. For those who have been baptized with the Holy Spirit entered into a supernatural realm where the gifts of the Spirit began to operate in and through their lives.

On the other hand, (and this is why many who have not been baptized with the Spirit do not understand), not all those who are baptized with the Holy Spirit are “filled with the Spirit,” because some are not willing to empty themselves. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a GIFT like salvation, to be received, and does not make you “perfect” any more than salvation does. But it does make supernatural power available to those who have been baptized with the Spirit. But again, in many cases some do not choose to empty themselves to also be “filled with the Spirit,” therefore, they do not live the life nor have the testimony they should. People like that are those who have sought the gift rather than the Giver!

However, God’s ideal for ALL His children is to be baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit. It should not be either/or, but both. God wants us to be baptized and overflowing with His love, joy and power. Then we will be the witnesses we are commanded to be!

III. THE DISCIPLES

A. To follow Jesus, they all had been baptized in water for the remission of sins—that is salvation. Luke 3.

B. They already had their names written in Heaven—that confirms their salvation.
“Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject to you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” Luke 10:20” (Read context, Luke 17-20)

C. They were COMMANDED to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit for service—to enable them to preach and do the works Jesus did. They were to receive this before they could be witnesses of a Living Lord.

“...And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” Luke 24:49

“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which said he, you have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost... 8 But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:4, 8

D. On the day of Pentecost EACH ONE of them received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and (they) began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2: 1-4

Those disciples 2,000 years ago could no more receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit for you than they could be saved for you. Both are personal and both must be received by the individual. What happened on the day of Pentecost was God made the gift of the Holy Spirit (the baptism of the Holy Spirit) available to all who will individually receive Him, just like the gift of salvation was made available for all who will receive Jesus.

The same is true with the gift of salvation. Jesus had died for the whole world (God’s gift to the world), but He does not have to die again for anyone to be saved. Each individual must personally receive this gift for himself. So it is with the baptism of the Holy Spirit (God’s gift to the church); we must individually and personally enter into what God has already done. The “gift” is for you—personally!

“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are far off, even as many as the Lord shall call.” Acts 2:39


A. They were saved under the preaching of Philip.

“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” Acts 8:12

1. They believed and then they were water baptized, which is a picture of an inward experience.
2. Salvation comes by receiving “the WORD of God.”

“Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17 Then Laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. 18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostle's hands the Holy Ghost was given.” Acts 8:14-18

Salvation comes by receiving the WORD. (Also see Acts 10:44; James 1:21 and I Peter 1:23, which also confirms this. Jesus is the Word in John 1:1 and I John 5:7. When you receive Jesus, you are saved.

3. The baptism of the Holy Spirit comes by receiving the Spirit!

B. After they received “the Word” the apostles were sent down “that they might receive the Holy Ghost”—a separate experience from salvation. vv. 14-17

1. Notice that there was some type of unrecorded outward evidence of receiving the gift because Simon “saw” a difference and wanted to buy this power that he might lay on his hands and give this power also. vv. 18-24

2. Notice also that in many cases the baptism of the Holy Spirit is received by the laying on of hands. Acts 8:17; 9:17; 19:6

A. Paul was saved on the road to Damascus when he confessed Jesus as Lord.
   “Lord, what will You have me to do?” See context Acts 9:1-9

B. Three days later Paul was “filled with the Holy Spirit.”
   “And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto you in the way as you came, has sent me, that you might receive your sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.” See context Acts 9:10-20

C. We know this was the baptism of the Holy Spirit (the gift of the Holy Spirit) because:

1. He also knew how important it was to minister this gift to others.
   “Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?..6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied.” Acts 19:1-6 See context

2. We also know it was the baptism of the Holy Spirit because he had the evidence.
“What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with my understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with my understanding also... 18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than you all.” I Corinthians 14: 14; 18

Cornelius was a just and righteous man who feared God. Acts l0:1-7
They were saved when they believed on the preaching of Jesus and received the Word.
“To him (Jesus) gave all he prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believes in him shall receive remission of sins. 44 While Peter yet spoke these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the Word.” Acts 10:43,44

They also received the baptism of the Holy Spirit—every one of them.
“And they of the circumcision, which believed, were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.” Acts 10:45,46

1. Peter and the other Jews who went with him knew they had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit because they had the evidence.
“For they heard them speak in tongues and magnify God.” v. 45

2. They received the same baptism with the Spirit the disciples did at the beginning (Pentecost).
“Who shall tell thee words, whereby you and all thy house shall be saved 15 and as I (Peter) began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. 16 Then remembered I the Word of the Lord, how that He said, John indeed baptized with water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.” Acts 11: 14-16

a. This was the same “gift” poured out again.

b. This same gift had the same evidence—tongues!

VII. THE EPHESIANS, Acts 19:1-6
“And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were you baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him, which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they speak with tongues, and prophesied.”

A. They were already disciples, 19:1.
B. They, like many today, had not even heard of the gift of the Holy Spirit, v. 2.

C. They had been saved—washed for the remission of sin with John’s baptism of repentance, v. 3-4.

D. They were baptized in the name of Jesus by Paul, to identify their belief in Jesus the Christ.

E. Then in a separate experience after water baptism—Paul laid hands on them and they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, v. 5-6.

F. They received the evidence too—“They spoke in tongues and prophesied.” v. 6

NOW the question to you is this: Have you received the Holy Ghost since you have believed? Many have been baptized in water, and even in the name of Jesus, but still know nothing about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. You can receive too!

In all cases, no one was ashamed or embarrassed by receiving this gift, or its evidence, as it is one of God’s good gifts which we are to seek after and to desire (Luke 11:9-13 and 1 Corinthians 14:1) Today, we still have the same commission, the same command, the same gift, the same evidence and the same promise to the church.

“And you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” Acts 2:39

God forbid if we miss this gift.

Jesus is God’s gift to the World.

The Holy Spirit is God’s gift to the Church!
PART ONE – HISTORICAL

• Questions:
  1. When Jesus was born, He was born ________________________________.
  2. Before Jesus began His ministry, He was ____________________________.
  3. The disciples’ names were written in ______________ before Pentecost.
  4. When you are saved, the Holy Spirit comes to live _____ you. When you are baptized with the Spirit, He comes ______ you.
  5. John the Baptist realized he had need of _________________________ by Jesus, with the ___________________ and ___________.
  6. In Jesus’ commission to the disciples they were ______________ to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit before they were equipped to be ___________________.
  7. Jesus is God’s gift to the _______. The Holy Spirit is God’s gift to the _____________.
  9. Bible evidence that one has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit is _________________.
  10. When we receive the _____________________ we are saved.
  11. Simon ______ that the Holy Ghost was given. This was ministered by the method of _________________________________.
  12. The promise is to ___________. What verse tells you that in Acts 2? _________.
  13. We know that Paul had the baptism of the Holy Spirit because he had the _______________. Where in 1 Corinthians is that found? _________________.
  14. Have you received the baptism of the Holy Spirit since you have believed? _________. Do you have the evidence? _____________________.

• Bible Study:
     a. These ______ shall follow _____ _____ ____________? (v. 17a)
     b. They shall speak with _____ _____________? (v. 17b)
     c. Did Jesus say that these signs would pass way with the apostles, or did He say that they would continue with _________________? (v. 17)
     d. How did Jesus confirm His Word? ___________________________ (v.20).
     e. To whom will Jesus still confirm His Word today? ________________ (v. 17).
   a. What did Jesus call the Holy Spirit? ________________________________.
   b. That then would make the baptism of the Holy Spirit a __________ gift. (Also see James 1:17).
   c. God said He would give the Holy Spirit to them who would _______ Him.

   a. We receive __________ when we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
   b. What then is the major purpose of receiving this gift? ____________________.

   a. Who is to confirm our witness? ________________________________.
   b. To whom is this gift given? ____________________________________________________________________
   c. Can you think of anything you need to do to obey Him?
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

5. Write out Acts 2:39
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
   a. Has God gone back on His Word or taken away His promises?
      ____________________________________________________________________ (Also see Romans 11:29).
   b. For whom then is this promise?
      ____________________________________________________________________

6. Write out Acts 2:4
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
   a. After the Holy Spirit came _______ them (v.3) He ________ them to overflowing.
   b. Who did the speaking? (Look closely) ________________________________.
   c. Who then gave the language? ________________________________________
   d. What is your part? _________________________________________________
   e. What is the Holy Spirit’s part? ________________________________
PART TWO – TECHNICAL

The Misunderstood Gift of Tongues

I. THE FIRST REASON FOR MISUNDERSTANDING THE GIFT OF TONGUES IS THAT FIRST CORINTHIANS CHAPTERS 12 THROUGH 14 ARE MISUNDERSTOOD.

A. Chapter 12 deals with the Body of Christ, and the Ministries within the Church.

1. The body, which is made up of many parts, 12:27.
   “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”

2. The Church, which is made up of many ministries, 12:28-31
   “And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? 30 Have all the gifts of healing? Do all interpret?”

   a. In the above, Paul is listing some of the ministry gifts within the church. (Others are found in Ephesians 4 and 1 Peter 4).

   b. These are not the “gifts of the Spirit.” They are listed in 12:8-10.

   c. Paul was stressing the point, with his questions, that all do not have the same ministry within the church.

   • Actually, this was the conclusion and purpose for his teaching on the body, vv. 12-27. If the body was all an eye, how could it hear? If the church were all apostles, who would be prophets, etc?
   • Many try to make simple things hard to prove their unbelief. Again, to stay in the context of what Paul was saying (vv. 28-30), these are some of the listed ministries in the church (he did not list all the parts of the body, nor did he list all the ministries).

3. The gifts of the Spirit are mistaken as ministries.

   a. A ministry is given to a person, but the Holy Spirit is the one who works His gifts (any or all of them) through “Spirit-baptized” believers.

      (1) Many try to use vv. 28-30, the partial listing of ministries, to prove all do not have the same gifts.
(2) This is true, all do not have the same gifts/ministries, i.e., functions in the body of Christ, but that has nothing to do with the gifts of the Spirit.

b. It is the Holy Spirit who holds and uses His gifts through a “Spirit-baptized” believer, not as a ministry, but “to profit withal,” i.e., for the common good of all. v.7

c. Therefore, where the baptism of the Holy Spirit is not stressed, and the Holy Spirit is not honored in His ministry office, you see none of these gifts in operation.

4. The Gifts of the Spirit, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10:
“For to one is given by the same Spirit:
(1) the word of wisdom; to another
(2) the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another
(3) faith by the same Spirit; to another
(4) the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another
(5) the working of miracles; to another
(6) prophecy; to another
(7) discerning of spirits; to another
(8) divers kinds of tongues; to another
(9) the interpretation of tongues.”

a. Where the baptism of the Holy Spirit is denied, not only are these gifts not in operation, but unless a person has had some type of teaching on the Spirit, or studied the subject, or has been some place where they operate, they would not know how to recognize them even if the Holy Spirit wanted to use them. All gifts and spiritual principles work by faith, and if a person does not know how they operate the Holy Spirit cannot use them.

b. Another common objection we hear at this point is, “Tongues are the least of the gifts.” That probably occurs because it is listed last, but even love is listed last in 13:13, and it is said to be the greatest of the three (faith, hope and love). Therefore, this has no bearing on their value.

c. But it does seem however, that tongues are the entry to all these gifts. Until one has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, these gifts do not operate in their lives, and in many cases they are even denied until they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. And then, it is as tongues are the gateway into all the other gifts.
This study guide, however, is not intended to teach on the gifts of the Spirit. Three books I recommend are (1) *The Holy Spirit and You*, by Dennis and Rita Bennett. It is an older book, published by Logos, but excellent on the Gifts of the Spirit. Another is (2) Kenneth E. Hagan’s book, *The Holy Spirit And His Gifts*. Then another is (3) Dr. A. L. & Joyce Gill’s manual, *Supernatural Living and the Gift of the Holy Spirit*. All three are excellent! (We have Gill’s book available in Spanish for those who would request it.)

At this point we are explaining some of the reasons things concerning the Spirit are misunderstood. Some say, because I preach, I have the gift of prophecy. That sounds good, but it is not true. Preaching comes from knowledge, the head, but prophecy is Spirit inspired from the heart. To put it another way, you have to study to preach; prophecy is Spirit-prompted, not premeditated. The gifts of the Spirit are the tools God gave the church to do its work. As we have seen, they are for the common good of the entire body of Christ, not to be denied, argued about, or ignored, but used where faith is present, rather than doubt, unbelief, and skepticism for the work of the ministry. If people will study the life and ministry of Jesus they will see everything He did was through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, not in the power of the flesh or His deity. This was one of the major lessons He was trying to teach and that is why He told them to tarry in Jerusalem until they be endued with power from on high. They then could go and do the works Jesus did, giving witness to His living presence and power. Remember what Jesus said in John 14:11-14:

> “Believe me that I am the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very work’s sake. Verily verily, I say unto you, He that believes on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the son. If you ask anything in my name, I will do it.”

- We are to witness our words with works as Jesus did!
- We are to continue to do these works—and even greater works!
- We now stand in the place of Jesus on this earth using His name to get the work done.
- We have been commissioned and commanded as BELIEVERS, to believe the Word of God, to go and preach it as true and expect God to confirm it as He has promised! Mark 16:15-20.

We should bow our heads in shame because we have been robbed through unbelief and have fought and denied the tools for which God has given us to get the work done.

However, He is still waiting for His church to rise up in faith and begin to obey His Word and trust Him to confirm it with signs following! May the Lord help us to understand His plan and program as we continue to study.

**B. Chapter 13 shows all gifts must work in love, 13:1-3**

> “Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have faith, so that I could remove
mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profits me nothing.”

The problem was one of our sinful human nature—it was then, and still is now. The flesh tends to get puffed up because it has learned or received something others do not have or understand. In other words, in many cases some think they are better than others because of who they are, or what they know and what they have. As brother James would say, “Brethren, this ought not to be so.” A gift from God is a gift. It is for everyone and it cannot be earned; it is received just by faith. Therefore, the receiver should be humbled and use it to show love to others and building up of the Body.

Paul put it this way in I Corinthians 8:1b, “Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.” Today we see the same problem—many young, baby, immature Christians receive a gift or knowledge from God and it tends to puff them up and that turns off many sincere people.

But on the other hand, one should not judge a gift by a person who has the gift. He should judge it by the Word of God. That is also one of the things Paul was saying—that if a person with a gift does not operate in love, that makes the gift ineffective.

We cannot judge marriage by those who abuse it. It must be judged by the word of God. Even so with the gifts of the Spirit. One of the reasons young people are “turned off” to marriage today is because they do not like what they see. You and I know they are wrong because they are going against the Word of God. So it is with those who are “turned off” on the gifts because they have seen them abused.

Another point Paul was trying to make is that the gifts of the Spirit must be mixed with the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) for them to receive God’s glory. And once again, it should not be, “which are best—the fruit of the Spirit or the gifts of the Spirit.” No. God’s ideal is for all of us to have both working in our lives at all times.

C. Chapter 14 is the Key Chapter to Understanding the Misunderstood gift of tongues.

1. It reveals all gifts in the assembly (church) are to be used to edify (build up) the entire assembly, and that all the gifts can be controlled so that everything will be done in order.

2. It is showing the gifts ARE important and they should be earnestly sought after so the entire body can receive ministry and be built up.

“Follow after love, and desire spiritual gifts.” 14:1
“Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that you may excel to the edifying of the church.” 14:12
“How is it then, brethren? when you come together, every one of you has a psalm, has a doctrine, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.” 14:26 Key Verse.

18
II. THE SECOND REASON FOR MISUNDERSTANDING THE GIFT OF TONGUES IS OF A SPIRITUAL NATURE.

A. Tongues are of the spiritual nature and bypass the mind.
   “For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.” v. 14

1. The real you, your spirit, is praying with God’s Spirit and this is coming from the heart, not the head. It is not a learned language coming from your mind, but the language of the Spirit coming from your spirit that bypasses the mind.

2. Because of this it is foolish to the natural mind and cannot be understood by the intellect. I Corinthians 2:14
   “But the natural man (mind) receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”
   a. The only way it can be understood by the natural mind, without the baptism of the Spirit, is for God to allow it to be heard in a language they understand, as it was on the day of Pentecost. In this case, it was a “sign.”
   b. Since the baptism of the Holy Spirit must be experienced like salvation to be understood, those who have not experienced the gift definitely do not understand it; it is “foolishness unto them.”

B. Many are Spiritually Ignorant of the Gifts, 12:1
   “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.”

C. Many are Spiritually Blinded:
   1. By Satan.
      “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not.” 2 Corinthians 4:4
      “Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him ... 23 But he (Jesus) turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: you are an offense unto me: for you are not mindful for the things of God, but those of men.” Matthew 16:22-23.

   Our enemy, Satan, does not want us to possess these gifts nor the power of God, therefore he does everything he can to discredit them because he knows how harmful the baptism of the Holy Spirit is!
   “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” Acts 10:38

   2. By tradition.
      “Why do you also transgress the commandments of God by your tradition? Thus have you made the commandments of God of none effect by your tradition.” Matthew 15: 3-6
“You do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.” Matthew 22:29

3. By systematized (and some denominational) doctrine.

By taking the tradition of the church according to what has or has not happened, in their view, they match their doctrine by this, thus making the power of God void and of no effect by their teaching and doctrine.

They say, “God does not do this for us today, therefore it must not be true.” Or, “This has passed away because we (do not see it) do not need it today.” Or, “We do not see it among ourselves, so it must not be for everyone.” That was the attitude of the Pharisees who thought they were the only possessors of the truth. Jesus said, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees (Matthew 16:6).

Then scripture like First Corinthians 13:8-10 is taken to try and prove tongues and gifts have passed away.

“Love never fails: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophecy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that, which is in part, shall be done away.”

This again is based upon their own experience and unbelief, not truth. The same scripture answers itself—knowledge has not passed away, neither have any of the other spiritual gifts! No, not until Jesus returns, and then we will have no more need for these tools He gave the church. Paul was talking about the return of Jesus. That is also confirmed by I Corinthians 1:7.

“So that you come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

D. Spiritually Unlearned, I Corinthians 14: 16-23

“Else when you shall bless with the spirit (only), how shall he that occupies the room of the unlearned* say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understands not what you say?”

“If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues (only), and there come in those that art unlearned *, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?”

Unlearned.* The NASB correctly stays with the context and translates the word “unlearned” as ungifted. As you can see from v. 23, this clearly explains the word. You have the (1) unlearned (ungifted), i.e., a saved person, but one who has not experienced this gift and would not know what is going on; and (2) an unbeliever. If they came in and all they did was speak in tongues they would say they were mad. However, remember what Paul was trying to teach in this chapter 3 basic things: first, when the body came together everything was to be done for the purpose of building each other up, and if all they did was speak in tongues and an unlearned or unbeliever came in they could not accomplish that purpose; second, all things were to be done decently and in order, meaning, let there be a time to worship (in the spirit and in the
understanding), prayer, receive the offering, preach, etc., so that there is no confusion and all will be built-up by different parts of the service; third, that tongues as well as all the gifts could be controlled or there would have been no use for his instructions. (The last two items will be handled in more detail in Part Three.)

E. The main area of Misunderstanding is because there are “DIVERS” (different kinds) of tongues, 12: 10 & 28
“... to another divers kinds of tongues.”
“...diversities of tongues,” (various kinds of tongues. NASB, RSV.)

One of the greatest areas of confusion is that when the average person reads the 14th chapter of First Corinthians they see it saying so many different things about tongues they do not know how to discern it. But the above two scriptures shed some light on it. There are “divers”/different kinds; “diversities”/various kinds of tongues. To be specific, in chapter 14 there are three distinctive types of tongues for three distinctive uses. Below is a summary. They will be handled in detail in Part Three.

1. Tongues for a personal use. 14:4a
“For he that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself.”

2. Tongues for a church use. 14:5,27
“I would that ye all spoke with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesied than he that speaks with tongues, except he interprets, that the church may receive edifying. 27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interprets.”

3. Tongues for a sign. 14:22a
“Wherefore tongues are for a sign.”

F. The last and Greatest Reason for Misunderstanding the Gifts of tongues—SPIRITUAL PRIDE! 14:36-39
“What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? 37 If any man think himself to be spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant. 39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophecy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.”

We will conclude this section by asking one last question: “What was the Spirit of the Lord trying to teach us through Paul in chapter 14?”
• He was not trying to teach that spiritual gifts are bad; 14:1 says, “Desire spiritual gifts”
• He was not trying to keep us from speaking in tongues; 14:39 says, “Forbid not to speak in tongues.”
• He was not trying to keep this gift from us; 14:5 NASB says, “I wish that you all spoke in tongues.” 14:18 says, “I thank God that I speak in tongues more than you all.”
• He was not trying to teach tongues were less than any other gift; 14:5 shows that with interpretation it is equal with prophecy.
• He was, in fact, encouraging its use because he knew its benefits; 14:26 says, “How is it then, brethren? when you come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation.”

• He was trying to teach in 14:26c, “Let all things be done unto edifying.” He was trying to teach tongues could be controlled and it is a good and important gift for all and to be used by all!

PART TWO TECHNICAL

• Questions:

3. Chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians deals with what?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

4. Chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians deals with what?

_________________________________

5. Chapter 14 of 1 Corinthians deals with what?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

6. The diver’s ministries in a church are compared with a

_________________________________

7. The body is not made up of one ________, but many ________.

8. The church is not made up of one ____________, but many ____________.

9. There are ________ gifts of the Spirit?

10. When the Holy Spirit manifests His gifts through a believer they are for the ________ of all.

11. The gifts of the Spirit should be mixed with the ________ of the Spirit for them to be most effective.

12. Tongues are of a spiritual nature and not __________ by the mind.

13. Christians who do not have the gift of tongues are called ______________?

14. Paul was trying to tell us there are ________ basic teachings in Chapter 14. Name them:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

15. There are ________ kinds of tongues. List them:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Bible Study:
1. 1 Corinthians 14:36-40.
   a. What are Paul’s teachings called?
      _______________________________________
   b. Can a person fighting this teaching be considered as one with spiritual
discernment?
      _______________________________________
   c. Write the first five words in v. 40: _______________________________
   d. Write the five last words in v. 40: _______________________________
      i. The first five words tell you _________ is to be done.
      ii. The last five words tell you __________ is to be done.

2. 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. List the 9 spiritual gifts.
   a. _______________________________
   b. _______________________________
   c. _______________________________
   d. _______________________________
   e. _______________________________
   f. _______________________________
   g. _______________________________
   h. _______________________________
   i. _______________________________

   a. In order, list the ways we can build up each other.
      i. _______________________________
      ii. _______________________________
      iii. _______________________________
      iv. _______________________________
      v. _______________________________
   b. What is Paul trying to teach us here?
      _______________________________________

__________________________________________________________________
PART THREE—PRACTICAL

Understanding and Using the Misunderstood Gift of Tongues.

The word practical is from the word practice. In this part we will be answering the question: “What good are tongues for me personally, and what are their benefits?”

Tongues are a gift God has given to be “practiced” everyday. It is one of the personal means that God made available for believers to be SPIRITUALLY BUILT UP. However, if this gift is not received or exercised, it will not produce any personal benefit to you.

Another purpose for this section is to help you understand how practical this gift is, how it works, and to build your faith which will encourage your use of it, thereby receiving its benefits.

I. THEY ARE A GIFT FROM GOD AND WE ARE TO DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS,

14:1

“Follow after love, and desire spiritual gifts.” 1 Cor. 14:1

A. The gifts of the Spirit are the tools of the church to do the works of Jesus.

B. Jesus was anointed with the Spirit and He did His Father’s work by the Spirit alone.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted; to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of the sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” Luke 4:18-19.

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.” Acts 10:8.

“But If I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.” Matthew 12:28, see context 12:22-33.

C. On the day of Pentecost Christ’s church was anointed with the same Spirit to do the same works, and greater works. John 14:12

1. The entire book of Acts confirms that!

2. Hebrews 13:8 says Jesus and His body are to remain the same, as well as we are still in the “acceptable year of the Lord,” and it still takes the same Holy Spirit anointing to get the work done!

D. Not only are we to desire spiritual gifts, but also we are to “covet earnestly the best gifts” that will assist your ministry. 12:30

E. We should also be “zealous of spiritual gifts,” “to excel in the building up of the church,” 14:12.
II. THEY ARE USED TO SPEAK TO GOD, 14:2
   “For he that speaks in an unknown tongue speaks not unto men, but unto God: for no man understands him; howbeit in the spirit he speaks mysteries.”

   A. Praying (speaking) in tongues is your personal private “hot-line” to heaven.

   B. Tongues should be exercised when your prayers of understanding (English or whatever) seem not to be reaching the “ceiling.” Then you will know you are communicating with God, no matter how you feel!

   C. When you are praying in tongues, no man, nor demon spirit, knows what you are praying—they are private and personal.

   D. They are given then, for your own personal communication with God.

God is the one who put tongues in place, not man or the devil. They are a spiritual gift from Him; a spiritual language for us whereby our spirit communicates with Him. God is a spirit, therefore, when we are praying in tongues we are spiritually communing with Him. “The Spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak!”

III. THEY ARE USED TO “PRAY IN THE SPIRIT,” 14:2c
   “Howbeit in the spirit he speaks mysteries.”

   A. When you are praying in tongues you are “praying in the spirit.”

      1. John the Revelator was “in the spirit” worshipping God on the Lord’s day when Jesus appeared to him. Rev. 1:10

      2. We are to “pray in the spirit” as our defense (more like offense) against the enemy in this life of spiritual warfare. Eph. 6:18

   B. To pray “in the spirit” means to be praying spirit prompted prayers from the heart, not the head.

This can also happen in your known language. As a matter of fact, that is a type of prophecy, when a message comes from the spirit and not the head. However, that is not what he is speaking about here. He is strictly speaking of praying in tongues.

   C. When you are praying “in the spirit” you are speaking mysteries. W.E. Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words explains the word “mysteries.” “In the NT it denotes, not the mysterious (as with the English word), but that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by Divine
revelation, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those who are illumined by His Spirit.” (p. 97)

1. This is saying as we pray “in the spirit,” or tongues, God can actually reveal to our mind what we are “praying in the spirit.”

2. Dr. Vine goes on to define another important truth: “Those who were initiated into these ‘mysteries’ become possessors of certain knowledge, which was not imparted to the uninitiated...”

   a. This explains why those not baptized with the Spirit do not understand speaking in tongues—it is a mystery to them—it is something you must experience, like being born again.

   b. Number 1 above, proves a very important point. After a person becomes established in this gift and begins to walk in it by faith, rather than thinking they must understand what they are saying and do it for obedience sake, rather than understanding, then God is at liberty to begin to reveal to your mind what your spirit is praying. This is one way God reveals His will to us, as well as many other spiritual things.

IV. THEY ARE GIVEN TO EDIFY ME—PERSONALLY, 14:4a
“He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself.”

A. Edify means to spiritually build up.

B. In other words, they are given as a personal tool to spiritually build (strengthen) yourself. They are to be used as a spiritual exercise for building oneself up in spiritual strength.

   1. Some have said that it is selfish. No that is not so! God gave them for this reason and it does not make sense not to use them for what God gave them.

   2. We cannot effectively build up others until we are built up ourselves. That is why babies are not parents.

   3. Tongues can be pictured as a (spiritual) battery charger.

      a. When our battery (spirit) gets down, we can put the battery charger (tongues) to work and build our battery (spirit) back up!

      b. Then after we are built up we can become as a pair of jumper cables and lay hands on others and build them up! Mark 16:17f.
V. THEY ARE GIVEN TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH*, 14:5

“I would that ye all speak with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesies than he that speaks with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.”

A. The gift of “Tongues for Church Use” comes through a “Spirit baptized” believer who has an inner prompting of the Spirit.

1. He then releases himself to speak in tongues signifying God has a message for the church.

2. Then an English (or whatever is the common language) interpretation will come forth completing God’s message for the church. This is God speaking directly to that group.

3. Again, this comes from an inner prompting of the Spirit, not from some outward “feeling,” or from being “seized” by the Spirit. The spirit of a person is to be controlled by the person (14:32) and is not forced to speak out in tongues. Tongues are to be controlled by the believer.

B. Tongues are equal to prophecy with the interpretation.

“EXCEPT he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.”

*Up to number V we have been dealing with tongues for personal use. 14:5 deals with “Tongues for Church Use,” and 14:22 deals with “Tongues as a Sign.” Everything else in Part Three is dealing with “Tongues for Personal Use.”

1. It has been said by the “unlearned” that tongues are the “least of all gifts,” but the key word “except” show they are equal to prophecy, which makes them as important as prophecy.

a. Also notice he said the gift of tongues are to be “interpreted,” which shows in most cases it is not a known language, but a heavenly language which must be interpreted, not translated.

b. In most cases, the length of tongues and the interpretation are not the same, because it is not a translation, but God speaking to His people.

C. Take special notice here: It is God’s will for ALL to speak with tongues. “I would that ye all speak with tongues.”

1. The New American Standard Bible makes this even clearer. “I wish that you all spoke in tongues.”
2. This is a commandment of the Lord, not Paul, 14:37.

D. The last phrase in verse 5 reveals the key to understanding chapter. It was written “that the church may receive edifying.”

E. This is an important gift and should be in operation in all churches. Then many times we would know if we were hearing from God or man. Plus, a message in tongues can give much confirmation, assurance, and guidance along with council, prayer and the written word of God. The Spirit and the Word always agree. Since tongues with interpretation are equal, remember what Paul said in I Thessalonians 5:19-21.

“Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesying, Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

VI. THEY ARE GIVEN FOR YOUR PERSONAL USE AND CONTROL, 14:14
“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.”

NOTE: Verses 14 and 15 are the key to understanding the personal gift of tongues. Once these are understood a person can freely enter into their benefits with ease and confidence.

A. Verse 14 says three basic things:

1. ‘For if I pray in an unknown tongue’s 14a,
   —You are doing the praying.

   —That means the real you—your spirit inside you (the one who leaves your body when you die)—is praying.

3. “But my understanding is unfruitful.” 14c.
   —This is saying when you are praying in tongues, your mind (natural understanding), does not know what you are praying (or saying).

   —In other words, it says, “When I am praying in tongues, my spirit is praying and it is coming from my spirit, not my head. As a matter of fact, my head does not even understand or know the language, because it is coming from the real me—my spirit—which is communicating with God.”

   a. When you pray in tongues (in the spirit) you do not speak a language of, or from the head (mind), but a language of, and from the spirit of God.
      —It bypasses the mind and you do not think it up, or make it up from the head—that is why you do not understand it—it is a spiritual thing, not a carnal (fleshly) thing!

   b. Just as English is the voice of your mind, praying in tongues is the voice of your spirit. The Amplified Bible says, “my spirit by the Holy Spirit within me prays.”
You and the Holy Spirit together are praying to God! That ties in with Romans 8:26, 27 which we will see later. That is also why “praying in tongues” and “praying with tongues” are used interchangeably. You are praying in tongues and you are praying with the spirit.

B. The miracle in speaking in tongues is not that you speak, because you have to speak. The miracle is that you speak in a language from your spirit, not the head, a spiritual language that you have not been taught!

C. This is like the miracle of creation. God spoke and the world was created. With tongues, you speak and God creates a language, which comes from your spirit, tongue and lips.

D. This is like the miracle of Peter walking on the water. There was no miracle in Peter walking, he had to walk, but the miracle was Jesus made the water hard under his feet. Even so with tongues, you speak, but Jesus gives you the language (syllables/utterance). The biggest robber of this spiritual gift is fear and just as Peter took his eyes off Jesus and began to sink, even so fear will rob you of the benefits as you take your eyes off Jesus and His Word. You speak; He gives you the language. To repeat, as English is the voice of the mind, praying in tongues is the voice of the spirit that you speak, just as you would English.

VII. THEY ARE USED BY AN ACT OF YOUR WILL, 14:15

“What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”

A. In connection with verse 14, Paul asks the question, “What is it then?” He has just stated that when he prays in tongues his mind is unfruitful, so he is exclaiming, “Very well then.” (Moffatt Trans.) “I will do both!”

1. He will pray in tongues for its many benefits.

2. He will pray in understanding for its many benefits also.

   a. Notice it was Paul praying in tongues.

   b. It was done by an act of his will, “I WILL.”

B. This is the key that unlocks the door to many misunderstood questions, and it reveals one of their great truths:

1. Tongues are to be controlled by the praying individual, just as prayer in English (or, understanding) is.

2. How?
a. By an act of my will—anytime I want—“I will pray with the spirit.”

b. Just as by an act of my will—anytime I want—“I will pray with my understanding also.”

3. Just as praying in English is left up to our will, so is praying in tongues. God does not force us to pray in English, nor will He force us to pray in tongues.

4. Many are waiting on God and saying, “When God wants me to, I will pray in tongues.”

—No, that is not so. God has left it up to you.
—His will has already been revealed, “I wish you all spoke in tongues.” He is showing you as plain as He can so you do not have to be “unlearned” about it and miss its personal edification.
—God is waiting for you to do what you are waiting for Him to do!
—You must speak—by an act of your will. “I will pray with the spirit.”

C. Paul is saying here that when you are praying with your spirit your mind does not understand what you are saying to God; he will, therefore, do both types of praying. He will pray with his understanding, his intellect, then he will know for what he has prayed. He is putting great value on both types of prayer. He said, “I thank my God I speak in tongues more than you all.” (14:18) He was not going to miss out on their worth!

VIII. THEY ARE USED BY AN ACT OF YOUR WILL TO BUILD YOUR FAITH, 14:15
“...I will pray with the spirit...”

A. At the end of the New Testament a key truth is revealed, Jude 20
“But, ye beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.”

B. How does praying in the spirit build up your faith?

1. Because when you are praying in tongues YOU are doing it by an act of your will, 14:15.

2. Because when you are praying in tongues your understanding is unfruitful, 14:14.

3. Therefore, when you are praying in tongues, YOU ARE DOING IT BY FAITH (by your will, from your heart, not your head).

HERE IS THE KEY...you are ACTING on the WORD OF GOD; “He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself!”
This is what builds you and your faith up—acting on the very word of God!

This is the area where and why most people are robbed, because they do not know or realize that speaking in tongues is done by faith. And by doing so, this produces all of what God’s word promises!

“But, ye beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost. He that prays in an unknown tongue edifies himself!”

Again, God has given this gift for everyone. He is waiting for you to receive it and use it.

IX. THEY ARE USED AS A METHOD TO SING UNTO GOD, 14:15

“...I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

A. They are to be used in our worship unto God. This is one way to sing a “new song” unto the Lord. This makes our worship more creative and more expressive unto the Lord. Anyone who has heard a whole church worship the Lord by singing in tongues can truly say they have heard a “heavenly language.”

B. Also, Paul was not ashamed to state he sang unto God in his known language and his unknown language. Apparently this was a normal part of their worship because he did not take the time to explain it, as he has speaking in tongues. Let us return to the full Biblical worship.

X. THEY ARE A METHOD TO KEEP TOTAL SELF OUT OF THE PRAYER LIFE AND PRAY IN THE WILL OF GOD.

A. When you are praying in the spirit you are scripturally building yourself up, but your mind does not understand the communication between your spirit and God. As this is taking place, your spirit with the Holy Spirit, are praying pure prayers unto the Lord.

B. This is confirmed in Romans 8:26,27.

“Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searches the hearts known what is the mind of the Spirit, because he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

1. The Spirit helps our (human) weaknesses.

2. Our natural mind does not always comprehend the things of God, therefore, many times we do not know how to pray.

3. The Spirit and our spirit together make intercession for our needs (and sometimes for others also.)

4. In this type praying, God searches the heart, and keeps wrong prayers and motives out.
5. And best of all, this praying is done totally in the will of God!

XI. THEY ARE USED TO BLESS GOD IN WORSHIP, 14:16.

NOTE: Benefits 11 and 12 are rarely understood because many read verse 16 in the negative, rather than keeping with the context. To better understand verse 16, and in keeping with the context of what Paul is teaching we will use the New American Standard Bible:

“Otherwise if you bless in the spirit ONLY, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say ‘Amen’ at your giving of thanks, since he does know what you are saying?”

They supply the word “only” to keep within the context of the teaching. Paul was not saying tongues were wrong, but he was saying if all you did were speak in tongues, only you would benefit; the others would get nothing more out of the service, and sure enough, people who did not understand would call you mad.

That is the negative point Paul is trying to stress in 14:6 also. “Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you...” That is to say, if all he did was come and speak in tongues how would anyone learn anything from him. Even so in verse 16, this is the negative-- if all they were doing was blessing God in tongues, how would they or anyone else receive anything from the service. That was the problem; some of the Corinthians knew praying in tongues blessed God (as well as themselves) so Paul was teaching order and control, as well as value.

However, do not forget the great value, the positive; Paul is teaching there should be a time set aside to offer blessings and thanksgiving unto God in tongues. 14:40 “Let everything be done decently and in order.”

1. Let everything be done! That includes tongues.
   “Forbid not to speak with tongues.” 14:39

2. Decently. The sophisticated modern day, impotent church has placed so much emphasis on “decency” it has forgotten how to worship.

3. And in order. The teaching is that there is a time and place for everything in each service, then all will be built up and ministered to. Do not leave out anything - tongues, worshipping, singing, gifts, collection, preaching, ministering, etc.

XII. THEY ARE USED TO OFFER THANKSGIVING UNTO GOD, 14:16,17.

“Else when you shall bless with the spirit (only), how shall he that occupies the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of things, seeing he understands not what you say? For you verily give thanks well, but the other is not edified.”

A. In verse 17 Paul positively states it is well to give thanks unto God by praying in tongues. As a matter of fact, you can see from the strong words it is encouraged.
B. Again in keeping with the context of chapter 14, we see those words, “but the other is not edified.” He is not putting down offering God thanksgiving in tongues, because he states it is well to do that. He is saying, if that was all you were doing, others would receive no value from them and the church would not be accomplishing its purpose for gathering.

C. It is good to give God thanks in tongues! But do it correctly. It is wonderful how God has given His unthankful people another channel in which to offer Him thanksgiving! May we practice it often and be a blessing to Him.

XIII. THEY ARE USED AS A SIGN, 14:21,22.

“In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, said the Lord. Wherefore tongues ape for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not.”

A. First, they were prophesied by Isaiah, 28:11,12.

“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith you shall cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing.”

1. God said they are to be used for:

   a. To speak to His People. That is exactly what happened Acts 2:1-13. “We do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.” v. 11.

      (1) They, each one, heard them speak of the wonderful works of God in their own language. (Over 14 languages were listed).

      (2) The miracle was not in the speaking, but in the hearing of the unbelievers. vv. 6 & 11

         (a) “They heard them speak in his own language.” v.6

         (b) The disciples were speaking in “tongues.” v. 4

   b. They are to cause rest for the weary.

   c. They are to cause refreshing.

2. Paul said they are for a sign. 14:22


   “And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.” v.17.
4. They are to be a sign to the unbeliever.
-From personal experience this can be meant in two ways:

a. First, to the unbelieving lost.

(1) Again, that is what happened on the day of Pentecost:
-On that day it was a sign that God had fulfilled His promise by speaking to them in tongues.
-It was also a sign that Jesus had been exalted and ascended to the right hand of the Father and had sent the promise of the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:32-33. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost he has shed forth this, which you now see and hear.”
-It is still a sign today and has the same proof when you receive the promise of the Holy Spirit.
-Again, on the day of Pentecost they spoke in tongues; the miracle to the unbelievers was that they “heard” in their own language. Acts 10:44-46 and 11:15-17 show it is the same gift for they received the like gift as we did, v. 17, because they heard them speak in tongues, not languages.

(2) From my personal experience:
-One night in a prayer meeting I spoke out in my own personal tongue and a lost Jewish fellow heard me in Hebrew. They were my “tongues,” but he “heard” them in Hebrew.
-Several times I have spoken in my own private tongues in a meeting and been “heard” in English.
-In a meeting I was conducting in Roanoke, Va., the pastor’s wife was at the altar praying in tongues with a lady and a lost woman heard her in Italian. Later in the service, she came forward and told about it and was saved because of it. Jesus spoke to her!
-Several times when singing in the spirit, I have been heard in Spanish. I do not speak Spanish and in each case I was singing in my regular tongues unto the Lord.

(3) Again, from my personal experience:
-The day I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, they sang and worshipped God in tongues and then a lady gave a message in tongues with the interpretation. Then I knew the gift was from God and knew He was speaking to His children. This opened the door for me to receive.
-In giving my testimony to a group I spoke in tongues and a young Christian man broke down and started crying because he said he knew that was from God, not me, and he asked for this gift also.

B. Second, it can mean those who are “unbelieving” in the gift, even though they are saved.
C. This really is a great gift from God! We should stop limiting God and open our hearts and let Him use us anyway He likes.

-I know of a man whom God impressed to speak in tongues while he was riding along in a car with a lady. After he finally obeyed, the lost Jewish lady heard him in Hebrew and got saved!

D. TECHNICALLY, God also could use this gift in the assembly without an interpretation, because it could be a sign to an unbeliever, or it could be for someone else to hear in another language.

XIV. THEY ARE THE BELIEVERS SUPERNATURAL CREDENTIALS, Mark 16:15f

“And he said unto them, You go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”

The baptism of the Holy Spirit was, and still is, the enduement of power for the individual members of the body of Christ to do the works of Jesus.

Jesus is the same. His word is the same. Where you find believers obeying His word, there you find the Lord working and confirming His word with signs following.

Almost exclusively only those baptized with the Spirit exhibit these supernatural credentials found in Mark 16. As a matter of fact, those without the baptism of the Holy Spirit usually do everything within their power to discredit these credentials.

An amazing thing happens when an unbelieving believer receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit. All of a sudden they also believe in these supernatural credentials that did not exist before they had the baptism!

There are other benefits, but now it is my prayer that you will receive this gift yourself and begin to walk in these things God has provided for you. Then as you study the subject, He will show you other benefits also.
HOW TO RECEIVE

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.
Acts 2.38,39

By now it should be a simple step for you to enter right into what God has provided for you, because you have been studying His word on the subject (“Faith comes by hearing the word of God”).

All you have to do now is to receive what God has promised you and act your faith and it is yours!

A. You must first be saved. John 3:3 and 1:12

B. You must be hungry for more of God and be willing to obey Him. Matthew 5:6 and John 7:37-39.

C. You must accept God's word and be willing to act on it:

1. ACCEPT the promise of the Holy Spirit on the basis of the promise in God's word. Acts 2:38-39

2. ASK in faith, believing the promise for the gift of the Holy Spirit and expect to receive. Luke 11:13

3. ACT your faith on the word of God. Start speaking in a language you have never learned.
   -Remember, James said, “Faith without works (action) is dead.”
   -Remember, do just as Paul did. Say, “I will pray with the spirit” and do it!

The scriptural evidence of having received the baptism with the Holy Spirit is the sign of speaking with a new tongue as the Spirit gives you the words to utter/speak.

“(They) spoke with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” The Spirit gives you the utterance, but YOU must do the speaking. Determine not to speak a word of English. Do not try to praise God with your understanding, just lift up the sound of your voice and the Holy Spirit will begin to give you syllables, phrases and words supernaturally in other tongues.

Do not be concerned about “what you say,” as the language does not come from the mind or intellect, but through the spirit as the Holy Spirit anoints you to speak what He gives. In faith, you must put your vocal or speech faculties into operation as you do the speaking in any language. However, in this case it is the Holy Spirit who will give you the words. It will come from your spirit (heart), not your head; your part is to speak the new spiritual language He has given you.
Remember that receiving the Holy Spirit is an act of faith, and this promise is to be appropriated in the same way as all of God's promises, such as salvation. Some have failed to receive because they have not understood this. They were looking for some “feeling,” “anointing,” or “emotional experience” before they would believe they had received the baptism. We are to receive by faith, and then as we act out faith, the evidence and assurance will follow.

**RECEIVE YE THE HOLY GHOST** and act your faith!
PART THREE: PRACTICAL

• Questions:
  1. Tongues are a God given gift to be practiced __________ every day.
  2. We are told to __________ spiritual gifts.
  3. When you are speaking in tongues, you are speaking unto _____ and your understanding is ________________.
  4. Just as English is the voice of the mind, __________ is the voice of the Spirit.
  5. When you are praying in tongues, you are __________ on the Word of God and this builds your ________________________.
  6. When you are praying in tongues, you are __________ yourself.
  7. Tongues are a way to ______________ God and offer __________________ unto Him.
  8. __________ will follow believers!
  9. Tongues are to be used to cause the weary to _________ and is to be a refreshing ________________________________.

• BibleStudy:
  1. 1 Corinthians 14:3.
      a. What are the three things that prophecy does?
         i. ________________________________
         ii. ________________________________
         iii. ________________________________
      b. With interpretation, tongues are equal to prophecy. Therefore, can tongues serve to do the same things? ____ Yes ____ No
  2. 1 Corinthians 14:18-19.
      a. Did Paul use his gift often? Write out answer:
         _____________________________________________________________________
      b. Yet in the church what was his goal? _________________________________
  3. 1 Corinthians 14:27-33.
      a. Are tongues to be controlled? ________________________________ (v. 27-28).
      b. Is prophecy also to be controlled? ________________________________ (v. 29).
      c. Prophecy is important that we must __________ and be ____________ (v.31).
d. The spirit is to be _________ by the person. v. 32

e. God is dealing with the ____________, where ALL things are in order brings His ________________________________.
PART FOUR: PREACHING OUTLINE

THE STUDY GUIDE TO
THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND
THE MISUNDERSTOOD GIFT OF TONGUES

Part One—Historical

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a personal and separate experience for each BELIEVER beyond salvation (after being born again, receiving the Word of God).

1. The Holy Spirit baptizes us all into the body of Christ at the time of salvation. 1 Corinthians 12:13
2. Jesus baptizes us with the Holy Spirit for service. John 1:33

Our Examples:

I. JESUS
A. Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18-20
B. Jesus was then baptized with the Holy Spirit for service. Matthew 3:16 (Also Luke 3:22; Mark 1:10)

II. JOHN THE BAPTIST
A. John was born full of the Holy Spirit. Luke 1:15
C. But when Jesus came to John, John confessed his need to be baptized by Jesus with the Holy Spirit. See context of Matthew 3:11-14.

III. THE DISCIPLES
A. To follow Jesus, they all had been baptized in water for the remission of sins—that’s salvation. Luke 3.
B. They already had their names written in Heaven—that confirms their salvation. Luke 10:20 (Read context, Luke 17-20)
C. They were COMMANDED to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for service—to enable them to preach and do the works Jesus did. They were to receive this before they could be witnesses of a Living Lord. Acts 1:4, 8
D. On the day of Pentecost EACH ONE of them received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2: 1-4
E. The Promise is for you today! Acts 2:39

A. They were saved under the preaching of Philip. Acts 8:12
B. After they received “the Word” the Apostle’s were sent down “that they might receive the Holy Ghost”—separate experience from salvation. vv. 14-17
A. Paul was saved on the road to Damascus when he confessed Jesus as Lord. See context Acts 9:1-9
B. Three days later Paul was “filled with the Holy Spirit.” See context Acts 9:10-20
C. We know this was the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (the gift of the Holy Spirit) because, Acts 19:1-6; I Corinthians 14: 14; 18.

A. Cornelius was a just and righteous man who feared God, Acts 10:1-7
B. They were saved when they believed on the preaching of Jesus and received the Word. Acts 10:43,44
C. They also received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit--every one of them. Acts 10:45,46
   1. Peter and the other Jews who went with him knew they had received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit because they had the evidence. v. 45
   2. They received the same Baptism with the Spirit the disciples did at the beginning (Pentecost). Acts 11: 14-16.

VII. THE EPHESIANS, Acts 19:1-6
A. They were already disciples, 19:1.
B. They, like many today, had not even heard of the gift of the Holy Spirit, 19:2.
C. They had been saved--washed for the remission of sin with John’s baptism of repentance, 19:3,4.
D. They were baptized in the name of Jesus, by Paul, to identify their belief in Jesus the Christ.
E. Then in a separate experience, after they had been water baptized--Paul laid hands on them and they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, 19:5,6.
F. They received the evidence too, “They spoke in tongues and prophesied,” 19:6.
G. By faith you can receive this wonderful gift too!
   “And you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” Acts 2:39

God forbid if we miss this gift.
Jesus is God’s Gift to the World.
The Holy Spirit is God’s Gift to the Church!

Part Two - Technical
The Misunderstood Gift of Tongues

I. THE FIRST REASON FOR MISUNDERSTANDING THE GIFT OF TONGUES IS THAT FIRST CORINTHIANS CHAPTERS 12 THROUGH 14 ARE MISUNDERSTOOD.
A. Chapter 12 deals with the Gifts of God, the Body of Christ, and Ministries within the Church.
B. Chapter 13 shows all gifts must work in love, 13:1-3
C. Chapter 14 is the Key Chapter to Understanding the Misunderstood gift of tongues for it deals with order in the church and all things – in the public assembly - are to be done for edification of the whole, 14:4-5, 12, 26 & 40.

II. THE SECOND REASON FOR MISUNDERSTANDING THE GIFT OF TONGUES IS OF A SPIRITUAL NATURE.
A. Tongues are of the Spiritual Nature and bypass the mind, 1 Cor 14:14.
B. Many are Spiritually Ignorant of the Gifts, 12:1
C. Many are Spiritually Blinded:
   1. By Satan, 2 Cor 4:4.
   2. By Tradition, Matt 15:3-6.
   3. By systematized (and some denominational) doctrine, like misinterpreting 1 Cor 13:8-10.
D. Many are Spiritually Unlearned, I Corinthians 14: 16-23
E. The main area of Misunderstanding is because there are “DIVERS” (different kinds) of tongues, 12: 10 & 28.
   1. Tongues for a personal use. 14:4a.
   2. Tongues for a church use. 14:5,27.
F. The last and the Greatest Reason for Misunderstanding the Gifts of tongues--SPIRITUAL PRIDE! 14:36-39

Part Three—Practical Understanding and Using the Misunderstood Gift of Tongues.

The word practical is from the word practice. In this part we will be answering the question: “What good are tongues for me personally, and what are their benefits?” (All scripture references from 1 Corinthians 14 unless otherwise noted.)

I. THEY ARE A GIFT FROM GOD AND WE ARE TO DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS, 14:1.

II. THEY ARE USED TO SPEAK TO GOD, 14:2.

III. THEY ARE USED TO “PRAY IN THE SPIRIT,” 14:2c.

IV. THEY ARE GIVEN TO EDIFY ME—PERSONALLY, 14:4a.
V. THEY ARE GIVEN TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH - FOR THEY ARE EQUAL TO PROPHECY, WITH INTERPRETATION, 14:5.

VI. THEY ARE GIVEN FOR YOUR PERSONAL USE AND CONTROL, 14:14.

VII. THEY ARE USED BY AN ACT OF YOUR WILL, 14:15.

VIII. THEY ARE USED BY AN ACT OF YOUR WILL TO BUILD YOUR FAITH, 14:15.

IX. THEY ARE USED AS A METHOD TO SING UNTO GOD, 14:15.

X. THEY ARE A METHOD TO KEEP TOTAL SELF OUT OF THE PRAYER LIFE AND PRAY IN THE WILL OF GOD, 14:4, 14, 15; Jude 20 & Romans 8:26-27.

XI. THEY ARE USED TO BLESS GOD IN WORSHIP, 14:16.

XII. THEY ARE USED TO OFFER THANKSGIVING UNTO GOD, 14:16, 17.

XIII. THEY ARE USED AS A SIGN, 14:21, 22.

XIV. THEY ARE THE BELIEVERS SUPERNATURAL CREDENTIALS, Mark 16:15-20!

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit was, and still is, the enduement of power for the individual members of the body of Christ to do the works of Jesus. (John 14:12)

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   1. ACCEPT the promise of the Holy Spirit on the basis of the promise in God's word, Acts 2:38, 39.
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