



RISE ON FIRE MINISTRIES TEACHING NOTES

‡ The Speaking in Tongues Series - Part 1 & Part 2

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The Speaking in Tongues Series - Part 1 & Part 2 by PD Vander Westhuizen

WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1n9Z216hIY&feature=youtu.be>

PART 1

Introduction

- The gift of speaking in tongues is the most controversial spiritual gift in the body of believers today.
- But it is a **very prevalent** New Testament occurrence that we need to understand. It often happened!

- Many teachings previously have **focused on theological aspects** of this very spiritual gifts, but failed to **adequately explain the practical aspects**.
- If you went to a doctor who has studied for 14 years on how to do a heart transplant, but has **never practically trained** for it or **done** it, would you trust that doctor to **teach you** with his understanding of doing a heart transplant?
 - **NO!** A heart transplant is a **very practical procedure** - just an **academic understanding won't suffice!**
 - In fact, if you went to do a heart transplant with this understanding, **someone may get hurt**
 - **And this is exactly what has happened.**
 - Some of you have got **hurt & confused** because of bad teaching.

- The gift of tongues is a spiritual gift. Spiritual gifts are one the **most practical aspects** of a Holy-Spirit filled believers walk
- If we don't understand the practical aspects, and don't have a **personal, practical experience** with a gift, we won't be able to **adequately explain** or **teach** it.
 - Yet unfortunately, this is what has happened, many have tried to teach **academically** something they have **not practically walked out**.
- 1 Cor 14:33 For **God is not the author of confusion**, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.
 - Satan is the author of confusion, but **why has he tried to bring more confusion to this gift than any other?**
 - I hope this teaching will make you realize why.

This in-Depth teaching will address many of these confusions, including:

- The 3 goals of the gift of tongues
- Common misunderstandings
- Bad experiences / counterfeit speaking in tongues in the church
- Correct practice & procedures of the gift in both corporate and private environments
- For who is the gift of tongues?
 - (Is the gift for everyone?)
- Is tongues the only sign for baptism of the Holy Spirit?
- Practical aspects of the gift of tongues
 - (How is it exercised?)

Before we start this teaching, we would need to agree on 2 rules:

1. We will let scripture be our primary and only source, and so we will read a lot of scripture in this teaching
 - While our experiences are relevant, and is something we will address, the truth is informed by scripture first, not our experiences. Our experiences may only be seen as **confirmations** on what scripture already says; and it helps build our faith.
2. We will not let our **perceptions be tainted** by our denominational lenses
 - We therefore ask that you enter this teaching with a “clean slate”, and a heart willing to be corrected, if necessary, by the Holy Spirit.

BEGIN:

All spiritual gifts have 3 goals in mind:

- **Edification** for the body of believers
- **Witness** to the lost
- Personal **edification**

E.g. Healing:

- Edification for the body: People inside church getting healed
- Witness to the lost: People outside church getting healed
- Personal edification: The **impact** of God's healing flowing through a person on the person itself

- Generally, we allow the spiritual gifts to accomplish these 3 goals, but we may dampen and disallow the gift of tongues to reach all of these goals because of **3 reasons**:
 - (1) **misunderstandings of scripture**,
 - (2) **bad experiences**,
 - and **trying to (3) understand a spiritual gift with the carnal mind**

MISUNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE

- **The gift of tongues must be practically applicable:** A good rule of thumb to ensure we are understanding the scriptures regarding what this gift should look like in the real world practically, we need to be able to (1) **logically explain how it is exercised**, and (2) **need to have experienced it**.
 - If we have created an idea of what the gift of tongues should look like, but we haven't ever experienced it nor are we able to exercise it, then **we may need reevaluation**.
 - Paul spoke in tongues often, and the **gift of tongues was consistently practiced in the early church (Corinth)**, so if our theology does not allow that, then we need to stop to think whether our thinking around a practical gift is **practical**.

- **Beware of Overspiritualization:** The gift of tongues especially falls in the danger of overspiritualizing it so much with theology that **nobody ends up exercising it** because no one has a good and practical understanding of what it looks like and how it is exercised.

BAD EXPERIENCES

- We are aware there are demonic manifestations in the church, and that some churches have even been **infiltrated with counterfeit** gifts.
 - We will discuss how to **discern the real from the counterfeit**
- But **understand the main goal of the enemy with counterfeits:** To invoke fear and discourage the exercising of the real gift within the Body. To destroy the gifts God purposed for us.
 - Therefore, **we cannot throw out gifts, or quench the Holy Spirit** in our midst because we are too **afraid of the counterfeit**, this is not a biblical response.

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFT WITH CARNAL MIND:

Rom 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

- The flesh does not take pleasure in any **spiritual act** or **gift**, incl. tongues

Let's see what scripture says:

First event of Tongues (Acts 2)

Act 2:3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

Act 2:4 And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and **began to speak in other tongues** as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Act 2:5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.

Act 2:6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was **hearing them speak in his own language**.

Act 2:7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

Act 2:8 And how is it that we hear, **each of us in his own native language?**

Act 2:9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

Act 2:10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,

Act 2:11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we **hear them telling in our own tongues** the mighty works of God."

Act 2:12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

Act 2:13 But others mocking said, "**They are filled with new wine.**"

Goal of this: Reversing the Curse of Babel

- **Gen 11:** God **confused the languages to disrupt unity** because the people were **united in evil**
- **Acts 2:** For the gospel - The **Gift of Tongues reverses the curse of Babel**
 - **Sign to Unbelievers:**
 - Sign if someone who doesn't speak their language, **suddenly supernaturally speak their native language**
 - **Not only that:** They speak a word that is **prophetic** into a unbelievers life
 - The gift of tongues is part of God's plan to **reach the world**

We will now look at 1 Cor 14 in detail: Paul's account of Tongues

- We see the **prophetic nature of tongues** also in 1 Cor 14
- with Paul's **in-depth descriptions** of the Gift of Tongues

1Co 14:1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

- **(1) Pursue Love:** Why? The previous chapter is the love chapter:

1Co 13:4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant

1Co 13:5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

1Co 13:6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

1Co 13:7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- The spiritual gifts is a **primary way of how we demonstrate love**
 - **Love for God, our neighbor, and enemies (outsiders)**

1 Cor 14 Tongues: A Different Kind?

The nature of the gift

1Co 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.**

1Co 14:3 **On the other hand**, the one who prophesies **speaks to people** for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

1Co 14:4 The one who speaks in a tongue **builds up himself**, but the one who **prophesies builds up the church.**

- **Differences between 1 Cor 14 & Acts 2 Tongues:**
 - 1 Cor 14:2 - **Not to men but God, no one understands, mysteries**
 - Acts 2:6 - they were bewildered, because each one was **hearing them speak in his own language.**

Also consider:

- 1 Cor 14:4 - The one who speaks in a tongue **builds up himself (NOT the church)**
- **1Co 14:17** For you may be giving thanks well enough (while speaking in tongues)... but **the other person is not being built up.**
 - **Act 2:11** - both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we **hear them telling in our own tongues** the mighty works of God.”

Contradiction?

- We are simply seeing tongues accomplishing 2 different **goals**:
 - **Acts 2 - Reaching An Unbeliever: Allowing the other person to be built up**
 - **1 Cor 14 - Edifying A Believer: Builds up himself**
- **This will only seem like a contradiction:** if one believes the gift of tongues is **not for personal edification of believers, but only speaking in foreign language of unbelievers.**

More on the **nature of the gift**:

...[1Co 14:14](#) For if I pray in a tongue, **my spirit prays** but **my mind is unfruitful**.

[1Co 14:15](#) 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.

- Mind is **unfruitful**
- Praying in the Spirit **Definition**: Praying in Tongues

We need to discuss how tongues are to be used in church

- We need to be mindful how we use the gift so that we reach the right goal according to the situation we are using it in

[Paul] But a problem: Focus also on building the church!

(Often misunderstood verses)

[1Co 14:5](#) Now **I want you all** to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, **unless someone interprets**, so that the **church may be built up**.

[1Co 14:6](#) Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

- Paul is clearly speaking of speaking in tongues in a **church setting**

...[1Co 14:9](#) So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.

[1Co 14:10](#) There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning,

[1Co 14:11](#) but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me.

[1Co 14:12](#) So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, **strive to excel in building up the church**.

[1Co 14:13](#) Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret.

...[1Co 14:18](#) **I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.**

[1Co 14:19](#) Nevertheless, **in church** I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

- Paul is writing this letter to a specific church, **not to us, but FOR us**
 - He was addressing **certain issues of disorder**:
 - **More than one speaking at a time**
 - Gifts **not being used for corporate edification**
 - They were **focusing too much on personal edification in a corporate environment**: causing people to **not understand what they are saying**

- Some have taken this to mean we should **never speak in tongues in a church**, which is **out of balance**
 - How will you know there is no interpreter if no one is permitted to speak in tongues?

The Correct Procedure in Church

1Co 14:27 If any speak in a tongue, let there be **only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret.**

1Co 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.**

1Co 14:39 ...So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and **do not forbid speaking in tongues.**

1Co 14:40 But all things should be done **decently and in order.**

For who is the gift of tongues?

1Co 14:21 In the Law it is written, “By **people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners** will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.” **(ACTS 2)**

1Co 14:22 Thus tongues are a sign **not for believers** but **for unbelievers**, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.

1Co 14:23 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?**

1Co 14:24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all,

1Co 14:25 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.

- **Contradiction: For Unbelievers, but unbelievers will think you are crazy?**
 - Sign for **unbelievers** when exercised as in Acts 2
 - With interpretation: Tongues as effective as prophecy **when unbelievers understand**
 - Without interpreter: **Sounds Crazy**
 - For **believers** when exercised as in 1 Cor 14
 - With interpreter: **Believers edified similar to unbelievers**
 - Without interpreter: **Personal edification**

Practical Applications of the Gift of Tongues

How would the gift of tongues be practiced practically?

Foreign Languages

- Those who hold to the belief that tongues are **exclusively** for the goal of speaking another foreign earthly language, would need to explain how that gift is practically exercised.

- Does God **take over the mouth** and make it move in ways that speaks a different language?
- Or, as with all other spiritual gifts, is there an **action of faith**?
 - E.g. gift of healing needs an action
 - Similarly tongues, requires us to open our mouth and speak in faith in a language we don't understand, and trust Father by His Spirit to form our words into words of that foreign language.

Corporate Environments:

- Someone led by Spirit will feel a nudge by the Spirit to open their mouth and speak in tongues. They obey.
- (depending of church format) They go to the elders and notify. Elders do not forbid and person speaks.
 - If more than one with a word, only one speaks at a time
- **An unbeliever** of a different language will hear the tongue in their own language, be convicted of the sign, and be edified.
- **OR A believer** with the gift of interpretation receives an interpretation for edification of body
- There will be a call after the person spoke in tongues for any interpreters to testify (if any).
- If no interpreter, keep quiet, and speak alone to God (Personal prayer language). If there was an interpreter, the person may continue speaking in tongues if led.

Personal Prayer-Language

- (1) While in corporate environment, if they prayed before and there was no interpreter they may speak to God alone **for personal edification**.
- (2) While alone, Holy Spirit leads person to pray in tongues, they open their mouth and speak by their own choice
- They do not understand what they are saying, the spirit intercedes (1 Cor 14:14)
- They receive visions, revelations, and spiritual growth
 - [1Co 14:18](#) I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.

What is the Gift of Interpretation?

In Acts 2: There was no gift of interpretation manifestation

- If you were to witness to an unbeliever and he understands you, it is not God who gave him a gift of interpretation (he has no Holy Spirit or gifts), **rather God gave you that person's native language**.
- **A gift of interpretation is:** Rather when a believer with the spiritual gift of interpretation receives a **revelation** in their spirit in the midst of someone speaking in tongues
 - A gift of interpretation is **not you hearing audibly** someone speak in your native tongue, rather in your spirit.

- Just like Paul speaks in a tongue and the mind is unfruitful, **so the carnal mind cannot understand tongues**, only the Spirit can.
 - **Note: This does not apply when one speaks in a native language FOR UNBELIEVERS, who understands without the gift of interpretation**
 - **Church Example: (OREGON)**
 - **Worship leader sang a gift in tongue:**
 - [1Co 14:15](#) 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.
 - Interpretation:
 - I will work wonders among you
 - I will reunite the hearts of the sons with their fathers
 - [1Co 14:13](#) Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should **pray that he may interpret.**

Goals of Tongues:

For Believers & Unbelievers (Corporately): For the Spirit to bypass the flesh, to speak to the Body corporately.

- Believers: By the gift of interpretation in a believer;
- Unbelievers: By speaking in a different earthly language

- believers and unbelievers can receive a message from God.

For Unbelievers (Personal): To reverse the curse of diverse languages at the Tower of Babel so that language would not stand in the way of sharing the gospel.

- Allows a believer to speak in a different language

For Believers (Personal):

1 Cor 14:4 - The one who speaks in a tongue **builds up himself**

- **Bypasses the mind**
- **Personal spiritual growth, receiving visions, revelations, guidance**

The mind is unfruitful in uttering the words:

- [1Co 14:14](#) For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.

Holy Spirit to make intercession for us:

- Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for

us with groanings **which cannot be uttered**. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

PART 2

Part 1 was about:

1. The 3 goals of the gift of tongues
2. Common misunderstandings
3. Correct practice & procedures of the gift in both corporate and private environments
4. The Gift of Interpretation
5. Practical aspects of the gift of tongues?
 1. (How is it exercised?)

The Sign of Baptism of the Holy Spirit

- Some have said tongues is THE sign of baptism - if you don't speak in tongues, you're not baptized

First, we must answer the question: Is the gift of tongues for everyone?

1Co 12:28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and **various kinds of tongues**.

1Co 12:29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

1Co 12:30 Do all possess gifts of healing? **Do all speak with tongues?** Do all interpret?

- = Different roles; different gifts
- If not all speak in tongues, then **tongues is not the single sign for baptism, but spiritual gifting must manifest.**

1. EXAMPLE OF JESUS

Mat 3:16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;

- Then, **WILDERNESS**
- Then, **MIRACLES:**
 - **Luk 4:14** And Jesus **returned in the power of the Spirit** into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

2. SIGN OF GIFTS

Act 19:5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Act 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began **speaking in tongues** and **prophesying**.

○ (+ ALSO IN ACTS 2)

- **Act 2:4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

○ INCREASE OF BOLDNESS

Act 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness**.

While tongues alone does not confirm baptism of Holy Spirit or salvation,

- Tongues however is a gift that is given at baptism of the Spirit **very frequently**
 - However: Some don't speak in tongues because of belief in bad theology.
 - In Acts 2: **The first moment in history** that there was no bad theology on tongues yet. But shortly thereafter the enemy started injecting lies: "They are drunk!"
 - These lies have plagued us.

Act 2:12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

Act 2:13 Others mocking said, **These men are full of new wine**.

The Enemy's Attack on this gift

- The **number one strategy from the enemy** regarding the gift of tongues is **to make believers stop praying in it**. That is **why there so much controversy** and confusion regarding this gift in the body today.
- Satan will lie by saying either **(1) you are making words up** and it is of the flesh, or **(2) the tongue is demonic**

(1) Of The Flesh

- The carnal mind is at **enmity with God**
 - For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. - Romans 8:7
- The carnal mind **hates everything spiritual**
 - **Why we don't like** to pray, read scripture, do spiritual gifting, or any other spiritual thing

- That is why Yeshua said to **deny yourself**: It means to **deny your flesh its desires**
 - That is why Yeshua **needed to fast in the wilderness**
- This is important to understand: **Your flesh will hate speaking in tongues**, as it hates all things of God
 - The individuals **rejecting tongues** often operate from the flesh, **because they do not fast**:

Mat 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief**: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Mat 17:21 **Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**

(2) Demonic Tongues

- there is a **counterfeit** for every spiritual gift God has given us, including tongues.
- **What is Satan's MAIN Objective with counterfeits?**
 - To **hurt us**, and **cause confusion** with the counterfeit, so that we **ultimately reject the original**
- Just because there is a counterfeit, **doesn't mean the original is false**
- The counterfeit **shouldn't affect our perception** of the original.
 - E.g. Buying a fake counterfeit NIKE shoe from china of low quality, won't make you believe it **resembles the quality of the original shoe**.
 - **Unless you think the counterfeit IS the original - (this is why brands fear counterfeits)**

Similarly,

- If we pray for healing in the name of Jesus and someone got healed, yet the next day I meet a Witch doing the same, should I then conclude I also used witchcraft?
 - Of course not: because **I know which Kingdom and God I serve.**
- **TESTING WHETHER FROM GOD:**
 - What Kingdom is it for?
 - If you are using your gift to draw yourself or others closer to God, then it is of God. If it draws yourself or others away from God, it is not of His Kingdom.
 - If you use the gift of tongues to pray TO GOD, for your edification. Therefore it is of God.
 - What fruit is it producing?
 - Good fruit: Glorifying His Kingdom, lifting His name, producing the fruit of the Spirit as laid out in Galatians.

Practically: I desire the gift of Tongues - How do I receive it?

Luk 11:13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

- **He gives eagerly to those who earnestly desire!**
- **Some movements see more people speaking in tongues**, because they have elevated the gift.
 - More people seeking the gift = **more receive it**
- **Similar thing happened in Corinthians: People loved tongues!**
 - 1 Cor 12:31 But earnestly desire the **higher gifts**. And I will show you a still more excellent way.
 - 1 Cor 14:1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, **especially that you may prophesy.**

Conclusion: We Need Balance

Paul’s “secret”:

1Co 14:18 I thank God that **I speak in tongues more than all of you.**

Do not forbid:

1Co 14:39 So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and **do not forbid speaking in tongues.**

1Co 14:40 But all things should be done **decently and in order.**

I hope this has blessed you.