

“eDisciples Viewpoint  
“The Weapons of Our Warfare”  
Part Nine

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 10:3-5/1 Corinthians 12:7-11

**Intro:** In this lesson we are going to discuss the gift of tongues and interpretation of those tongues. These are found in our last category of spiritual gifts known as the Inspiration or verbal gifts. Just for review, we have divided these nine gifts into three categories: The Power Gifts (Faith, Healing, and Miracles), the Revelation Gifts (a Word of Wisdom, a Word of Knowledge, and Discerning of Spirits), and finally, the Inspiration or Verbal Gifts (the gift of prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues). I also want you to remember that the inspiration gifts are more directed to the church. In this lesson I want to talk about the gifts of tongues and interpretation of tongues. Specifically, as with the other gifts, I want to define them, give some biblical examples of them, and finally, consider how to appropriate these gifts into our lives and ministries.

- I. The definition of the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10).
  - A. These languages are neither studied nor learned, ***but they are given by the Holy Spirit.***
    1. I have been in some meetings where well-meaning people were trying to teach folks what to say in order that they could speak in tongues.
      - a. The problem with this is it removes a significant element in regard to the Gifts of the Spirit.
      - b. In the original Greek it says, “*And that same Spirit divides to each of His own according to His own will or His own purpose*” (Adams, Greek Translation).
    2. Like with the other gifts, this language is supernaturally given to us by the Holy Spirit.
    3. 1 Corinthians 14:2
  - B. Human languages or Heavenly Languages?
    1. Acts 2:12-13.
    2. 1 Corinthians 12:10 Paul used the term “Various kinds of tongues.”
      - a. Some manifestations of tongues could be human languages and some may only be known of God.
      - b. 1 Corinthians 13:1 it speaks of the tongues or language of angels.
  - C. The Gift in Operation
    1. The Holy Spirit is the one who provides the language.
      - a. He (the Holy Spirit) provides the syllables that make up the language.
      - b. **[The speaker cooperates]** with the Holy Spirit and speaks what the Spirit provides.
      - c. Acts 2:4
    2. **Important point:** The speaker is not taken over by the Spirit.
  - D. Tongues as a sign to unbelievers.
    1. Acts 2:12-13
    2. When they heard them speak in languages that they should not have known, they believed that God must be real and among them.
- II. Interpretation of tongues.
  - A. In the same way as one receives the gift of tongues- so comes the interpretation.
    1. The Holy Spirit provides a word or two in a known language and the speaker must cooperate by speaking those words.
    2. Rarely does a person get the entire interpretation- God requires that we act in faith.

- B. It is also important to know that interpretation of tongues is not a transliteration but rather an interpretation that the Holy Spirit gives to the speaker of the tongues.
- III. Guidelines for this gift (1 Corinthians 14).
- A. Our motivation for any of the gifts should be that the gift operate in love and to edify the church (1 Corinthians 14:1).
  - B. Have tongues ceased?
    - 1. 1 Corinthians 13:8-10
    - 2. The Church Age has not ended/ tongues have not ceased.
  - C. Tongues as the initial evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?
    - 1. The Bible does not directly say so, but in the Book of Acts, every time they received the initial filling of the Holy Spirit, they spoke in other tongues or languages.
      - a. "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).
      - b. Acts 8:17-19
      - c. ACTS 9:17–18, "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 thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightiest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized."
      - d. Acts 10:44-46
      - e. Acts 19:6
    - 2. All of these passages seem to indicate that when a person receives the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, ***the initial evidence*** is speaking in other tongues (Initial means the first).
  - D. Who should interpret?
    - 1. 1 Corinthians 14:2-5; 13; 27-28
    - 2. Whoever the Spirit gives this interpretation to. If however, no one interprets, then the speaker of the tongues should pray that God will give him/her the interpretation. If the speaker does not get the interpretation, then he/she should be quiet because the tongues were between him/her and God.