

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

THE DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE

Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

Study 23 TONGUES

1 Corinthians 14:6 ¶ Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

7 And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?

8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

9 So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.

10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.

11 Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.

12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

It is very clear that tongues are mentioned in the Bible. There is no real merit to denying tongues. However, the devil is behind this “modern day tongues movement” and it will become very clear when one takes a careful and accurate look into the Scriptures.

1) TONGUES DEFINED.

a. Strong’s definition of uncertain affinity; the tongue; by implication, a language (specially, one naturally unacquired):--tongue.

b. Webster’s 1828 English Dictionary definition

1. In man, the instrument of taste, and the chief instrument of speech.
2. Speech; discourse; sometimes, fluency of speech.
3. The power of articulate utterance; speech.
4. A language; the whole sum of words used by a particular nation.
5. A nation, as distinguished by their language.

Nowhere is “tongue” or “tongues” ever defined as gibberish or distinct-less sounds. The very definition when taken in context in Scripture is a language, articulate utterance or speech.

Now, let’s look at the definition of the word language as stated in the Webster’s 1828 dictionary.

LAN'GUAGE, n.

1. Human speech; the expression of ideas by words or significant articulate sounds, for the communication of thoughts. This is the primary sense of language, the use of which is to communicate the thoughts of one person to another through the organs of hearing. Articulate sounds are represented by letters, marks or characters which form words. Hence language consists also in

2. Words duly arranged in sentences, written, printed or engraved, and exhibited to the eye.

The biggest problem with the modern day tongues speaking is that they violate every rule concerning language. Where are the words, sentence structure, letters, marks, or even characters that give any kind of distinction? There is none! It is chaos masquerading as something from the Holy Spirit.

2) GOD’S WORD TEACHES THAT TONGUES SHOULD HAVE ORDER..

1 Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

It is important to note that this verse is placed by God in the “tongues chapter” of the Bible. All things include tongues speaking. God demands order and there is no “order” to our modern day tongues movement.

3) TONGUES WERE NOT GIVEN FOR BELIEVERS.

1 Corinthians 14:21 ¶ In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this

people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

God clearly states that tongues were meant for unbelievers as a soul winning tool. Nowhere in the Bible can you see God saying that tongues were for believers.

On three occasions in the Book of Acts where tongues were used, people were getting saved or soul winning.

Acts 2:1 ¶ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

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

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

37 ¶ Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

44 ¶ While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

7 And all the men were about twelve.

4) TONGUES WERE ONLY MENTIONED ONCE IN THE GOSPELS AND ONLY ON THREE OCCASIONS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS AND ARE COVERED IN THREE CHAPTERS IN I CORINTHIANS.

When you take into account of how seldom it is mentioned in all of the New Testament, you must come to understand that it is not of high importance to God. Consider these other topics...

- Church or any reference to the house of God appears in over 400 passages.
- Baptism appears in at least 50 chapters of the New Testament.
- Preaching appears in well over 100 chapters of the Bible.
- The Word of the Lord or the Bible appears in 100's of chapters.
- Salvation is taught in nearly every Book of the New Testament and several Books in the O. T.
- Soul winning is taught in all 4 Gospels and the Book of Acts and discussed often in other New Testament Books.

If one takes into account that speaking in tongues is mentioned in 1 verse in Mark and only 3 places in Acts and discussed in only 3 chapters in I Corinthians, you might want to put this topic in perspective to how often God mentioned it in the Bible.

The other few times the word “tongues” is mentioned in the Bible it is in reference to the literal tongue in one’s mouth or the language of a people, their dialect.

5) THE SCRIPTURES NEVER GIVE REFERENCE TO JESUS SPEAKING IN TONGUES.

This is one of the most convincing points that can be stated. Jesus preached, He was baptized, He attended church, He went soul winning, He read the Bible, and many other things the Bible tells us that we are supposed to do as well. But, Jesus never spoke in tongues!

6) THE DAY OF PENTECOST WAS CLEARLY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER TWO REFERENCES TO TONGUE SPEAKING IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

This is the only time that “cloven tongues” appeared and rested upon somebody. Also, pay close attention to what the observers declared.

Acts 2:5 ¶ And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

The word tongue is paralleled to the word language in verses 6 & 8. These men came to this “church service” all of which were from different nations who spoke different languages. Peter and the other Apostles were giving a Gospel message and were witnessing to these people of how to be saved. They were given by God the gift of tongues and every man heard the message of God “in their own language.” There were at least 17 different nationalities mentioned.

No other place in the Bible was anything like this day mentioned. It was not like this happened at every church gathering or even annually. It was recorded as happening only once in all of the time the New Testament was written.

7) TONGUES ARE COMMONLY MISTAKEN AS A “PRAYER LANGUAGE.”

No one was recorded in the Bible to ever pray in tongues. This was never taught nor encouraged.

8) THE BIBLE TONGUES ARE NEITHER THE LANGUAGE OF HEAVEN NOR THE LANGUAGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

2 Corinthians 12:1 ¶ It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Some things of which one should note.

- There is a language of Heaven.
- This language has detectable structure- words.
- These words are unspeakable- cannot be spoken now or inexpressible.
- These words are not lawful for a man to utter- not right to utter.

If Paul would not speak nor was allowed to speak the language of Heaven, we should not think that God would allow us to do so!

Romans 8:26 ¶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Now we see that the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us with groanings, to sigh, which CANNOT BE UTTERED. For someone to think that they can pray in the Spirit's language is sadly mistaken. We cannot utter what the Spirit can!

9) TONGUES ARE NOT AN EVIDENCE OF BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.
The evidence of Holy Spirit fullness is souls being saved!

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

One who is Spirit-filled will see people come to Christ as Saviour. The fruit of a Spirit filled Christian is souls being saved.

Proverbs 11:30 ¶ The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

10) BEING ABLE TO SPEAK IN TONGUES IS OFTEN STATED AS A PART OF SALVATION.

Many people have declared that if one does not speak in tongues, they are not saved. This is clearly "another gospel."

Galatians 1:6 ¶ I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

This doctrine is so clearly from the devil. These people who major on speaking in tongues also say that it is a part of salvation. How wrong can they be!!!

11) SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS THE LEAST IMPORTANT GIFT OF THE SPIRIT.

1 Corinthians 12:1 ¶ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

1 Corinthians 12:27 ¶ Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

The order in which these gifts are mentioned should be noted. "Diversities of tongues" was mentioned last. This is because it is the least important of the gifts mentioned. Our modern day tongues move-

ment elevates tongues speaking to first place or at the very least, higher than the Bible declares it to be.

12) TO PROPERLY UNDERSTAND I CORINTHIANS 14, CAREFULLY PUT THE CORRECT DEFINITIONS TO THE WORDS USED AND NEVER DEVIATE FROM WHAT IS CLEARLY STATED.

1 Corinthians 14:1 ¶ Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

One should desire to prophesy before desiring to speak in tongues.

2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

Unknown tongue is defined as a language not known to the one speaking or the one listening. Again, this is not the language of Heaven or the language of the Holy Spirit as previously declared. The reason it states “speaketh unto God” simply means God understands all languages and the one who is listening may not be able to understand what is said but God does. The word “mysteries” is simply secrets. If he is speaking the truth of God, he is speaking in the spirit. It may be a secret to the one who hears him speak because he does not know that language.

3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

Prophesieth is speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This is also synonymous with Bible preaching. If one preaches in church, that is how one can edify those who are present.

4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

If I speak in a language that is unknown to those who are listening, I am edifying myself but not anybody else. Preaching in a language that is known is how I can edify the church.

5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

Paul was saying that it is good to speak in tongues if there is an interpreter. Otherwise, preaching is greater than speaking in tongues. Again, the reason for this is the church needs to be edified. The word “interpret” simply means to translate thoroughly.

6 ¶ Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

Paul was asking what profit would there be if he came speaking to them in different languages.

The answer would clearly be “none.”

7 And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?

8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

9 So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.

10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.

11 Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.

These verses clearly declare that “gibberish” is not biblical tongue speaking. There needs to be a distinction in the sound or one is only speaking unto the air. The word “barbarian” means one who is uncivilized or a foreigner.

12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.

14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

To be unfruitful means to waste time and to profit nothing. This is clearly not the objective when one attends church or prays. If one prays in a language that is unknown to him, his understanding is unfruitful.

15 ¶ What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

Paul is saying here that he would only pray and sing so that he could understand. This is how we should pray or sing as well. We should never pray in a language that is not known to us!

16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

Again, to edify those present should always be the goal.

18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

Paul says that speaking in only 5 words with understanding is better than speaking with 10,000 words in a language that is not known. Also, take note to that fact that there are “words” even in an unknown tongue. If it truly is a language, there will be words!

21 ¶ In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

Tongues are for unbelievers not believers!

23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

24 But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:

25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

Preaching in church is far better than speaking in tongues in church!

26 ¶ How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

If there is “tongue speaking” in church, only 2 or the most 3 people should be involved. It should be by course which means one at a time. There should never be more than one person at a time speaking in tongues in a church service. And, one of the two or three should interpret.

28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

If there is no interpreter, nobody should speak in tongues in the service.

29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

30 If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.

31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

God puts no limit to how many can preach during a service. The only restriction is that only one preach at a time.

32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

God never wants there to be confusion in the church!

34 ¶ Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

The context of this entire chapter is “speaking in tongues in the church.” This verse taken in context means that God does not want women to speak in tongues in the church. God is not saying that women should never speak at all in church but rather when it comes to speaking in tongues, only men should do this. Most churches in the “modern day tongues movement” violate this clear command from God!

36 ¶ What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?

37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

If anyone thinks himself to be spiritual or doing God’s will, he first needs to acknowledge what this chapter has to say about tongues speaking. These are commandments of the Lord!

38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

Speaking in tongues is not forbidden as long as it is done in the right way!

40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

This includes tongue speaking!