Spiritual Gifts Bootcamp

Lesson 3: The Speaking Gifts



The Gifts of the Spirit

(3 Knowing Gifts, 3 Action Gifts, 3 Speaking Gifts)

1st Corinthians 12:1, 7-11 NLT

Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this.

⁷ A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. ⁸ To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. ⁹ The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰ He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹ It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

Is this the same thing as speaking or praying in tongues?

Romans 8:26 NLT

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

Jude 1:20 NLT

...Build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit.

1st Corinthians 14:15, 27-28 NLT

Well then, what shall I do? I will pray in the spirit¹ and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand.

²⁷ No more than two or three should speak in tongues. They must speak one at a time, and someone must interpret what they say. ²⁸ But if no one is present who can interpret, they must be silent in your church meeting and speak in tongues to God privately.

A quick summary of the function of tongues in scripture...

Tongues as a Sign & Prayer Language

Gift of Tongues & Interpretation

Mark 16:17, Acts 2, 10, 19, Rom 8:26 Jude 1:20, 1st Corinthians 14:13-18 1st Corinthians 12:7-11, 29-30 1st Corinthians 14:13-14, 26-33

A sign we are commanded to expect

Mark 16:17 NLT

These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages.

Dozens and hundreds at once

Acts 2:4 NLT

And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

Described as part of our prayers & worship

1st Corinthians 14:15 NLT

Well then, what shall I do? I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand.

Absolutely Apostolic and Biblical

1st Corinthians 14:39 NLT

So, my dear brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and don't forbid speaking in tongues.

Only certain believers will do this

1st Corinthians 12:11 NLT

It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

At most 2 or 3 in a service

1st Corinthians 14:27 NLT

No more than two or three should speak in tongues. They must speak one at a time, and someone must interpret what they say.

To deliver a specific message from God to edify the church

1st Corinthians 14:28 NLT

But if no one is present who can interpret, they must be silent in your church meeting and speak in tongues to God privately.

Absolutely Apostolic and Biblical

1st Corinthians 14:39 NLT

So, my dear brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and don't forbid speaking in tongues.