

Speaking of Tongues

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Corinthians 14:1-25.
- B. The issue of tongues is a controversial issue among Christians today.

II. Love is to be the basic biblical reason for exercising a spiritual gift.

- A. Love is the hunger to reach out for someone else's benefit.
- B. Building up others is the issue in this chapter.
- C. To this end, believers are to desire spiritual gifts.
- D. Prophesying, which is the explanation of God's word for present concerns, is the most important gift for edification.

III. Tongues.

- A. This is the normal word for a language—it is the supernatural gift for learning languages not previously known.
- B. The tongue is never addressed to men—it is always addressed to God.
- C. It consists of prayer, praise and thanksgiving to God.

IV. Prophesying is explaining life through God's viewpoint.

- A. It builds people up.
- B. It supports a person.
- C. It comforts.

V. The benefit of prophesying and speaking in tongues.

- A. The one prophesying benefits the church.
- B. The one speaking in tongues benefits the individual only. The tongue must be interpreted so that the church might be edified.

VI. The result of un-interpreted tongues.

- A. It is of no benefit to the church.
 - 1. One must have an explanation or something is of no value at all.

2. Speaking in tongues is a public demonstration.

3. The Jewish synagogue would have been an appropriate place for tongues because it would have impressed the Jews from a different language standpoint.

4. Paul warns to stay away from pagan religious practices but to grow in one's spiritual gifts.

B. The gift of tongues is a sign gift.

1. Tongues are not intended for the church.

2. They are for unbelievers.

VII. Today's "tongues."

A. They are not languages.

B. They are often not spoken to God.

C. They are not public.

D. They are not a sign to others.

E. People have fallen into a self-induced hypnosis, and this is being identified with the gift of tongues.

Application questions:

1. What was the purpose of tongues in the church? What was the purpose of prophecy?

2. What arguments does the speaker present that question modern "tongues?" Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

3. Whether one believes in the modern gift of tongues or not, what important principles arise from the chapter that both camps can apply to their lives? Explain.
