

## #15 THE DOCTRINE SPEAKING IN TONGUES

30 PRACTICAL DOCTRINES YOU NEED TO KNOW | DR. RANDY WHITE

### WHAT IS SPEAKING IN TONGUES

- At times, it appears to be the gift of speaking in other languages (Acts 2:4-6).
- At other times, it is speaking in an unknown language (1 Cor. 14:2).
- At all times, it is speaking prophetically, revealing unknown information.
  - 1 Cor. 14:2, **in the spirit he speaketh mysteries**.
  - The Greek contains no definite article (though Greek allows one to be implied).
  - KJV does not capitalize. NASB: “in *his* spirit.” ESV: “in the Spirit.”

### SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS A DISPENSATIONAL ISSUE

- Marks of dispensational change in this issue:
  - There are no occurrences of speaking in tongues prior to the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2.
  - The gift is *prophesied* in Mark 16:17. (Note: some dispensationalists believe that no prophecy is related to the church because the church was a *mystery* and the things of the mystery are *unsearchable* (see Eph. 3:8).
  - The gift was *prophesied to cease* in 1 Corinthians 13:8.
- Few non-dispensationalists are “cessationists,” because their theological system does not give much criteria for the cessation of sign gifts.
- Some dispensationalists are “continuationists” but often take the strange approach of saying, “the manifestations of the Spirit are not our focus.”

### SPEAKING IN TONGUES WAS CLEARLY IN THE BIBLE

- The Bible gives record of speaking in tongues –
  - Acts 2:4, 10:46, 19:6.
- The Bible gives instruction of speaking in tongues – 1 Corinthians 14
  - It provided self-edification, not church edification – v. 4.
  - It was inferior to the gift of prophecy – vv. 4-5.
  - It is not needed for communication – vv. 7-8.
  - It is not effective for communication – vv. 9-11.
  - It was a gift that needed interpretation – vv. 13,
  - It was a gift that had been misused, to the point that nobody benefited from it – vv. 14-17.
  - It was a gift that was for a *sign*, and once the *significance* of the sign was past, it would cease – vv. 21-25.

- It was a gift which was to be done with *order* not *chaos* – vv. 27-28.

### BUILDING A DOCTRINE OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

- Speaking in tongues was never to be a sought-after gift.
- Speaking in tongues was never a sign of salvation.
- Speaking in tongues is not a sign of being sealed in the Spirit.
  - In apostolic days, every believer had a “sign gift” (1 Cor. 12:7).
  - These sign gifts were used in apostolic days for testimony to Israel.
- Paul said that speaking in tongues would cease (1 Cor. 13:8)
  - Our question: has it done so today?
  - If it has, then the modern practice is unbiblical.
  - If it has, then speaking in tongues is either...
    - ...faked
    - ...demonic
    - ...psychosomatic
- Any determination of whether tongues have ceased is a theological interpretation.
  - The Biblical text does not state *when* the gift would cease.
  - Options:
    - With the rejection of the Kingdom by Israel.
    - With the destruction of Jerusalem.
    - With the death of the last Apostle.
    - With the rapture of the church.
    - With the Second Coming of Christ.
  - The first three options are Kingdom/Israel related.
    - Speaking in tongues was *prophesied*.
    - The prophetic plan (as opposed to the mystery plan) is related to Israel.
  - The last two options would be pure speculation, and only considered because there is a stated need for the gift to *someday* cease.
  - If it did not cease in the first century:
    - It certainly *changed*. Paul’s instruction is much different than the Acts experience.
    - Then mystery is still being revealed, and thus Scripture is still open (for how can God’s Word-any word from God-not be as equally valid as the Scriptures?)