

THE TRUTH ABOUT TONGUES

What Are Tongues?

- I. **There are spiritual languages and men can speak them-1Co13:1-Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels (celestial, supernatural, heavenly being) and have not charity...HCSB-If I speak human or angelic languages-VO-What if I speak in the most elegant languages of people or in the exotic languages of the heavenly messengers**
- A. Tongues-ST-G1100-The tongue; by implication a language (specifically one naturally unacquired)-TH-1.The tongue, a member of the body, an organ of speech 2.A tongue (a) the language or dialect used by a particular people distinct from other nations-**2Co5:20, Jn8:23, 17:14**
- B. Angels are supernatural, heavenly beings which means there are supernatural, heavenly languages-Hb2:16-Took not on him the nature of angels but he took on him the seed of Abraham...¹⁴...flesh and blood...
- C. There are more languages than just human ones-If you believe there are only human languages men can speak you don't believe The Bible
- D. Men can speak in heavenly, supernatural languages with the help of The Holy Spirit-Many say Paul was speaking in hyperbole and we can't really speak in the tongues of angels and their reasoning is because we can't understand all mysteries and all knowledge, we can't have all faith to remove mountains; With the Holy Spirit's help we can understand all mysteries (**Mt13:11**), we have an anointing to know all things (**1Jn2:20**), we can move mountains with our faith (**Mt17:20**), we can sell all that we have and give it to the poor (**Mk10:21**), we can give our body to be burned (History books tell us Matthew was) and with the Holy Spirit's help we can speak with the tongues of angels (**Ac2:4-As The Spirit gave them utterance**); He was saying if the Holy Spirit empowers us to operate in the highest levels of these things and we don't have love it is nothing-**1Co13:1-Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. ²And though I have ~~the gift of~~ prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. ³And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.**
- II. **Tongues are a spiritual language (You need to know what tongues are if you're going to speak in tongues)**
- A. The unlearned and unbeliever calls people who speak in tongues crazy because they hear something strange to them, a heavenly spiritual language-1Co14:23-If...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 (insane, maniac, not in right mind, destitute of sense, stupid)-AFV-Lost your minds-AM-Out of your mind-AC-Demented-NLT-If unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your church meeting and hear everyone speaking in an unknown language, they will think you are crazy-EX-They will say you are crazy [insane; unintelligible tongues sound like babbling]-GNB-If then the whole church meets together and everyone starts

speaking in strange tongues—and if some ordinary people or unbelievers come in, won't they say that you are all crazy—**EAS**—Perhaps some people come in who do not believe in God. Or perhaps they have not learned much about God. If all of you are speaking in strange languages those visitors would not understand. They would say that you are all crazy!

1. If tongues were just natural foreign languages it wouldn't cause this kind of accusation—Any unbeliever or unlearned person would recognize a natural foreign language and if they heard someone speaking that language, who wasn't have that nation, they would be impressed by it, not conclude that the person was crazy
2. In Acts 2 they heard foreign languages from people who didn't speak them and marveled at it and didn't accuse them of being crazy—The men in Acts 2 were devout men and at the least unlearned and at the most unbelievers, but they didn't call them crazy because they heard it in their own language
3. In 1Co14:23 **WHAT ARE THEY (UNBELIEVER/UNLEARNED) HEARING?**—They aren't hearing their own language, they aren't hearing natural foreign languages; **They are hearing something so strange that it caused them to accuse the people speaking of being crazy**

B. People that spoke in tongues were mocked and accused of being drunk—**WHAT ARE THEY HEARING? WHAT ARE THEY MOCKING?**—**Ac2:13**—Others mocking said, *These men are full of new wine.*

1. People still mock/mimic tongues in derision today because there's a spirit behind this—Mock—**ST**—Jeer at—**TH**—Deride—**W18**—Imitate, mimic, to imitate in contempt or derision; To laugh at, ridicule, treat with scorn, contempt
2. They are not hearing their language—That's not something to mock or reason to accuse someone of being drunk
3. They are not hearing natural foreign languages that they don't speak—That wouldn't be reason to mock in derision and accuse someone of being drunk
4. They are hearing heavenly/spiritual language—They heard something so strange that it caused them mock (mimic in derision) the people speaking it and accuse them of being drunk

C. Tongues no man understands; They are mysteries in the spirit—(V2 is a general statement about tongues and V3 is a general statement about prophesy)—**1Co14:2**—*He that speaks in an unknown tongue speaks not unto men, but unto God: for no man understands him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. ³But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. ⁹Likewise 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. ¹⁰There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. ¹¹Therefore 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. ¹²Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. ¹³Wherefore let him that*

speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. ¹⁵What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. ¹⁶Else 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? ¹⁷For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

1. Tongues are words not easy to understand to the hearer-They don't know the meaning (unless it's a sign or an interpretation) **v9**
2. Tongues are words not understood to the speaker-He has to pray that he may interpret because no man understands tongues and the only way to understand tongues/heavenly language is with God's help and if there is no sign or no interpretation no man will understand what someone says who speaks in tongues-**v13**
3. Speaking in tongues is speaking IN THE SPIRIT and WITH THE SPIRIT-In the spirit as opposed to the natural and with the Spirit means my understanding is unfruitful-**v2,14-17**

D. 5 things when you speak in tongues:

1. You won't understand what you say-You can pick it up in your spirit, but your head won't understand-**1Co14:14**-Understanding is unfruitful
2. You speak by faith a language your head doesn't understand-**1Co14:13**-Pray that he may interpret
3. Your head will say, "What's this?" because your spirit is praying-**1Co14:14**-For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful
4. It sounds like babbling or gibberish-It's words not easily understood-**1Co14:2**-In the spirit he speaks mysteries (not obvious to understanding)...⁹Likewise 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.¹¹If 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
5. You must not lean to your own understanding-Your understanding will say what's the point of this because it doesn't understand-**Pr3:5**-Lean not to your own understanding
 - a. Many are too intellectual and slaves to the head-They live their lives leaning on their own understanding and often people's heads won't let them pray/speak in tongues