



A STUDY ABOUT THE HOLY GHOST AND SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Let's study the book of Acts about the Holy Ghost and then about speaking in tongues in I Corinthians 12.

It starts out with Jesus teaching the disciples for forty days before ascending into Heaven and it starts out like this:

“THE FORMER treatise (communication concerning doctrine) have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given Commandments unto the Apostles whom He had chosen:

“To whom also he showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

So Jesus taught the Apostles how to do things and what to teach in addition to teaching many things other things about Him and what it said in the Bible.
Acts 1-3

Verse 4, “And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which saith He, ye have heard of Me.”

Verse 5, “For John truly baptized with water: but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Verse 8, “But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the Earth.”

This means that when the Apostles received the Holy Ghost they would receive power and boldness to preach and to witness to people about Jesus. All the Apostles were gathered together in the upper room, along with 120 other people including Mary, the mother of Jesus.

V 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication. According to history they prayed fervently for two weeks before the day of Pentecost when they were filled with the Holy Ghost.

”And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.”

“And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:1-4

It doesn't usually happen exactly like that today. There aren't usually cloven tongue and wind anymore.

As those assembled spoke in tongues, many other people could understand what they were saying in other tongues, and they were glorifying and magnifying God.

Others saw that they acted drunk and said that they were just drunk and Peter said,

“These are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

And on my servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy... Acts 2:15-18

So God promised He would pour out His Spirit on all people in the last days, which began after Jesus arose from the dead.

Then Peter preached his first sermon after he received the Holy Ghost. It was:

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

“For the promise (of the Holy Ghost) is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

Acts 2:38, 39

Many people believe that you receive the Holy Ghost automatically when you are baptized. This isn't the Truth. You have to ask and pray to receive the Holy Ghost in most cases, and you will speak in other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance when you receive it.

Jesus said in Luke 11:13 “If ye being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?” Jesus will not give you something evil! He will give you something good! His Holy Spirit!

In Samaria when the Apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

“(For as yet He had fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus.” Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.” Acts 8:14-17

The Apostles didn't stop praying for them until they spoke in tongues.



Then Simon who had used sorcery before this offered Peter money to buy this gift of the Holy Ghost and Peter said, “Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.”

Then Peter told him to repent and Simon asked him to ask for forgiveness for him. The Bible didn't say if Peter did that or not. Probably not. We have to repent for our own sins. Acts 8:18-24

Then there was Saul who persecuted the church and killed many believers that followed Jesus. The Lord came upon him in the road and blinded Him with a great light and asked him why he was persecuting Him and doing all these things.

And Saul, his name later changed to Paul, said, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”

And Jesus told him to go to Ananias so that he could pray for him.

He was blind and he was led to Ananias' house where he prayed and fasted for three days and then Ananias prayed for him and he received his sight again. The Bible says,

“And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

“And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arise and was baptized.”

Right after that Paul went out and preached Christ in the synagogues, that He was the Son of God. Acts 9

This is what happened to Cornelius:

“There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band. A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms (deeds of compassion to the poor) to the people, and prayed to God always.”

Acts 10:1, 2

He saw in a vision an “angel of God” coming in to him and saying unto him; Cornelius. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.”

“And send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.”



So Cornelius sent his servants to Joppa to find Peter and the Bibles says “Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?”

“And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.”

Then Peter came to Cornelius wanting to know what Cornelius wanted. Cornelius told Peter about his vision and what the angel said and he said:

“Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. How therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.”

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons. But in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him. (Because before only the Jews could be actively offered Salvation)

“The Word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (He is Lord of all:)

“That Word I say ye know, which was published throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.”

“And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

“Him God raised up the third day, and showed Him openly;

“Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with Him after He rose from the dead.

“And He commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is He which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.”

“To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His Name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.”

“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the Word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished. as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

“For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.” Then answered Peter,

Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?”

“And he commanded them to be baptized in the Name of the Lord.”

Then it says that the Apostles and brethren that were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the Word of God, and the Jews that were called the Circumcision questioned Peter about having gone in to tell a man who wasn't a Jew about Salvation, he again told the story about Cornelius saying:

“And, behold, immediately there were three men already come unto the house where I was sent from Caesarea unto me. And the Spirit (Holy Ghost) bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house:

“And showed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter;

Who shall tell thee words whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.”

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.”

Referring to when they had been filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave the utterance.

Then Peter said, “Then remembered I the Word of the Lord, how that He said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost .”

Then he said, “Forasmuch then as God gave them the life gift (the Holy Ghost) as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?”

The previous verses are found in Acts 10 and 11

In Acts 13: 1-4 the Bible gives us an example of how the new covenant church operated in the gifts of the Holy Ghost. There is a simple Biblical pattern: the empowerment and functioning of the Holy Spirit led to the witnessing of the Gospel. Notice in these verses how a small group of believers met, and the Holy Ghost spoke (perhaps through tongues/interpretation, perhaps by a direct word of knowledge) and two members of the group were “sent” (the Greek word: apostello). So the Holy Ghost lead the Church to witness the Gospel in a very direct, simple and effective way.

“Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.” (Acts 13:1-4)

These Scriptures are about a man who needed to learn about the Holy Ghost and baptism in Jesus Name yet:

“A certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus.”

”This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.”

“And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.”

“And when he was disposed to pass into Archaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:

“For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was Christ.”

Acts 18:24-28

“And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

“He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.”

“And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism.”

“Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on Him which should come after Him, that is, on Christ Jesus.”

“When they heard this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus.”

”And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them: and they spake with tongues and prophesied.”

“And all the men were about twelve.”

Acts 19:1-7

Tongues means language-one naturally unacquired

This means it's a Heavenly language that no one can learn.

You can see from all these Scriptures in the book of Acts that the infilling of the Holy Ghost was not just for the Apostles; it was for many other people as well; even including Mary, Jesus' mother!

The disciples that went out and spread and administered the gospel needed the Holy Ghost to teach them and tell them where to go to evangelize. And they needed him to keep them full of joy and comfort.

Now let's look in I Corinthians to find out what it says about speaking in tongues:

This is about how tongues operate in a church service or home meeting:

This is for people who have received the infilling of the Holy Ghost.

Here is a little background on the gifts of the Spirit:

“Now there are diversities (variety, difference) of gifts, but the same Spirit of administrations, but the same Lord.”

“And there are diversities (a variety, or a difference) of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.”

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man (with the Baptism of the Holy Ghost) to profit withal.”

“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;”

“To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;”

“To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.”

I Corinthians 12:4-10

Here’s another reference to tongues that many don’t understand.

”Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.”

“For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.”

Chapter 13:8-10

This doesn’t mean that speaking in tongues has ended after it was given at Pentecost.. It means that it will end when Jesus comes for us. There will be no need for it in Heaven.

“Perfect” means completeness. Everything will be completed when Jesus comes, tongues and also the little bit of knowledge that we have will vanish away!

Chapter 14 goes on to say,

“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy (foretell events)

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue (that is speaking in tongues) speaketh not unto men, but unto God! For no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

When we are speaking in tongues we are speaking to God but we don't understand what we are saying.

The Holy Ghost also prays for us because we don't always know what to pray for.

Romans 8:26 "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities:(feebleness of mind or body) 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."

Then it says, "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification (to build up) and exhortation, (consolation) and comfort."

"He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth (builds up) himself; but he that prophesieth (in church or home meeting) edifieth the church."

"I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, (in church) except he interpret, that the church (or home meeting) may receive edifying."

This is talking about in a church service or home meeting. Paul isn't saying that speaking in tongues isn't important and good. He's saying speaking in tongues in church isn't as important during the service as prophesying or the interpretation of what someone speaks in tongues during the service.

What happens during a service when there is "tongues and interpretation" is that someone starts speaking loudly in tongues and everyone becomes quiet and listens while the person is speaking. Sometimes the people become quiet before the person starts to speak sensing that something is happening. This happens when the people are really worshipping the Lord, and then they all become quiet with expectation, because the Holy Ghost is so strongly present. When the person is finished speaking, the people wait quietly and wait for the interpretation in English, or the language that the people speak normally. 12

If someone is moved upon to interpret he or she speaks up loudly and interprets what has been said in tongues.

The Holy Spirit sometimes scolds us for not trusting in Jesus and many times He backs up what the pastor is preaching. He tells us not to live like the world, but to follow Him and obey the Word of God.

He always tells us how much He loves us and to hang on to Him and to endure, because He is coming very soon. It's a wonderful experience! Something someone would not want to miss! It is comforting and encouraging!

Going on in the Scripture, "Now, brethren if I come unto you speaking with tongues,(in church or home meeting) what shall it profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesy, or by doctrine?"

"And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?"

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

"So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air."

"There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. (meaning) Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me."

All this means means that we are to speak a language that can be understood by the people that are hearing the service, most of the time, but you can still speak in tongues some of the time, as the Spirit gives the utterance; just not all the time.

The chapter goes on to say, “Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.”

“Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. (during the service)

“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.”

“What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, (in tongues) and I will pray with the understanding, also. (in your language) I will sing with the spirit (in tongues) and I will sing with the understanding. (in your language)

Paul is talking about praying and singing in tongues and that there are two ways to do these things.

Now he goes on to say, “Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? For thou verily (truly) givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.”

If the visitor doesn't understand what you are saying or others are saying, he's not going to learn anything to help him.

Then Paul says, “I thank my God, I speak in tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church (or home meeting) I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.”

(Church isn't the place to just sit and speak in tongues without contributing to the service.)

1Corinthians 14:21

Paul also says, “Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice (evil) be ye children, but in understanding be men.”

“In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they (many people) not hear me, saith the Lord.”

This means that the Lord tries to tell people in His Word about the wonderful rest and joy He has for them in receiving the Holy Ghost with evidence of speaking in tongues but they won't hear it. They have their own idea of what it means, and they won't budge from it.



Here is another reference to speaking in tongues: "For with stammering lips and another tongue will He speak to this people."

"To whom He said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear." Isaiah 28:11:12

"This means that despite the fact God tries to tell people about the infilling of the Holy Ghost, many people won't believe Him. You have stammering lips when you are being filled with the Holy Ghost.

Paul goes on to say, “Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.”

“If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?”

Paul is saying here that the church shouldn't come together and everyone just speak in tongues and not be there to minister to the people that come in.

“But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, and he is judged (examined, questioned) of all.”

“And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest (apparent) and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.”

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My Name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues!

"They shall take up serpents; (not without good reason like Paul had) and if they drink any deadly thing (like missionaries who sometimes have to eat and drink filthy things because that's what they are offered) it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Mark 16:17, 18

After going over this study with a sincere heart I don't know how anyone can say that the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues, as the Spirit gives the utterance, isn't real and doesn't exist; and that the Holy Spirit isn't still being poured out on all flesh!

Acts 2:16-21



