

The True Gift of Tongues

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Acts 2-16, I Corinthians 12-14.
- B. There is a true gift of tongues and there is a false one.
- C. It is the mark of Christian maturity to distinguish between good and evil.

II. The testing of good and evil is never experience, but it is Scripture.

III. Tongues have been treated more exhaustively than it deserves since it is not dealt with clearly at length in the Scriptures.

IV. Characteristics of tongues.

- A. They are definite, known languages not gibberish.
- B. Tongues are a matter of prophesy—they are a reversal of the curse of Babel.
- C. Tongues were directed to God and not man.
- D. Tongues are a sign to unbelievers present although they are directed to God.
- E. Tongues are the choice of the Spirit—it is not for everyone. (I Corinthians 12:11)
- F. Not everyone is expected to speak in tongues--it is not *the* manifestation of the Spirit.
- G. When it is exercised in the church, it must be interpreted—it is for the common good.
- H. When the gift of interpretation is not exercised after a tongue, the purpose is utterly lost. Tongues should never happen in church without interpretation. (Isaiah 28)

Application questions:

1. What has been your experience with tongues or with those who have claimed to exercise them?

2. How would you respond to someone who says that speaking in tongues is the test of whether one is a true believer? Explain.

3. Which characteristics for the true gift of tongues do you find the most helpful? Explain.
