

Thoughts for our Charismatic Friends

Just before His arrest, the Lord Jesus prayed, “*Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth*” (John 17:17). The test of truth is not a person’s subjective experiences, but the unchanging Bible. Do you remember what stood out as most remarkable about the Bereans in Acts 17:11? They listened to the preacher (Paul himself), then they “*searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*” And God praised them as “noble”! Would you like God’s applause? I do! Then we must follow their example and test everything by the Bible, even things that are accepted as true by other Christians!

With those thoughts in mind, please get out your Bible and, using the verses listed below, consider what the Bible has to say about the gift of tongues. I invite you to contact me if you’d like to study it further.

Serving the Lord “with gladness” (Psalm 100:2),
Pastor Harris,
Illawarra Community Baptist Church
Meeting at 49 Derribong Drive, Cordeaux Heights, Phone: 4272 5530

5 **Reasons Why “Tongues” Means Known Human Languages:** *(Not uncontrollable “gibberish” or “a private prayer language”)*

- Primary use of the word *glossa* is human language, Acts 2:1-8.
- The word is interchangeable with the word “dialects”, vv. 6-8.
- The same word is used in Acts & 1 Corinthians (14:2, 13, 19).
- Interpretation of tongues means translations (1 Corinthians 12:10).
Translation = “to take speech from 1 human language and put its equivalent in another human language.”
- It was a foreign (human) language to Israel, 1 Corinthians 14:21.

8 **Rules from 1 Corinthians 14 for Tongues-Speakers:**

- Tongues were a sign to unbelieving Jews, not believers, v. 22.
- All things must be done to edify (build) others (not self), v. 26.
- No more than 3 people during a service, and each in turn, v. 27.
- No interpreter? No speaking in tongues, v. 28.
- Any confusion or disorder in the assembly was an indication of something that did not come from God, v. 33.
- Women were not to speak in tongues, v. 34.
- These rules are God’s command, v. 37.
- Primary command: “covet to prophecy,” v. 39.

More on the back! →

6 Reasons Why “Tongues” Are Not for Today:

- 1 The gift of tongues was a miracle gift & the age of miracles ended with the apostles. The last recorded miracle in the Bible was in 58 AD with Publius’s father. No miracle was recorded from 58-96 AD when the Book of Revelation was penned. Early Christians made it clear that the gift of tongues was no longer practiced.
- 2 The miracle of tongues was a judicial sign to Israel because of their unbelief, according to 1 Corinthians 14:21, 22. Paul here quotes Isaiah 28:11-13, where the whole point is “When you hear foreign tongues, you will know that you are experiencing the judgment of God.” Both Moses in Deuteronomy 28:49 and Jeremiah in Jeremiah 5:15 predicted that judgment would be preceded by strange languages. These tongues warned: “Judgment is Just Ahead — Beware!” In 70AD, Rome destroyed Jerusalem & this prophecy was fulfilled. This means that tongues are no longer needed; their purpose has been met.
- 3 Tongues became useless when the New Testament was complete. Why? They were a temporary sign gift that was given to confirm the Word preached by the early Christians. Remember, the New Testament had not yet been completed. How were people to know whether the message the apostles preached was truly from God? Mark 16:17-20 gives us a list of temporary sign gifts designed to confirm the Word, including tongues. Note verse 20. Hebrews 2:3, 4 confirms this purpose for the temporary sign gifts.
- 4 Tongues are mentioned only in the earliest New Testament books. Ephesians and Romans list sign gifts but omit tongues. Other temporary sign gifts such as miraculous healings were not practised during Paul’s later ministry. See 1 Timothy 5:23 and 2 Timothy 4:20.
- 5 Tongues were inferior to prophecy, 1 Corinthians 14:1-4. In this chapter, Paul discourages tongues & encouraging preaching (prophecy).
- 6 History records tongues ceased. 1 Corinthians 13:8 — Prophecy and knowledge are passive. They will be stopped by something outside themselves. They will stop functioning when, as verse 10 says it, “when that which is perfect is come,” referring to when we enter our eternal state. But the gift of tongues will stop by itself. When did they stop by themselves? History shows that this happened before the end of the apostolic age.

Prophecies
Tongues
Knowledge

“Shall Fail”
“Shall Cease”
“Shall Vanish Away”

Passive, caused by others
Self-causing, stop by itself
Passive, caused by others