

# The Gift of Tongues

1. Last week we compared...the **first** feast...of Pentecost...at mount Sinai...to the **first** feast of Pentecost of the new church
  - a. It was amazing to see...how the announcements of the two different covenants started in very similar fashion
  - b. With Moses teaching the covenant of the law or works...and Peter teaching the covenant of grace through the finished work of the cross
  - c. John 1:17 tells us...the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ
  - d. Last week the Lord had me cut my sermon into 2 teachings...this is part 2
  - e. I wanted to include in last weeks sermon...some of the things to notice about the gifts of the Holy Spirit...yes plural...gifts of the HS
  - f. 3 weeks ago...we looked at the 3 different workings of the Holy Spirit...when the Spirit comes along side us...then indwells us...at salvation
  - g. Then according to Acts 1:8...the Holy Spirit comes upon us
  - h. The next work of the HS...is to give the church body different HS giftings...that will produce fruit in our lives...and the body of Christ
  - i. I think the best way to understand...some of these giftings...is to see the purpose of why God gives these HS giftings to us
2. 1 Cor 12:4-7, 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 (**check this out**) **for the profit of all**: NKJV

3. Slide...Spiritual gifts are given so we can help each other
  - a. God has a plan for the church...and God has a plan for each one of us
  - b. God gives us the power of the Holy Spirit...to accomplish the plans He has for us...but realize...it is for a single purpose...to help each other
  - c. Jesus tells us...the law of Moses...can be summed up in 2 things...love God ...and love your neighbor
  - d. When we help each other...it is only because of the Holy Spirit working in our lives...and if it is motivated by love...then it brings glory to God
  - e. So the purpose the gifts of the Holy Spirit...are to bring glory to God...especially when we are helping each other...and loving each other
  - f. Later in Acts 2...Peter is going to stand up to speak...after the HS comes upon the 120 disciples...with the gift of tongues
  - g. Notice Peter doesn't stand up and say...isn't our church great...because we speak in tongues
  - h. No...He brings the focus to scripture...teaches prophecy...and tells them of Jesus's new covenant of grace
  - i. But God is a multi-tasking God...God **wants to use each of us** His servants...like Peter...to accomplish His plan for the world
  - j. So when the Holy Spirit comes upon our church today...He gives us 9 different gifts...that produce fruit...that in turn brings glory to God
  - k. Here are the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit found in scripture

4. 1 Cor 12:8-11, 8 for 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 (**How**) **as He wills**. NKJV
- a. Obtaining the different gifts of the Spirit...is not the goal for the Christian ...loving God and each other is the goal
  - b. If we can do those 2 things...the rest will happen as the Lord sees fit
  - c. God gives these giftings...so we can help each other...to become one body
5. 1 Cor 12:27-13:3, 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. 28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, and varieties of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a **more excellent way**. 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men **and of angels**, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but 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, but have not love, it profits me nothing.  
NKJV.

- a. God gives these different gifts...to His people...so they can help each...and love each other
  - b. When we serve others...we are acting like Christ who served us to death ...who loved us so much...it caused Christ to willingly die for our sin
  - c. That the Father thought it was good...to give His one and only Son...as a sacrifice...on a cross...so you and me...can be forgiven of our sins
  - d. When we use our Spiritual gifts to serve others...we show others...the same love that Christ showed us
  - e. But again God is a multi-tasking God...when we serve others...our own hearts...start to be changed...
  - f. Jesus said...if you want to be my disciple...then turn from your selfish ways...pick up your cross daily...and follow me
  - g. God's ultimate goal for us...is our sanctification in HIM
  - h. I hear all the time...why do I need to go to church to be a Christian...here is a perfect example of why...so the Holy Spirit can use us to help each other
  - i. What good is a Holy Spirit gift...if it doesn't produce fruit in your own life
  - j. Fruit only truly happens when...we love others and serve others...like Christ served us
  - k. Here are also 9 fruits of the Spirit
6. Gal 5:22-26, 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is

no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 **If** we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. NKJV

7. Slide...The Holy Spirit giftings produce fruit in the believer
  - a. God's plan...for all of us...is to move forward...towards true sanctification
  - b. When we follow God...we start the process of being molded and shaped
  - c. Where we are being transformed into this new creation...not only in salvation...
  - d. But in learning how to reflect the Love...that Christ has shown us
  - e. Understand it is a process...a combination of the word of God...and our experiences with the Holy Spirit...and our experiences with each other
  - f. Here is a saying I heard...I think it is important enough to repeat
  - g. To much of the word...and you will dry up...to much of the Holy Spirit...you will blow up...enough of both...and you will grow up
  - h. In Acts chapter 2...we learned last week...the 120 disciples of Christ are in the upper room...and the Holy Spirit comes upon them
  - i. Then the HS gifts them...with the ability to speak "the wonderful works of God"...in foreign languages
  - j. Last week I made it clear...that the reason the 120 spoke in tongues...was to get the attention of the traveling pilgrims
  - k. Not so the 120 could preach the gospel in tongues...but rather the wonderous workings of God...for the purpose of getting their attention
  - l. So Peter could then...stand up...teach the scriptures...and preach the gospel

m. Next...I want to show us the things we can learn about the Holy Spirit and the gifts of tongues...in Acts chapter 2

8. Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. NKJV

a. Last week I covered...the when...this event happened...during Pentecost

b. But I didn't get the opportunity to show how the Holy Spirit came

c. There are two things I want to point out about this one-time...non repeatable event...during the first Pentecost of the brand new church

d. First...the HS was audible...by a sound coming from heaven...sounding like a rushing mighty wind...that filled the whole room

e. We should notice...it was not a rushing wind...it only sounded like a rushing wind

f. Wind...breath...and Spirit...are the exacts same words...in both...the Greek and Hebrew languages...they are inter changeable

g. After God formed Adam...He blew His Spirit...or breath...or wind...into the nostrils of Adam...same word

h. If you watch the weather in Israel...and they predict wind that day...it is the same Hebrew word for breath...or Spirit

i. The voice of the Lord spoke to Job in a whirlwind...the voice of the Lord spoke over the waters in Ps 29

j. The next thing I want to point out...it says in verse two...the disciples were sitting

- k. We also learned from Acts chapter 1...they were also praying...and they were waiting on the Lord
  - l. What they were not doing...is jumping...or barking...or rolling...they were simply sitting
  - m. Let's not forget...what the Bible said...are the purposes of the gifts of the Spirit... back in 1 Cor 12...so we can help each other...and produce fruit
9. Acts 2:3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. NKJV
- a. The second thing to notice is the Holy Spirit was visible...they saw Him
  - b. These were not tongues of fire...they only looked like they were tongues of fire...maybe like when God spoke to Moses through burning bush
  - c. The end of verse three says the Holy Spirit looked like a fire...and He “**sat**” upon each of them...the 3<sup>rd</sup> working of the HS
  - d. Now the Holy Spirit did not knock them over...there were no apostolic catchers to catch them as the falling down
  - e. The Holy Spirit sat or settled on them gently...the Holy Spirit is represented in the Bible...with a gentil pouring of oil...not a fire hose
  - f. The HS is also represented as a dove settling down...and doves land gently
10. 1 Corinthians 14:32-33, 32 Remember that people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can take turns. 33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, **as** **in (some) all** the meetings of God's holy people.
11. Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. NKJV

- a. The Greek word for tongues is glossa...which can be used as the physical tongue...the one in our mouth...or it can be used metaphorically speaking
  - b. In this case in verse 4...tongues is used metaphorically...where you actually speak a real language
  - c. I want to take a moment to say...most preachers would never take on this subject...because it is controversial in some circles
  - d. But it needs to be taught...because it is in our Bible
  - e. The Bible told us of 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit...tongues is only 1 of the 9 gifts of the HS
  - f. My fear in teaching this...is it may offend someone...either way...they may have a Pentecostal back ground...or they may be very conservative
  - g. Please know I am not desiring to offend anyone...I only teach what the Bible says...about the subject of speaking in tongues
  - h. I would like to point out some things I have found in the Bible...about the workings of the gift of tongues in scripture
12. Slide...Tongues are a gift of the Holy Spirit not “THE” gift of the Holy Spirit
13. Slide...Tongues is for personal self-strengthening
14. 1 Cor 14:4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. NKJV
15. Slide...When we speak in tongues, we are speaking directly to God
16. 1 Cor 14:2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. NKJV
- a. There are 2 types of Speaking in tongues

17. Slide...The ability to speak an actual foreign language...which happen in Acts 2

18. Slide...the other is...The ability to speak a heavenly language

19. 1 Cor 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. NKJV

- a. The next thing I want to talk about...can be very controversial
- b. Are tongues needed in the church today...I don't have to answer this question...because praise God...Paul answers this question for us

20. 1 Cor 14:39-40, 39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

NKJV

- a. I want us to realize...the context...Paul is writing to the Corinthian church
- b. Paul takes 3 chapters to write to the church of Corinth about the proper order of church services concerning the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- c. This tells me...that the church in Corinth...was having problems with orderly services...and the giftings of the Holy Spirit
- d. Paul even had to go as far to say...that the women shouldn't speak in church...but rather...ask their husbands later at home
- e. This is not because Paul wants women to be quiet...but...that there was a problem...with some of the ladies at this church in Corinth
- f. Now if someone here...decides to stand up...during church service...and start acting crazy...and wants to speak in tongues...
- g. I can tell you...I will be having a huge problem with that

- h. Now if you are having a good time worshiping God...in prayer...and feel the need to pray in tongues **silently** to God...I am ok with that
- i. Tongues is for self-edification...not for the church body...there needs to be self-control...there needs to be order because God is the God of order
- j. If we were alive...2000 years ago...and walked into the Corinth Bible Church...it would be a very strange experience for us
- k. We would experience something...that we are not used to seeing...because they had pagan practices mixed into their worship of God
- l. They came out of this pagan style of worship...and incorporated this pagan style of worship...into their church service
- m. Paul gets wind of what is happening there...and writes 2 letters of correction
- n. This is why Paul starts 1 Cor 13...by saying...you can have all these gifts of the Spirit...but without love...you have nothing
- o. It like math...if you multiply...any number times 0...the answer is always 0...if you have HS gifts...and have no love...it equals 0
- p. This is why Paul repeats the gospel...at the start of 1 Cor 15...to get them back on the purposes of these gifts of the Holy Spirit...
- q. To **help** each other...to learn to **love** each other...and to **grow each** other in the same love...that Christ showed us
- r. Why is this so important to get these HS giftings right...because Satan is sending a counterfeit man with counterfeit power...signs and miracles
- s. We need to know the difference...HOW...by understanding the real thing

t. Paul claimed to have the gift of tongues in 1 Corinthians 13:1...to speak the language of...both to men...and of angels...we already read it

u. But in 1 Corinthians 14:6...Paul says this

21. 1 Cor 14:6 But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching? NKJV (same as Peter did after 120 spoke in tongues)

a. What Paul is saying is...what good is it to speak in tongues...it doesn't benefit them at all...because they can't understand what Paul is saying

b. Remember...all of the giftings of the HS...are for the purpose of helping each other...and loving each other...and loving God

22. Slide...There needs to be a result from the use of the gift of tongues

a. The results...of the 120 speaking in tongues...is what I touched on last week

23. Acts 2:12-13, 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" 13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine." NKJV

b. The results are...it got the attention of the Pilgrims by a bunch of Galileans speaking their actual foreign language

c. After the Holy Spirit...gets the pilgrims attention...Peter is able to share revelation about prophecy...and then preach the gospel message

24. 1 Cor 14:22-25, 22 Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.

23 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with

tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. 25 And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you. NKJV

- d. What Peter does in Acts 2...he confirms that the speaking of foreign languages was prophesied by...the prophet Joel
- e. Peter is teaching them prophecy...and it opens their heart for the gospel
- f. Paul confirms again...a second time...that **He does** speak in tongues...but not in a church setting

25. 1 Cor 14:18-19, 18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; 19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue. NKJV

- g. Paul has no desire to speak in tongues at a church service...but does speak in tongues in private...or in closed small prayer group
- h. In the context of the letter sent to the Corinthian church...Paul also says...if it happens that some one does speak in tongues
- i. It must be done in an orderly fashion...

26. 1 Cor 14:27-28, 27 **If** anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. 28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. NKJV

- j. Paul is not desiring they speak in tongues as part of the church service in Corinth...but these guys were already doing it...and there was no order

- k. The gift of tongues is only 1 of the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit...not the focus of the Holy Spirit giftings...which is love...help...and glorify God
  - l. It is a gifting that the Lord has graced me with in prayer ...will anyone ever hear me speak in tongues...only if you accidentally overhear me in my prayer closet
  - m. There are many times I am prompted by the Holy Spirit to pray for someone...or something...and the HS doesn't tell me why...I just pray
  - n. I pray what I think they need first...then if HS wants me to continue in prayer...I pray in tongues
  - o. Realize I have no idea what I am praying for...all I know is...that I am obeying God...by praying
  - p. Is there a reason for the gift...yes...to help each other...to grow in love for each other...and to bring glory to God
2. Pray...Lord...thank you for calling us to you...thank you Lord for the power of the Holy Spirit...that gives us the ability...the giftings to produce fruit...to help each other...to love each other...and to build up each other... thank you for all the gifts you have given this church...as this church does love each other and you...God may you get the glory for this teaching today...and the glory for what you are doing in your church in Markesan