

Speaking With

Tongues

A Biblical phenomenon experienced for centuries by millions around the globe.



THREE KINDS OF TONGUES

Have you considered the various manifestations?

The careful reader of the New Testament will notice there are three kinds of speaking with tongues mentioned in Mark 16:17, Acts 2:1-39; 10:46-48; 19:1-6 and 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14, including:

1. **Primary Tongues—KNOWN languages**, as a sign of being baptized with the Holy Spirit.
2. **Public Tongues—UNKNOWN languages**, given for group benefit in believers' gatherings.
3. **Private Tongues—UNKNOWN languages**, used for individual benefit in personal prayer.

1 Corinthians 13:1 also reveals two categories: *known* tongues (of men) and *unknown* tongues (of angels).

Primary Tongues

Known Languages for Initial Infilling

The gift [singular] of the Spirit *for all Christians* to be endued with power (Acts 1:1-8, Acts 2:1-13).

Jesus was introduced as the Spirit-Baptizer (Matthew 3:11). Those who were first baptized/filled with the Holy Spirit spoke with ***tongues that were understood by those who heard them*** who were gathered from various nations in Jerusalem. The people asked, “What does this mean?” Peter answered by explaining the Spirit’s outpouring was prophesied in Joel 2:28-29 (Acts 2:14-21) and promised by Jesus in Luke 24:49 (Acts 2:32-33) and was available to everyone—both then and now (Acts 2:36-39).

Public Tongues

Unknown Languages for Group Benefit

One of the gifts [plural] of the Spirit *for some Christians* as one of several manifestations to be used in gatherings (1 Cor. 12), set in the church by God (1 Cor. 12:28) and to be desired (1 Cor. 13:1). Tongues will not cease until knowledge and prophecy do—when we see Jesus face to face (1 Cor. 13:8-12).

Those who were already Spirit-filled Christians experienced ***tongues that were NOT understood by those who heard them*** (1 Cor. 14:2). When interpreted, these tongues were as effective as prophecy (1 Cor. 14:5). If no interpreter, speakers were to pray to interpret or discontinue (1 Cor. 14:12-13; 27-28).

Private Tongues

Unknown Languages for Personal Benefit

Private devotions in the Spirit *for individual Christians* without being disorderly in church meetings.

Paul the apostle wanted believers to speak with ***tongues NOT understood*** (1 Cor. 14:5a). He prayed and sang with tongues (1 Cor. 14:14-17) and spoke with tongues more than anyone else (1 Cor. 14:18). Everyone came to Early Church gatherings with a tongue (1 Cor. 14:26). Tongues were to be spoken between the speaker and God for personal edification when not publicly interpreted (1 Cor. 14:28). Speaking with tongues is not to be forbidden in Christian meetings (1 Cor. 14:39).

Experiencing Tongues

Being baptized with the Holy Spirit is for **YOU**—today!

Ten aspects of receiving Christ's promise to be Spirit-baptized (*John 7:38-39, John 14:15-26, Acts 1:4-8*):

1. **Know**—understand it's for you (*John 20:22*).
2. **Repent**—turn from sin (*Acts 2:36-39*).
3. **Obey**—God's Word willingly (*Acts 5:32*).
4. **Ask**—trusting God for a good gift (*Luke 11:9-13*).
5. **Pray**—asking in faith to receive (*Mark 11:24*).
6. **Allow**—laying on of hands (*Acts 19:1-6*).
7. **Praise**—for the promise (*Luke 24:44-49*).
8. **Believe**—you'll receive by faith (*Galatians 3:2*).
9. **Expect**—the Spirit to "fall" (*Acts 10:44-48*).
10. **Speak**—whatever language is given (*Acts 2:4*).

