

### I. SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS A HOLY SPIRIT-ENABLED LANGUAGE OF PRAYER AND PRAISE.

A. A public message given “in tongues” is one of the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to the church and is similar to prophesy if it is interpreted through another gift of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:7-11; 1 Cor. 14:5). The Holy Spirit sometimes operates in this way to manifest the unity of the Body of Christ and its dependence upon one another.

B. The private exercise of spiritual language, prayer language, or “speaking in tongues” is a language of prayer and praise to God.

C. Using “our prayer language” is choosing to sing or pray with my spirit, not out of my mind.

*1 Cor 14:14-15 (NKJV) For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup> What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.*

D. It is primarily a language of prayer and praise to God (1 Cor. 14:2, 16; Acts 2:11). Speaking in tongues is the Holy Spirit enabled language of my spirit that gives expression to my praise and prayers to God.

*1 Cor. 14:2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*

E. Our “prayer language” is one of the things that the Holy Spirit releases to believers as they receive Him. It is related to the idea of being baptized in the Holy Spirit or being filled with the Holy Spirit. It is not a requirement or a “proof” that we have been baptized in the Holy Spirit. It is a blessing that becomes available to all believers when we open to the Holy Spirit’s fullness.

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

*Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.*

F. Jesus is the One who baptizes us in Holy Spirit

*Acts 11:16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'*

### II. SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS A FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

A. The New Testament Church was birthed with the gift of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:1-4). Everyone in the church was filled with the Holy Spirit. And they all spoke in tongues. The normal Biblical pattern is: repentance, faith, baptism in water, baptism in the Holy Spirit – usually evidenced by speaking in tongues or prophesying (Acts 2; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 19:1-7).

- B. Speaking in tongues is one of the signs that the Kingdom of God is expanding, and the Great Commission is being fulfilled (Matt 28).

***Mark 16:15-17 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues.***

- C. It is supernatural.. people are not used to it. It is not "logical" or "rational" in the sense that I can analyze it with my intellect. People do not embrace things that they do not understand fully. We by faith need to receive all that God has for us. Hear Paul's heart of a shepherd for His people.

***"I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all" (1 Cor. 14:18 – NKJV)***

***I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification( 1 Cor. 14:5).***

### **III. WHAT ARE THE BLESSINGS OF SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE?**

- A. You can soar in enlarged praise and worship to God (Acts 2:11). There is a spiritual release. It's scratching that spiritual itch that you cannot get by intellectual pursuits. You are allowing your spirit to soar in worship and prayer to God. No hindrances of words, thoughts. Pure spirit to Spirit.

- B. You can pray and intercede beyond the limits of your intellect (1 Cor. 14:14).

***Rom. 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.***

- C. You are built up, edified

***1 Cor 14:4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.***

- D. Your faith is stimulated.

***Jude 1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.***

### **HOW DO I RECEIVE IT?**

- 1) Realize that all spiritual blessings are available to you! (Ephesians 1:3)
- 2) Recognize that it is a free gift! You can't do anything to earn it (Luke 11:13).
- 3) Eagerly desire it (1 Cor. 14:1)
- 4) Fix your eyes on Jesus. He's the one who pours out His Spirit on you.
- 5) Begin to praise God and worship Him in faith.
- 6) Expect that God will bless you and step out in faith. He wants to bless you!
- 7) Be faithful with all that God gives to you.