

THE TRUTH ABOUT TONGUES

What Tongues Are Not

I. Tongues are not just supernatural ability to speak in foreign languages you didn't learn to minister to people when you don't speak their language

A. This is the only time in scripture where it specifically references someone speaking in tongues and people hearing it in their own language-
Ac2:4-They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues...⁵There were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. ⁶Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded (perplexed, bewildered), because that every man heard them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were all amazed (astounded) and marvelled (wonder), saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? ⁸And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? ⁹Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. ¹²And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

1. It could have started as personal tongues and changed to sign tongues-They started speaking in tongues in the upper room with no one around and when that was noised abroad people came together and they heard it in their language; There was no unbeliever there for it to be a sign to and there was no interpretation when they heard the sound they came running and then heard the speak in their own language
2. In scripture, we see one definitive instance (Acts 2) where people spoke in tongues and other people heard it in a natural foreign language, we see no definitive instance where people actually spoke in a foreign tongue unto to by supernatural ability-**Ac2:6**-Heard them speak in his own language

B. In this instance when they spoke in tongues and it wasn't to minister to people who didn't speak their language, it wasn't heard in someone's native tongue, it wasn't a sign for unbelievers-**Ac19:1**-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, ²He 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. ³ And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. ⁴Then 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. ⁵When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. ⁷And all the men were about twelve.

C. In this instance when they spoke in tongues it wasn't to minister to people who had never heard the gospel who didn't speak their language, it wasn't a sign for unbelievers-**Ac10:44**-While Peter yet spake these

words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.⁴⁵...they of the circumcision which believed were astonished...because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.⁴⁶For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify (celebrate, praise, glorify) God

1. Who were they speaking in tongues to?-Not to men, but to God

II. Five truths that prove tongues are not just foreign languages

A. Speaking in tongues is obviously at the will of the speaker-I know of no one who can speak in a unknown natural foreign language that they didn't learn at their will by the power of the Holy Spirit-**1Co14:27**-*If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. ²⁸But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God...³²And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.*

1. People were speaking in tongues, by their will at the wrong time-Why would they Holy Spirit move on people to speak natural foreign languages that people don't understand and give no interpretation? He wouldn't; This was men speaking heavenly tongues at their will at the wrong time

B. There are tongues NOT to men-**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 speaks mysteries. ⁴He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself; but he that prophesies edifies the church. ⁵I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied for greater is he that prophesies than he that speaks with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. 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? ²⁷If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. ²⁸But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.*

1. Tongues to men-Tongues for a sign, tongues with interpretation

2. You can pray in tongues-These tongues are to God

3. You can sing in tongues-You don't sing to people in tongues

4. You can give thanks in tongues-You give thanks to God

5. You don't need to pray to God, sing to God, thank God in a natural foreign language-You need tongues because sometimes your head will get in the way of what your spirit needs to express-**1Co14:14-15**

6. Tongues with no sign or interpretation are for speaking to God-Keep silent with the tongues IN THE CHURCH

- C. The unlearned and unbeliever call people who speak in tongues crazy-If tongues were a foreign language it wouldn't garner that kind of response-**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)*
1. 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
- D. People that spoke in tongues were mocked and accused of being drunk-Hearing people speak in natural foreign languages wouldn't garner that kind of response-**Ac2:13**-*Others mocking said These men are full of new wine*
- E. Tongues no man understands-A natural foreign language somebody understands-**1Co14:2**-*He that speaks in an unknown tongue speaks not unto men, but unto God: for no man understands him*