

Biblical Theology

Unit 6: Doctrine of the Holy Spirit – Lesson 8: Gifts of the Spirit III

Tongues

Definition: Speaking in tongues is prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker.

- Glossa (tongue) is used to talk about tongue and also languages.

1. Tongues (Languages) play a crucial role in the human experience.

- **Matthew 28:18-20** - All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
- **Revelation 5:9-10** - You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”
- **Acts 2:4** - began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance
- **Acts 2:11** - both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.

2. Tongues are directed to God.

- **1 Corinthians 14:2** - For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.
- **1 Corinthians 14:28** - But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.
- **Acts 2:11** - Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.”

3. Tongues are not understood by the speaker.

- **1 Corinthians 14:2** - For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.
- **1 Corinthians 14:13-15** - Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.
- **1 Corinthians 14:22-25** - Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.
 - Though sometimes may result in human language, the ordinary pattern involves speech no human understands.

4. Speaking in tongues is prayer with the spirit by the Spirit, not with the mind.

- **1 Corinthians 14:14-15** - For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

5. Tongues are prayed in a controlled and orderly manner.

- **1 Corinthians 14:27-28** - If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.
- **Acts 2:14-16** - But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them...

6. Tongues are sometimes spoken privately sometimes publically.

- 1 Corinthians 14 teaches us the following principles about the use of tongues:
 - Tongues can be spoken in private for the edification of the believer (1 Corinthians 14:4; 13-17)
 - Tongues can be spoken in public but can only edify the body with interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:26-33)
 - Tongues spoken in public can be used by God to judge unbelievers (1 Corinthians 14:20-25)

Healing

Definition: Healing is the miraculous restoration from physical maladies that can only be attributed to the power of the Holy Spirit.

- **Acts 10:36-38** - *As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.*
1. **Some believe Jesus purchased physical restoration along with spiritual restoration on the cross.**
 - **Isaiah 53:4-5** - *Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*
 - **Matthew 8:16-17** - *That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."*
 - **1 Peter 2:24** - *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*
 2. **Some believe God heals by His sovereignty but not in association with atonement.**
 - **1 Corinthians 5:17** - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*
 3. **There are many purposes for healing but it is ultimately to glorify God.**
 - **Matthew 9:6-8** - *"Rise, pick up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.*
 - **John 9:3** - *Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.*
 - **Acts 3:8** - *And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.*
 4. **Faith does not heal but is necessary in one's prayers for healing.**
 - **James 5:15** - *And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*
 5. **We should pray for healing in the light of God's sovereign will.**
 - **3 John 1:2** - *Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.*
 - **James 5:14** - *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*
 - Not-asking for healing is not biblical.
 - We should never think that God only seldom heals.
 - We should never think that God has to heal when we ask.
 - The scriptures do not call us to demonize medication.

Concluding Thoughts on Gifts of The Spirit

- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - The gifts must be understood, exercised and discerned through the authority of Scripture
 - The gifts are for the edification of believers
 - The gifts are a sign to unbelievers
 - The gifts are meant to glorify Jesus
 - The gifts are meant to empower the body to carry out the mission and ministry of Jesus.
 - The gifts are a sign of things to come.

Discussion Questions

1. After considering the teachings of this lesson, do you have a better understanding of speaking in tongues?
2. How would you explain tongues to a fellow believer who doesn't understand it or doesn't accept its continuation?
3. Have you ever witnessed tongues and wondered if it was biblical or authentic? How does that experience match up with the biblical teachings of this lesson?
4. How should we pray for healing? Apply it to a past or current situations and consider this question practically.
5. Do a study on the gifts of the Spirit listed in the scriptures and identify how they glorify Christ and how they act as a sign of things to come.