

## **“Tongues”...what's the deal?**

Yesterday, (9/1/2013) I read a secular news article that was brought to my attention by a concerned Christian friend. The article was from an MSN news pop culture clip with this headline: ***“Speaking in tongues down among Pentecostals”***.

<http://news.msn.com/pop-culture/speaking-in-tongues-down-among-pentecostals#tscptmf>

Sadly, this is not just a recent happening. The Church, by and large, has long permitted the dismissal and/or diminishing of this critical gift. This dismissal and/or diminishings have been to the tremendous hurt of the Church and of the world in its total.

God ordained this gift, in part, as a bridge to facilitate the Kingdom of Heaven coming in earth and the earth being filled with the knowledge of the glory of God. This gift, to be used in faith by believers, was the way God chose to bridge a progressive transition from the Kingdoms of this world to the Kingdom of God being fully manifest in the earth, in spite of the interim inadequacies of flesh and blood.

Regardless of any other lessons, arguments or thoughts in chapter 14 of 1st Corinthians, there are some key facts that need to be isolated, amplified and illuminated for the Church. Unless these specific points are isolated and amplified, it is far too easy to be distracted and led into divisive, repetitious, “rabbit trail arguments” that miss the point of truth on this critical subject.

There are 4 verses which contain 7 critical points.

1. 1Co 14:2 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.
2. 1Co 14:4 He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue **edifieth himself**;...
3. 1Co 14:14 For if I pray in an *unknown* tongue, **my spirit prayeth**,...
4. 1Co 14:18 (Paul said:) **I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all**:...

### Let me summarize these Seven points;.....

1. To speak in an unknown tongue is to speak **not unto men**.
2. To speak in an unknown tongue **is to speak unto God**.
3. Praying in an unknown language **is your spirit praying**.
4. To speak in an unknown language **is to speak in the spirit**.
5. **No man understands** this unknown language.
6. Men, speaking in the spirit, **speaking mysteries**.
7. To speak in an unknown tongue **edifies the one speaking**.

Plus, Paul said that he thanked God that he spoke in tongues more than all of his contemporaries.

Obviously, he didn't pray in tongues "*more than ye all*" in a public meeting or a public place....1 Corinthians 14: in total context is clear enough about that. **NO!** In his private prayer life!

So..."WHY?"

**WHY**, Paul, would you speak with tongues more than any of your contemporaries?"

Why? Just to hear his head rattle with words he couldn't understand? Or, was there some extremely important spiritual basis for him to pray in tongues "*more than you all*"?

It is obvious from his writings that he knew it was because God was praying through him, bypassing the weaknesses of his carnal mind and flesh. Paul had received the Spirit of God who would at anytime, anyplace, as Paul would humble himself and permit, pray through him. Paul knew such prayer in tongues would be in the Spirit and always would be in accordance with the will of God.

The question is not why he did it...but rather why he or any other Christian would not **humble themselves under the mighty hand of God and defer their lips to their maker as was God's intention?**

We Christians have been asleep, deceived and lied to. Our own carnal minds and flesh resist speaking in biblical tongues to the utmost. We would rather...."*do it ourselves*".

Even Christians (those we call Charismatic's, Pentecostals and such) who can open wide their mouths at any time and pray in the spirit, generally, do not spend that much time praying in the Spirit.

We have exalted ourselves and set ourselves in that place where God should sit. Our deceitfully wicked hearts have said, as the Psalmist wrote, that the rebellious against God have and would say;

**Psa 12:4** ....With our tongue will we prevail; our lips *are* our own: who *is* lord over us?

...And, Yes, .....I concede, gladly, that we should, progressively, come to the maturity level Paul spoke of where the need for tongues will pass away; " *When that which is perfect is at hand*".

However, until we all come to that perfection; that is....to the stature and measure of Christ, even unto manifest mature Sons of God. Until then, we must not yet be so presumptuous as to set aside the bridge God has provided to circumvent our fleshly infirmities or inadequacies to fully know and pray His perfect will.....every time....all of the time.

**Christ in us the hope of glory**....it is our calling to become sons of God without need of further rebuke in the midst of this crooked and perverse generation, ready then to revenge all other disobedience, but only as the Father may direct. Refined in the fire and then, like Jesus, ready to speak and do only those things we see the Father do.

However, if we are honest we know we do not walk in the Spirit, to the degree that we now, **always** , pray in accordance with the will of God in the languages known to us. **Not always**.....

The only way we can now be assured by the scripture and by the Spirit of God that we can delight ourselves (our spirits) in the Lord, and **always** be certain that we are speaking Gods words and not our own words, is to pray or sing in the Spirit.

That is; "*biblical tongues*". **This is** the rest wherewith we can cease from our own works, and can cease speaking our own carnal words, with total assurance and just **REST**. In this way we trust the Holy Spirit to always pray through us and accomplish His will in us and through us.

This is a cooperative project which God has established.

God will not do it without us and we cannot do it ourselves. As we willingly give to Him our unclean lips, He will sanctify them with a coal off of the altar.

Look around.... The world has little or no fear of the Lord, little acknowledgement and almost no respect for Christians and the Christ in us. As a whole, even the church knows little of the true hope of their calling which is; "**Christ in us, the hope of Glory**".

Creation is in travail, waiting for the manifestation of the Sons of God. The world is going to hell in a hand basket. Yet, many Christians still sleep in the pre-dawn darkness "*as the morning spreads upon the mountains*".

We have drunk from the cup of trembling for our iniquities. We have few who guide us in truth. Too long we have had famine in the land for the hearing of the true word of God.

Awake Church....

..."And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit**, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;" Eph 6:17-18

**Psa 12:1-8 (ISV)** "Help, LORD, for godly people no longer exist; trustworthy people have disappeared from humanity.

Everyone speaks lies to his neighbor; they speak with flattering lips and hidden motives.

The LORD will cut off all slippery lips, and the tongue that boasts great things, those who say, "By our tongues we will prevail; our lips belong to us. Who is master over us?"

"Because the poor are being oppressed, because the needy are sighing, I will now arise," says the LORD, "I will establish in safety those who yearn for it."

The words of the LORD are pure, like silver refined in an earthen furnace, purified

seven times over.

You, LORD, will keep them safe, you will guard them from this generation forever.

The wicked, however, keep walking around, exalting the vileness of human beings."

What are we waiting for...The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

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