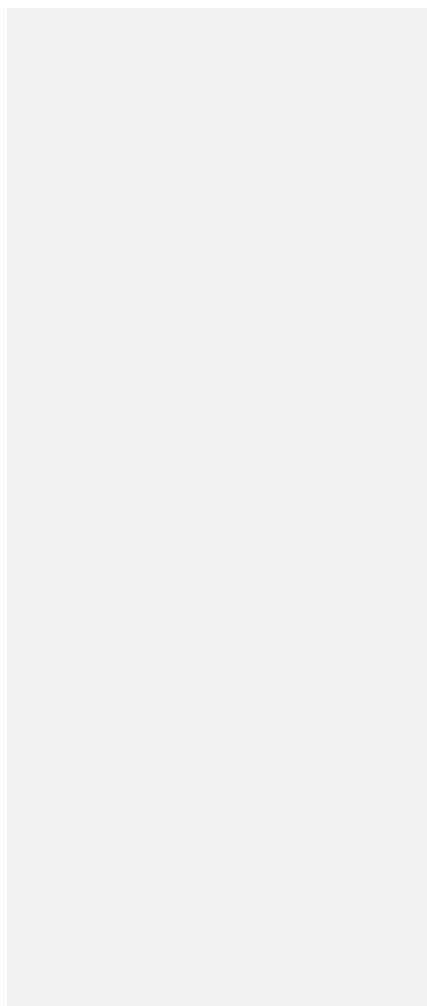


LESSONS ON TONGUES

THIRD EDITION



LESSONS ON TONGUES

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*11 BIBLE-BASED LESSONS
ON THE TOPIC OF TONGUES*

Pastor Ted Speer

Fundamental Baptist Church International
Kumasi, Ghana
May 2023

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I am deeply indebted to Dr. Mike Sarver for his assistance in publishing this book. We have been friends for 27 years, and his expertise and input have been invaluable in getting this project done. I am very grateful for his help!

Dr. Sarver serves as the vice president of Hyles-Anderson College of West Africa, and an assistant pastor of Fundamental Baptist Church International. He and his wife Maria have four children; they have served together in Ghana for 11 years.

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Introduction

Many of today's churches have been greatly influenced by the modern-day Charismatic movement. The word *charismatic* is derived from the Greek word *charismah* which is translated "gift." This movement includes a system of doctrinal teaching that overemphasizes spiritual gifts, especially the gift of tongues. Furthermore, this movement has been mainly influenced by the teachings of the Pentecostal church which claims to be experiencing what the disciples experienced on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

I spent seven years pastoring a church on the Southside of Chicago, Illinois, USA, where most of the churches were Charismatic churches. I am currently pastoring in Ghana, West Africa where, by my estimation, greater than 90% of churches are Charismatic. I have seen first-hand how their false teachings lead people astray and hinder the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I came to realize that if you are going to reach Charismatic believers with the truth and train them to be disciples, it is imperative that you know how to explain the Biblical position on tongues. This book is the by-product of what I have learned along the way.

The goal of this book is to help you to systematically discover the Biblical teaching of tongues. Furthermore, this book should clearly demonstrate that what is practiced in the modern-day Charismatic church concerning tongues is in no way scriptural.

Pastor Ted Speer
Fundamental Baptist Church International
Kumasi, Ghana
July 2020

How to Use this Book

Each lesson in this book has been written not only to teach the reader, but also as a guide to help the reader teach the lesson to someone else. For this book to be most useful, it is important that the reader take the following steps:

1. Read and study the Bible references, and then answer the study questions before reading the author's answers provided at the end of the chapter.

Space has been provided in the book for the reader to write down his or her answers to the study questions. The reader will gain more from the book if he or she tries to discover the truths for himself or herself before reading the answers provided.

2. Compare one's answers with the answers provided.

Once the reader has completed these lessons for himself or herself, he or she could use it to teach the material in a

- Sunday school class
- Bible study
- Church service
- Bible college classroom

Our prayer is that these lessons will be used of the Lord to help many discover for themselves the truth about this subject as found in the Scriptures.

Lesson 1: What Happened in Acts 2? Part 1

Charismatic churches are many and their teaching is widespread. One of their major doctrines is tongues speaking.

The Charismatic movement claims that tongues are ecstatic utterances or heavenly languages. They claim that an ecstatic utterance is when someone filled with the Holy Spirit is moved beyond their control to speak in a language that they do not understand. In most cases, no one else claims to understand them either.

The Charismatics claim that Acts 2 supports much of their teaching. We will take a good look at what happened in Acts 2.

Is what the Charismatics teach correct? Let's study the Scripture and see for ourselves! After studying the list of verses listed below, please answer the following questions.

Read and study these passages:

- Mark 16:17
- Luke 24:49
- Acts 1:8
- Acts 1:12-15
- Acts 2:1-13

Study Questions:

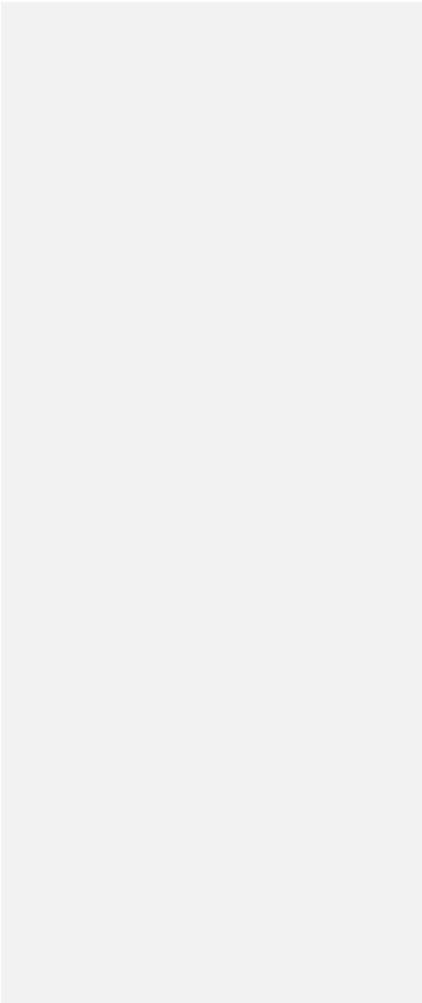
1. What promise was fulfilled in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost?

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2. What three miracles were manifested that day?

3. Who heard the disciples speak in other tongues?

Additional Notes:



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Answers to the Study Questions:

1. What promise was fulfilled in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost?

They were baptized with the Holy Ghost. (Acts 1:8) This prophecy was also foretold in Mark 16:17 ("new tongues") and in Luke 24:49 ("ye be endued with power from on high.")

Teacher: It is important for you to know and understand that this event was something that had been foretold in the Scriptures. Furthermore, we see that the emphasis concerning this prophecy of being filled with the Holy Ghost and being endued with power was for the purpose of preaching the Gospel.

2. What three miracles were manifested that day?

1) There came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind; 2) cloven tongues, like as fire, sat upon each of them; and 3) the disciples spoke with other tongues.

Teacher: The reason I am asking this question is that I want the students to understand two things: First, what happened that day concerning tongues was a miracle wrought by God. Secondly, the charismatics claim to be doing the miracle of tongues but never claim the other two miracles which were also manifested on that same day.

3. Who heard the disciples speak in other tongues?

Men out of every nation heard them according to verse five. (See also verses 8-11.) There are sixteen different countries

What Happened in Acts 2? Part 1

or regions mentioned in verses 8-11. All of them represent different languages.

In verse six we see that the multitude was confounded, or amazed, because they were hearing the disciples speak in their own languages. In other words, they heard men who were Galileans speaking in their native tongues. (verses 6-8) This was an obvious supernatural miracle. God's Spirit was giving those men from Galilee the power to speak in languages that they had not previously learned.

Conclusion:

It is important that we have a good understanding of what actually happened in Acts 2 if we are to understand the importance and significance of the events. Furthermore, if we are going to use the Bible as a pattern, then we need to understand exactly what the Bible is presenting.

In the next lesson we will look further into Acts 2. Then we will be able to draw some very clear conclusions concerning the Charismatic teaching of tongues as it relates specifically to Acts chapter two.

Lesson 2: What Happened in Acts 2? Part 2

In the previous lesson, we began studying Acts 2 to see if the Scriptures support the charismatic teaching concerning tongues.

So far, we have learned that the Day of Pentecost was a fulfillment of the prophecy that the disciples would be filled with power from God. We also learned that there were three miracles done on the Day of Pentecost. Lastly, those that heard the disciples speak in other tongues were men from every nation. Furthermore, these men that heard the disciples speaking heard in their own native languages. In other words, they did not hear them speaking gibberish (talking that cannot be understood).

We will now continue our study of what happened in Acts 2.

Read and study this passage:

- Acts 2:1-13

Study Questions:

1. What are tongues? (Compare Acts 2:4 with Acts 2:6, 11.)

2. What does *other tongues* mean?

LESSONS ON TONGUES

Additional Notes:

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What Happened in Acts 2? Part 2

Answers to the Study Questions:

1. What are tongues?

Tongues are languages.

This is clearly seen when you compare verse four with verses six and eleven. The disciples spoke in other tongues in verse four; the men heard in their own language in verse six, and the men heard in their own tongues in verse eleven. The words, “tongues” and “languages” are used interchangeably and synonymously in this passage. They are the same!

2. What does *other tongues* mean?

When the Bible said the disciples were speaking in *other tongues*, it was clear that they were speaking in languages that were not their native tongue but were rather speaking in other people’s native languages. A list of nations is provided in Acts 2:9-11. The languages of those nations would have been the *other tongues*, referred to in Acts 2:4 that the disciples were speaking. For example, my native tongue is English. If I were to speak in French, then I would be speaking an *other tongue*.

The disciples spoke in these *other tongues* through the power of the Holy Ghost that was manifested through them. The disciples had not studied or learned these languages. This phenomenon was supernatural. It was a miracle from God.

This miracle was not *ecstatic utterances* or a *heavenly language* as the Charismatics claim. We know this to be true because in Acts 2 the men to whom the disciples spoke

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clearly understood what the disciples had said because the disciples were speaking in the native language of the listeners. Again, the Charismatics do not claim that the ecstatic utterances spoken in their churches are understood by the hearers or the speaker. This Charismatic practice is directly opposite of the example we have in Acts 2.

This speaking in *other tongues* in Acts 2 was a fulfillment of the prophecy of Mark 16:17 that believers would speak with *new tongues*.

The word *new* means fresh. Fresh is defined in the following ways: **1)** newly made or obtained, **2)** recently arrived or just come, and **3)** not previously known. In other words, a *new tongue* is when someone is empowered to speak in a known language that they have never learned or studied. They now have an ability to speak that has just come to them. It is newly arrived. This practice of *new tongues* is empowered by the Holy Ghost, and this is exactly what the *other tongues* were in Acts 2:4.

Let's consider this example. I am an American, and I only speak English. If I were to start speaking Russian without ever having studied it, that would be considered a *new tongue*. It would also be considered an *other tongue*. It would be a *new tongue* because I never studied it; it would be an *other tongue* because it is different from my native English tongue. In this example both phrases, *new tongues* and *other tongues*, can be used to describe what happened.

In the example above, I suddenly had the ability to speak Russian though I had not studied it. But what if I had studied Russian and had become fluent through my studies, would

Commented [J51]: Plural, singular, which should we go with? Right now, this sounds strange. It is grammatically correct, but it throws me off every time I read it.

What Happened in Acts 2? Part 2

that also be called a *new tongue*? No. It would not be classified as a *new tongue*, because I went through a gradual process to learn it. It did not come suddenly. However, we could still call it an *other tongue* because it is different from my native tongue. In this scenario, the phrase *new tongues* cannot be used to describe what happened, but the phrase *other tongues* can.

An *other tongue* is any language that is not your native language. This includes *new tongues*, but it is much broader than that. *New tongues*, on the other hand, are only a small category of *other tongues*. To be classified as a *new tongue*, the language needs to come suddenly without being learned. A language can only be spoken as a *new tongue* through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion:

From what we have seen so far from Acts 2, these things are clear:

There were no ecstatic utterances being spoken in Acts 2. Again, Charismatics claim that ecstatic utterances are when someone filled with the Holy Spirit is moved beyond their control to speak in a language that they do not understand. This Charismatic practice of tongues speaking is not consistent with Acts 2.

Other tongues in Acts 2 was a miracle in which the disciples spoke in the languages of the people to whom they preached by the miraculous power of God. This is also correctly called *new tongues*. Everything spoken was understood by the hearers to whom the message was directed.

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Teacher: When you teach this lesson to another, carefully take the time to read through all of these verses so that your student can clearly see what is taking place in this passage.

Lesson 3: What Happened in Acts 2? Part 3

In our first two lessons, we studied Acts 2 to see if the Scriptures supported the Charismatic teaching concerning tongues.

So far, we have learned that the Day of Pentecost was a fulfillment of prophecy, there were three separate miracles done on that day, men from every nation heard them speaking in their own tongues. We also learned that tongues are languages, and *other tongues* are when people speak in a language other than their own native language. In Acts 2, the disciples spoke in other tongues through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Now, we shall conclude our study of the events of Act 2.

Read and study these passages:

- Acts 2:14-47
- Acts 1:8
- Luke 24:45-49

Study Questions:

1. Who stood up to preach to those who were mocking in Acts 2:13?

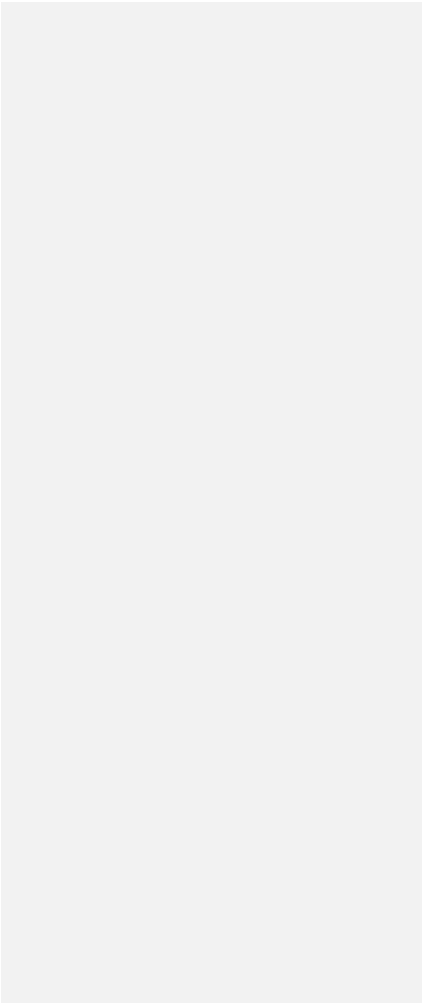
2. What was the basic message of Peter's preaching?
(Peter's message begins in verse 14 and continues through verse 36.)

LESSONS ON **TONGUES**

3. What were the results of all the preaching that was done on that day of Pentecost? (See verses 37-47.)

4. Why did God pour out His power upon the disciples?

Additional Notes:



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LESSONS ON TONGUES

Answers to the Study Questions:

1. Who stood up to preach to those who were mocking in Acts 2:13?

Peter preached to the group of doubters who were mocking what had happened.

Interestingly, it was men of Judaea and those who dwelt in Jerusalem who were doing this mocking. Perhaps these mockers, being Hebrews, could not understand that the disciples were being miraculously used of God because they did not understand the languages which the disciples were speaking. The disciples were speaking in the tongues of the different nations that were gathered from around the world. They were not speaking Hebrew.

An important thing to notice is that when Peter preached to these men, he did not need to speak in other tongues because they all shared his language.

2. What was the basic message of Peter's preaching?

Peter's message begins in verse fourteen and continues through verse thirty-six. The basic message was Jesus was crucified, buried and risen. These things were to prove that Jesus was the promised Messiah of the Old Testament.

3. What were the results of all the preaching that was done on that day of Pentecost?

People understood the message, were convicted and wanted to be saved according to verse thirty-seven. About 3,000 people gladly received salvation and were baptized in verse forty-one, and many of these new converts continued in the faith. (verses 42-47)

What Happened in Acts 2? Part 3

4. Why did God pour out His power upon the disciples?

This was a fulfillment of prophecy. However, the primary reason for God's outpouring of His Spirit was for people to be saved. God was not trying to exalt His disciples; God was exalting Himself through the Gospel message given by the disciples.

Application:

In Charismatic churches much emphasis is placed upon the miracle of tongues, but very little attention is placed upon the preaching of the Gospel. The vast majority of Charismatic churches do not believe in a Gospel by grace through faith. They preach salvation by the obedience of man to God's commandments. Why would God give His miraculous power to those who do not even preach His clear Gospel message?

The truth is that the tongues they claim to speak does not match the pattern of Acts 2. Furthermore, the results from their tongues speaking are not the same as the results that took place on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

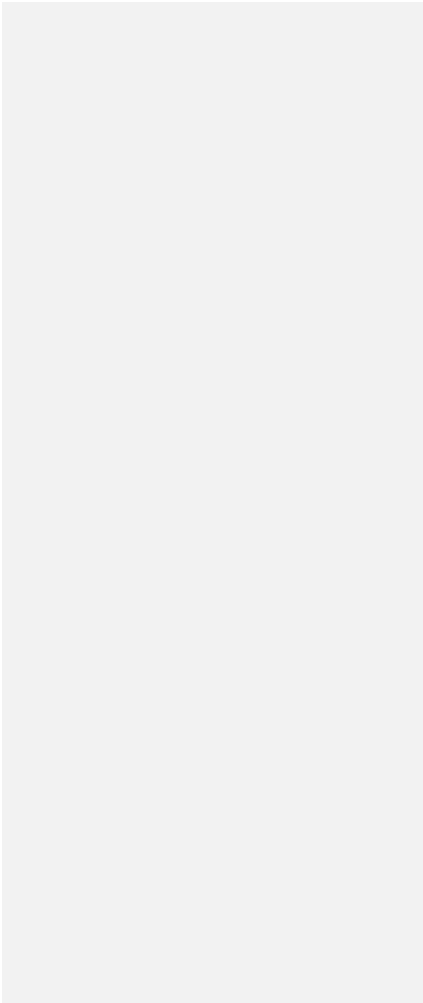
Remember that when God promised His power in Acts 1:8 and Luke 24:45-49, He emphasized that the disciples would be witnesses. That means that the Gospel would be preached.

Conclusion:

From what we have seen so far from Acts 2, it is clear that God gave His power so that the Gospel message would go out. The emphasis of Acts 2 should not be upon the miracle that

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happened, but the emphasis should be placed on the message that was preached and what happened as a result.



Lesson 4: Tongues and the Filling of the Spirit

We have seen from the Bible that the tongues speaking in Acts 2 was supernatural, but it was not ecstatic utterances as most Charismatics believe. In fact, we have seen quite the opposite. The tongues, or languages, the disciples were speaking were clearly understood by people from all over the world. Other miracles happened that day in addition to the tongues speaking, and thousands of people heard and believed the Gospel. God had promised that this would happen, and it did.

Another teaching of some Charismatics is that anyone who is filled with the Holy Spirit will automatically speak in tongues. Is this true? If I am filled with the Spirit, will I automatically speak in tongues?

Let's see what the Scriptures have to say. Please carefully study the Scriptures listed below and answer the study questions.

Read and study these passages:

- Luke 1:13-15, 39-44, 67-79
- Acts 4:8-12, 31
- Acts 6:3
- Acts 7:55
- Acts 9:17-20
- Acts 13:6-12

Study Questions:

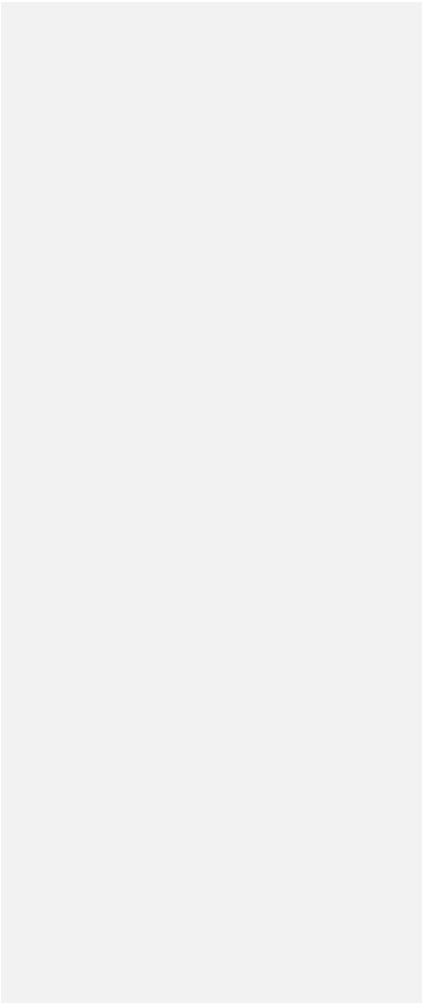
1. In the passages listed at the beginning of this lesson, who does the Bible say were filled with the Holy Spirit?

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2. Did all of these speak in tongues?

3. What did all of these who were filled with the Holy Ghost in our key verses have in common?

Additional Notes:



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LESSONS ON TONGUES

Answers to the Study Questions:

1. In the passages listed at the beginning of this lesson, who does the Bible say were filled with the Holy Spirit?

They were John the Baptist; Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist; Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist; Paul; Peter; Stephen; and the disciples.

2. Did all of these speak in tongues?

The Bible never records Zacharias, Elisabeth, John the Baptist, Stephen, Paul, or Jesus Christ speaking in new tongues.

The disciples of Acts 4 are moved with the Holy Ghost, but there is no mention of tongues.

The Bible clearly teaches in 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 that not all speak in tongues.

The Charismatics teaching that speaking in tongues is direct evidence for being filled with the Spirit is simply not scriptural, because not all of the people in the Bible who were filled with the Spirit spoke in tongues.

3. What did all of these who were filled with the Holy Ghost in our key verses have in common?

John was the forerunner of Christ. He prepared the way for Christ, meaning he preached about the Saviour. It was John who said that "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)

Elisabeth spoke of Mary being the mother of her Lord. She was prophesying of the coming Messiah. Zacharias spoke

Tongues and the Filling of the Spirit

of the knowledge of salvation and the remission of sins. The disciples in Acts 2 and 4 preached the word and the Gospel. Peter in Acts 4 said “neither is there salvation in any other.” Stephen preached about the coming of the Just One. Paul preached Christ.

The clear by-product of being filled with the Holy Spirit in each of these cases that we read is boldness to proclaim the truth of Who Christ is and what He did. In every case where someone was filled with the Holy Spirit, he or she was bold to proclaim the truth concerning Christ.

Conclusion:

The witness of the Scriptures makes it clear that not all who were filled with the Holy Spirit spoke in tongues.

Many Charismatics teach that if you are filled with the Holy Spirit then you will speak in tongues. Charismatics are not emphasizing Christ and His message; rather they are emphasizing the power that they claim God has given them. God does not give His power to us for us to boast; He gives us His power to magnify Him!

Lesson 5: What Happened in Acts 10?

The preceding lesson dealt with the subject of tongues and being filled with the Spirit.

We learned that not all who were filled with the Spirit spoke in tongues, but they all preached about Jesus Christ. Therefore, the distinguishing characteristic of being filled with the Spirit is boldness in preaching the truth about Jesus Christ.

This lesson is from Acts 10. In this chapter we receive further evidence and confirmation of what happened in Acts 2. Furthermore, we see more evidence that the gift of tongues is not ecstatic utterances, and we see that Gentile believers are filled with God's Spirit.

Teacher: The key to completely understanding what happens in Acts 10 is found in Acts 11:1-18.

Read and study these passages:

- Acts 10
- Acts 11:1-18

Overview of the story from Acts 10:

Cornelius is visited by an angel of God and told to send for Peter, so he sends two servants and a soldier to Joppa to get Peter. Meanwhile, Peter has a vision while praying on the rooftop of the house in which he was staying.

The three men sent from Cornelius arrive where Peter is staying. The Holy Spirit leads Peter to go with them, so he accompanies them back to Caesarea and takes some brethren from Joppa along with him.

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After arriving at Cornelius' house, Peter finds many others waiting for him. Cornelius had apparently invited many people over to hear what God would say through Peter. Cornelius then retells to Peter what had happened and why he sent for him.

In verses thirty-three through forty-three, Peter preaches, and the Holy Ghost is poured out on the men who hear him. Then they speak in tongues and glorify God. The men from Joppa that accompanied Peter hear the Gentiles in Cornelius house and are astonished. Afterwards, Peter commands these new converts to be baptized.

Things that Act 11 makes clear concerning Acts 10:

Six Jewish brethren accompanied Peter to Caesarea according to verse twelve.

The reason for Peter's visit is clearly stated in verse fourteen. He was there to tell them how to be saved.

What happened to the Gentile believers to whom Peter preached was the same as what happened to the disciples in Acts 2:15 - 17.

The Gentile believers were also worthy of salvation.

Study Questions:

- 1. Who spoke in tongues in this story?
-

What Happened in Acts 10?

2. Who heard them speak in tongues?

3. What did they hear them say?

4. How did Peter respond after hearing those who spoke in tongues?

Additional Notes:

LESSONS ON TONGUES

Answers to the Study Questions:

1. Who spoke in tongues in this story?

Gentile converts spoke in tongues.

2. Who heard them speak in tongues?

Jewish believers heard them speaking in tongues.

3. What did they hear them say?

They heard them glorify God.

4. How did Peter respond after hearing those who spoke in tongues?

He asked if any could deny them the right to be baptized, then he commanded the new converts to be baptized.

Lessons:

1. The fact that Gentile believers were filled with the Holy Spirit gave evidence to the Jewish believers that Gentiles had a place in the church and in God's service.
2. Speaking in tongues here in this story was undeniable evidence that these Gentiles had been filled with the Holy Ghost.

Every person who is filled with God's Spirit does not automatically speak in other tongues; however, **every person who miraculously speaks with other tongues must be filled with God's Spirit. Obviously, Peter understood this to be true because he commanded these men to be baptized. His motivation to do so was the fact that they had spoken in tongues and glorified God. (Acts**

What Happened in Acts 10?

10:44-48) Therefore, these Gentile believers had certainly received the filling of the Holy Spirit as the disciples had in Acts 2.

3. What took place in Acts 10 was the same as Acts 2; therefore, this tongues speaking was not ecstatic utterances.

The Jews that were with Peter heard the Gentiles magnify God. If the Gentiles were speaking in a language that these Jewish brethren could not understand, then they could not give this testimony that the Gentiles magnified God.

Peter with great boldness commanded them to be baptized. Why? He had heard them magnify God in a different language; this was a language new to those speaking but one that Peter understood. Perhaps they spoke Hebrew. Peter could not be so sure of what was happening if these people were speaking in ecstatic utterances. Again, ecstatic utterances are when someone is moved beyond his or her control to speak in a language that he or she does not understand. There is no witness of such utterances in the Bible.

Peter could not testify that what happened to these Gentiles was the same as what happened to the disciples in Acts 2 if these Gentiles had spoken in ecstatic utterances.

Conclusion:

Again, we have seen clearly that tongues speaking is not ecstatic utterances. Furthermore, we see that tongues speaking was a sign to the Jews that Gentile believers have a place in God's family.

Lesson 6: Tongues and the Purpose for Spiritual Gifts

Charismatic churches place great emphasis on tongues-speaking. Some even teach that it is evidence of salvation. In other words, if you are a true Christian, then you will speak in tongues. Oftentimes church members are made to feel less important when they are asked to speak in tongues and are not able to do so. Is this what the Scriptures teach us?

In this lesson we will study from 1 Corinthians 12 which will clearly refute these assertions and attitudes that many Charismatic churches have concerning tongues speaking. Please carefully read 1 Corinthians 12 and answer the following questions.

Read and study this passage:

- 1 Corinthians 12

Study Questions:

1. In what area did the Apostle Paul not want the Corinthians to be ignorant? (See verse 1.)

2. Paul lists spiritual gifts in verses 8-10. Does he explain each individual gift?

3. Does everyone have the same spiritual gift or gifts?

LESSONS ON **TONGUES**

- 4. Does everyone have the same Lord?

- 5. The church is a _____ made up of different _____.
- 6. Does everyone have a duty to care for the rest of the body?

- 7. Does everyone have the same job to do in the church?

- 8. Does God want unity or division in the church? (See verse 25.)

- 9. According to your understanding, what is the purpose for our spiritual gifts?

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LESSONS ON TONGUES

Answers to the Study Questions:

1. In what area did the Apostle Paul not want the Corinthians to be ignorant? (See verse 1.)

He did not want them to be ignorant in the area of spiritual gifts. This church obviously wanted to know about spiritual gifts according to verse one, and without proper knowledge of them, this church stood in danger of being distracted from the main duty of the church.

2. Paul lists spiritual gifts in verses 8-10. Does he explain each individual gift?

No. Paul gives no specific instruction about these gifts. However, Paul very clearly explains the purpose of these gifts as we will see in the remainder of this lesson.

3. Does everyone have the same spiritual gift or gifts?

Clearly, no! (See verses 28-30.)

4. Does everyone have the same Lord?

Yes! (See verses 4-6.)

5. The church is a *body* made up of different *members*.

It is true that we are all different, but our purpose is one. (See verses 12-14.)

6. Does everyone have a duty to care for the rest of the body?

Yes. See (verses 15-17.)

Commented [JS2]: The original paragraph left me wondering what you (Dad) were talking about. I had trouble finding the relevance of the second sentence of the original paragraph to the answer of the question. Here are two suggestions of what I think you were trying to say.

Tongues and the Purpose for Spiritual Gifts

7. Does everyone have the same job to do in the church?

No. (See verses 5, 28-30.)

8. Does God want unity or division in the church?

Unity. (See verse 25.)

9. According to your understanding, what is the purpose for our spiritual gifts?

The reason God gives spiritual gifts to each of us is very apparent in this chapter. We are to use our spiritual gifts to help, aid, or benefit the church. Our spiritual gifts are nothing for which we are to boast or brag. Our spiritual gifts are not given to us so that we can advance our own selves or bring attention to ourselves. They are for the benefit of others.

Our spiritual gifts should not be the source of division; rather they should be aids to our unity.

Conclusion:

We learned the following truths that refute Charismatic attitudes and doctrines concerning tongues and spiritual gifts:

First, tongues were not to be spoken by every believer, so to require it of everyone is simply not scriptural. If not every believer has this gift, then how can it be a sign of salvation? It cannot be! Second, spiritual gifts are not given to divide and bring jealousy and envy. Rather, they are given to bring unity.

Lesson 7: The More Excellent Way

One of the main teachings of charismatic churches concerning tongues is that tongues are heavenly languages. Some of the verses that they use to support this teaching are found in 1 Corinthians 13.

Furthermore, the last verse in 1 Corinthians 12 speaks of a more excellent way. We will see in 1 Corinthians 13 what that more excellent way is all about.

Read and study this passage:

- 1 Corinthians 13

Study Questions:

1. Was Paul saying that he could speak with the tongues of angels? (Consider 1 Corinthians 13:1, 2 carefully.)

2. What is given a detailed description in verses 4-8?

3. What is greater than faith and hope?

4. Notice that 1 Corinthians 13 immediately follows 1 Corinthians 12:31. What do you believe is the “*more excellent way*” mentioned by Paul?

LESSONS ON TONGUES

Answers to the Study Questions:

1. Was Paul saying that he could speak with the tongues of angels?

Many Charismatics will cite verse one as proof that it is possible to speak in heavenly or angelic languages. However, Paul is not testifying to speaking in angelic languages. Paul's words in verses 1-3 are what is called a *hypothetical statement*.

A hypothetical statement is one in which something is supposed as a possibility in order to make a point or ask a question. It is a "what if" statement.

For example, let's say someone asks you this question, "What would you do if you had one million dollars?" You don't actually have one million dollars, but you are being asked to tell what you would do if you had a million dollars.

Paul was not saying that he spoke in angelic or heavenly languages no more than he was testifying to having all knowledge, all faith, and understanding all mysteries. (verses 1-3) Paul was making the point here that if he could do all these things, yet he did not have charity, then it would not profit. He was emphasizing that the greatest thing that we can possess and the greatest thing that we can do for others is love.

2. What is described in detail in verses 4-8?

Verses 4-8 describe charity or love. This chapter is known by many Christians as the "love chapter."

3. What is greater than faith and hope?

What are Unknown Tongues?

According to verse thirteen, charity is greater than faith and hope. Faith will not be needed once we see our Saviour because faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. Hope will be realized and fulfilled when we meet our Saviour. Faith and hope will have to come to an end, but love will continue forever! Love is eternal.

4. Notice that 1 Corinthians 13 immediately follows 1 Corinthians 12:31. What do you believe is the “*more excellent way*” mentioned by Paul?

Charity is the “more excellent way” that is mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:31. The spiritual gifts mentioned in chapter 12 are of no profit without this. The great teaching of 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14 is that spiritual gifts are for the benefit and progress of your fellow believers. That points to an underlying, motivating love.

The sad reality is that some church members are more interested in others appreciating their gifts and abilities. They’re not interested in using those gifts and abilities to demonstrate love or charity to others. They have the wrong focus, and Paul is teaching the Corinthian believers in this passage that the primary thing is not what you can do, but what you are doing for others.

Conclusion:

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul was not giving testimony to personally being able to speak in an angelic language. Paul was trying to teach the more excellent way—love.

LESSONS ON TONGUES

The church is not a place to show off what you can do. The church is a place to show others the love of God. Do not use your abilities just for yourself. Use your abilities in acts of love toward others who need you. Speaking in languages that others cannot hear (or understand) does nothing to demonstrate the love of God. Sadly, many believers take the gifts and abilities that God has given them and use them only for personal gain. Ultimately, that neither profits them nor others in eternity.

Lesson 8: What are Unknown Tongues?

1 Corinthians 14 is a very important chapter when it comes to understanding the use of tongues or languages in church. This chapter conclusively rejects the teaching of the charismatic movement. Here are some events or practices that are often experienced in charismatic churches:

- Someone speaks in a language that no one else understands.
- More than one person speaks in a language that they cannot understand at the same time.
- People are confused as to what is being said.
- Many go along with these practices because they have been persuaded that it is some kind of spiritual gift that the person is demonstrating.
- Some are discouraged because they are not able to perform these “miracles” of tongues.

In this lesson and the next, we will study 1 Corinthians 14 to see if the Bible supports what happens in many Charismatic services.

Read and study this passage:

- 1 Corinthians 14

Study Questions:

1. What are unknown tongues?
 - a. Does the man speaking in these verses understand what he is saying? (Read carefully verses 2-4.)

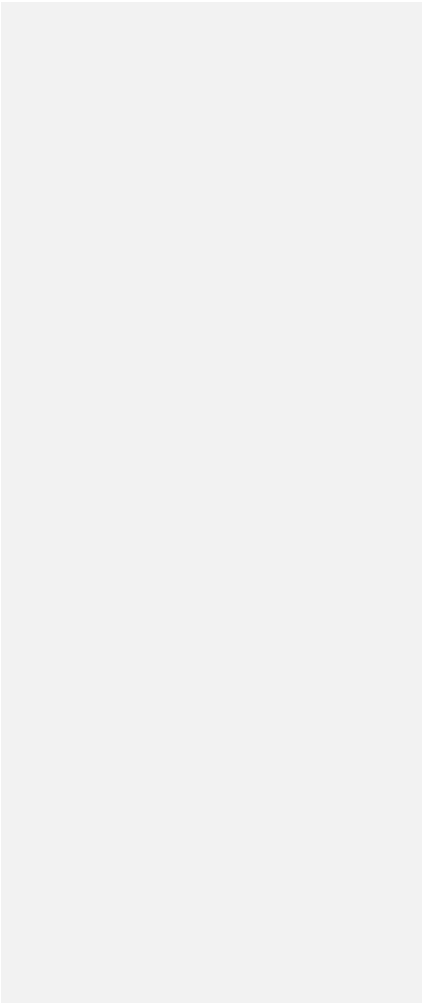
LESSONS ON **TONGUES**

b. **Are there any voices in the world that do not have meaning?** (Read carefully verses 10 and 11.)

c. **If someone cannot understand what you are saying, then what are you to them?** (Again, read carefully verses 10 and 11.)

2. **What is the difference between *tongues*, *other tongues*, *new tongues*, and *unknown tongues*?** (Refer back to chapter two for help on this question.)

3. **According to this chapter, does the Bible allow anyone to speak to the church in languages that cannot be understood by others?** (See verses 9, 27-28.)



What are Unknown Tongues?

4. What does this chapter tell those who speak in tongues to do? (See verses 13 and 28.)

5. According to this chapter, what is the purpose of the church services?

- a. _____,
_____, and
_____ (See verse 3.)
- b. That all may _____ and all may be
_____. (See verse 31.)

Additional Notes:

LESSONS ON TONGUES

Answers to Study Questions:

1. What are unknown tongues?

- a. **Does the man speaking in these verses understand what he is saying?** (Read carefully verses 2-4.)

The short answer is “yes”. Here is why:

In verse two the man is said to be speaking to God because no man understands him. This means that no one other than himself understands what he is saying.

In verse four the one who speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself. To edify means to instruct or benefit. He would not be edified if he did not know what he was saying.

Though the man wants to be understood by others, they cannot understand him. They do not understand him because he is speaking in a foreign language. Even though he may be speaking mysteries, which means he is explaining truths, it is of no value to others because they cannot understand him.

Of course, God understands him, but He’s the only One Who does. That is why it is said that he speaks unto God.

In the next chapter, we will discuss this matter again but with a few more details.

What are Unknown Tongues?

- b. **Are there any voices in the world that do not have meaning?** (Read carefully verses 10 and 11.)

This verse tells us that every voice in the world has signification. That means that every voice has meaning to someone.

If someone speaks to you in the Russian language, it does not mean anything to you if you do not understand Russian. However, what the person is saying does have meaning to the one speaking. The voice has meaning whether the listener understands it or not.

Many times, I have been on trips in Ghana with men from my church. While we travel, they would speak to each other in their local language. What they were saying had meaning, and it could be understood by them, but it meant nothing to me. Their language was unknown to me.

- c. **If someone cannot understand what you are saying, then what are you to them?** (Again, read carefully verses 10 and 11.)

Verse eleven teaches that if two people cannot understand one another then they are barbarians to each other.

A barbarian is a foreigner. When you cannot understand someone, it is because they are speaking in a foreign language.

In conclusion, unknown tongues are foreign languages. It is a tongue or language that is unknown to those that hear it. It is known to the speaker but unknown to the listener. For example,

LESSONS ON TONGUES

you are in an English-speaking church, and a French-speaking pastor is visiting the church. He would like to share some truths with the church, but he does not speak English, and the church does not understand French. If he were to address the church in the French language, then no man would understand him. Only himself and God would know what he is saying.

2. **What is the difference between *tongues*, *other tongues*, *new tongues*, and *unknown tongues*?** (Again, you may want to refer back to chapter two for help on this teaching.)

Tongues simply means languages.

Other tongues are when someone speaks in a language different than their native language. For example, if I, who am a native English speaker, were to speak in French then I am speaking in an *other tongue*.

New tongues are when someone is enabled to speak a language that they have never studied or learned. This ability is given through the power of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:1-6 and Mark 16:7) This speaking in a *new tongue* can also be described as speaking in an *other tongue* since the speaker is speaking in a language different than his native tongue. *New tongues* are always *other tongues*, but *other tongues* are not always *new tongues*.

Unknown tongues are languages that are known by the speaker but unknown to the hearer. They are foreign languages.

Each week in our church I preach in the English tongue. My translator interprets what I say and speaks to our people in an *other tongue*, the Twi language. This Twi tongue is unknown to me which means that I cannot understand it.

What are Unknown Tongues?

However, the Twi language is known or understood by the majority of our people. What never takes place in our church and what I have never experienced in my life is *new tongues*. The only place that I know of that happening is in Acts 2, 10, and 19.

3. According to this chapter, does the Bible allow anyone to speak to the church in languages that cannot be understood by others? (See verses 9, 27-28.)

According to verse nine, words spoken in the church should be easily understood. According to verse twenty-seven, if someone speaks in an unknown tongue in church, then someone should interpret. In verse twenty-eight, Paul even commands those who would speak in an unknown tongue to be silent if there is no one to interpret. Therefore, the Bible does not allow anyone to speak in church in languages that cannot be understood by others unless there is an interpreter.

4. What does this chapter teach those who speak in tongues to do?

Verse thirteen teaches that a person who speaks in tongues should pray for the ability to interpret.

Verse twenty-eight teaches that a person who speaks in tongues is to keep silent if there is no interpreter.

LESSONS ON TONGUES

5. According to this chapter, what is the purpose of the church services?

- a. According to verse three, the purpose of the church service is edification, exhortation, and comfort.
- b. According to verses 31, the purpose of the church is “that all may learn, and that all may be comforted.”

Conclusion:

It is forbidden to speak in a language that is not understood by the congregation unless there is interpretation. This includes prayer time. Those who cannot speak in a language that is easily understood and who cannot interpret, must keep quiet.

The purpose for speaking in the church, according to this chapter, is to edify, exhort, and comfort the church body. This is true both for preaching and praying. No one should be allowed to speak in a foreign language with no interpretation because the purpose of the church services would not be fulfilled.

The practice in the Charismatic churches of someone speaking in languages that cannot be understood does not match or follow the example and teachings of the Scriptures.

Lesson 9: Tongues and Prayer

Many Charismatics that I have encountered and engaged with in scriptural study will admit to me that public ecstatic utterances are not Biblical. However, they will proceed to testify to speaking in a heavenly prayer language. They testify that God is giving them a mysterious language with which to pray so they can avoid Satan's interference. Others say that this prayer language allows you to pray perfect prayers.

The verse most often cited for this phenomenon is 1 Corinthians 14:2. We will explain this verse as well as make other scriptural arguments against a *heavenly prayer language*.

Read and study this passage:

- 1 Corinthians 14:1-4
- 1 Corinthians 14:13-17

Study Questions:

1. In 1 Corinthians 14:1-4 does the person speaking in unknown tongues understand what he is saying? Please explain your answer. (This question was asked and answered in chapter 8. However, this question is also pertinent to the topic of tongues and prayer, so it is important that we discuss this matter further.)

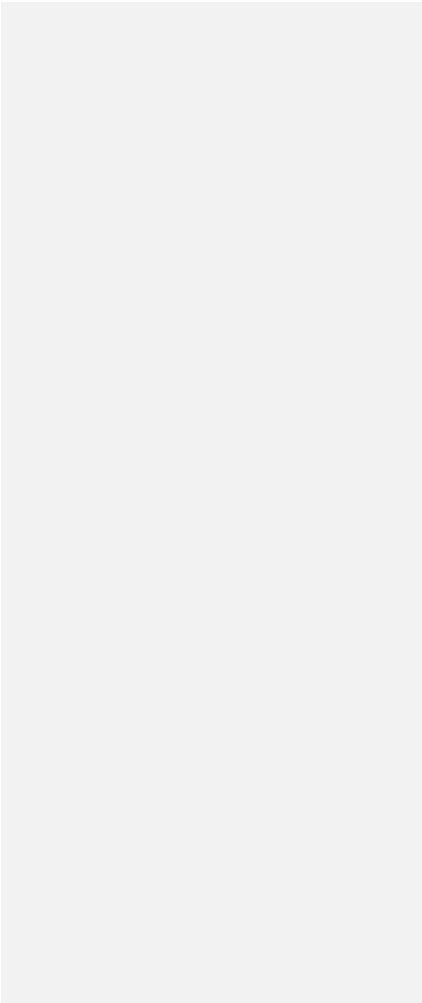
LESSONS ON **TONGUES**

2. In 1 Corinthians 14:13-17:

- a. Does the person speaking in unknown tongues in verse thirteen need an interpreter? If so, please explain why he would need an interpreter.**

- b. What does it mean to pray with the spirit and with understanding?**

- c. If a person prays without understanding, who is it that does not understand what is being prayed?**



Tongues and Prayer

- d. When people pray together, should one pray in a language that the other does not understand?

e. According to verse 17, what is one of the purposes of praying with others?

3. Is there a need for a mysterious heavenly prayer language?

LESSONS ON TONGUES

Answers to the Study Questions:

1. In 1 Corinthians 14:1-4 does the person speaking in unknown tongues understand what he is saying? Please explain your answer.

Yes, the person understands what he is saying. Here is why:

The man is said not to be speaking unto men, but unto God in verse two. The reason for this is that no man can understand him.

The statement that no man can understand him does not have to include the speaker himself. If I were to go into a room of people and start teaching in English, but everyone in the room speaks only Spanish, then I could accurately say that no man understood me even though I obviously understood what I was saying.

Furthermore, the Bible conclusively teaches in 1 Corinthians 14:10 that every voice or language has a meaning.

The man spoke mysteries. In verse two the speaker is said to be speaking mysteries. Mysteries in the Bible are truths that are hidden to some but known by others. Paul, speaking of himself and other men of God, states in 1 Corinthians 4:1 "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God." God had revealed truths to Paul that were not known to all; thus, they are referred to as mysteries. If a speaker is revealing mysteries, then it stands to reason that he understands what he is saying.

The one who speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself. To edify means to build or construct. When we edify

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someone with our words, we are giving knowledge and understanding that helps them.

In verse four he that speaks in an unknown tongue is said to edify himself. Thus, it is necessary that he understands what he is saying if he is being edified by his own words.

The Charismatics teach that these verses support a prayer language doctrine, but nothing in the context of the passage or the entire Bible supports such a doctrine. To the contrary, the context of the passage is in direct contrast to this claim.

2. In 1 Corinthians 14:13-17:

- a. **Does the person speaking in unknown tongues in verse thirteen need an interpreter? If so, please explain why he would need an interpreter.**

Here we have someone who speaks in an unknown tongue or a foreign language. Of course, he needs an interpreter because no one else can understand him.

According to verse fourteen, if I pray in a foreign language my understanding is unfruitful, so I need an interpreter so that others can understand my prayers. For example, I am a missionary in Ghana, West Africa. If I want to pray with a church member who does not speak English, then I need someone to interpret for me into the local language so that my prayers will be edifying to the non-English speaking church member.

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b. What does it mean to pray with the spirit and with understanding?

To pray with the spirit means that you pray from the heart or soul. You are sincere in your prayers.

To pray with understanding means that you pray in a language that can be understood by others.

One purpose of group prayer is to edify and comfort each other. Without understanding what is being said, these goals cannot be accomplished.

c. If a person prays without understanding, who is it that does not understand what is being prayed?

It is the person with whom I am praying that doesn't understand what is being prayed. This is made clear in verse sixteen.

The people with whom you are praying who are not knowledgeable of your language cannot say "Amen" to your prayers if they cannot understand them.

d. When people pray together, should one pray in a language that the other does not understand?

Surely, not. This is made clear in verses sixteen and seventeen.

e. According to verse seventeen, what is one of the purposes of praying with others?

The purpose is that others would be edified. This requires that we pray in a common language.

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3. Is there a need for a mysterious heavenly prayer language?

As I pointed out before, many Charismatics think that the purpose of ecstatic utterances is to avoid Satan's interference. God is Almighty and has no reason to fear Satan. Why would a man need to fear that Satan knows what he is saying to God? This idea makes no sense.

Prayer is meant to be a man communing with his God. If a man prays in a language that he does not understand, how could this possibly aid him in communing with God? As in any relationship, clear communication is important. A man needs to clearly know what he is saying in order to be sincerely praying to his God.

Conclusion:

The Charismatic teaching of a heavenly prayer language is not supported by Scripture. It is not supported by common sense either. Prayer is meant to be a simple act of man speaking to His God. This requires no need for a heavenly prayer language.

Lesson 10: Tongues and Church Order

The practice of tongues speaking influences many aspects of Charismatic church services. Here are some events or practices that are often experienced in Charismatic churches:

1. Someone speaks in a language that no one else understands.
2. More than one person speaks in a language that they cannot understand at the same time.
3. People are confused as to what is being said.
4. Many go along with these practices because they have been persuaded that it is some kind of spiritual gift that the person is demonstrating.
5. Some are discouraged because they are not able to perform these “miracles” of tongues.

1 Corinthians 14 conclusively rejects the teaching of the Charismatic movement. In the preceding lesson, we learned the following truths from this chapter that refute Charismatic teaching:

1. It is forbidden to speak in a language that is not understood by the congregation unless there is interpretation. This includes prayer time.
2. Those who cannot speak in a language that is easily understood and who cannot interpret, must keep quiet.
3. The purpose for speaking in the church according to this chapter is to edify, exhort, and comfort the church body. This is true whether it is preaching or praying.

In this lesson, we will continue to explore 1 Corinthians 14 in order to further refute Charismatic teaching and present the truth from God’s Word.

LESSONS ON TONGUES

Read and study this passage:

- 1 Corinthians 14

Study Questions:

The atmosphere in many Charismatic church services is one in which at times many people are talking at the same time. Furthermore, women are very instrumental in the speaking of tongues. Are these biblical patterns?

Let's look at 1 Corinthians 14 for some answers:

1. What does verse forty teach us concerning the nature of our church services?

2. What does verse thirty-three teach us concerning the nature of our church services?

3. According to verses thirty-four and thirty-five, are women permitted to speak in the church?

4. According to verses 29-31, how many speakers are to speak at one time?

5. According to verse thirty-two, what is to be subject to the prophet?

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LESSONS ON TONGUES

Answers to the Study Questions:

1. **What does verse forty teach us concerning the nature of our church services?**

They should be decent, and they should be in order.

2. **What does verse thirty-three teach us concerning the nature of our church services?**

If it is godly, then there will not be a spirit of confusion.

Teacher: Ask your class if they have ever been confused by the environment in a Charismatic church service. Ask them what was confusing about the environment.

Answers might be: More than one person talking at a time, people speaking in languages that they cannot understand, and people out of control.

3. **According to verses thirty-four and thirty-five, are women permitted to speak in the church?**

Certainly not.

Keep in mind that this is talking about preaching to or teaching the congregation. They are certainly allowed to communicate with others.

(See also 1 Timothy 2:11-12.)

4. **According to verses 29-31, how many speakers are to speak at one time?**

Verse twenty-nine permits two or three to speak and another to judge what is spoken; but verse thirty clarifies that if one person is speaking, and another person decides he wants to say something, then the second person must wait. After that,

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verse thirty-one specifically says that the speaking must be “one by one,” meaning first one and then another. So, only one person should be speaking at a time.

5. According to verse thirty-two, what is to be subject to the prophet?

The spirit of a prophet is what should be subject to the prophet. This is teaching that if a person truly represents God, then he has control of himself.

Many Charismatics teach that the Spirit of God will overcome them and cause them to lose control. They will proceed to jerk about and maybe even fall on the floor. Some call this being “slain in the Spirit.” This type of teaching does not fit with the idea of decent and in order. Quite to the contrary, it is confusion.

Conclusion:

The following is clearly evident from 1 Corinthians 14:

1. Church services are to be free of confusion and to be conducted decently and in order.
2. Women are not permitted to speak or preach to the church congregation.
3. Any speaker should have control of himself.
4. Never should more than one be speaking at a time. Having more than one speaker at a time is confusion.

Ecstatic utterances (Charismatic tongues-speaking) certainly do not fit in a Biblical church service environment. It is an un-Biblical practice and brings confusion, not order, to the church.

Lesson 11: Tongues Review

The first ten lessons in this booklet were about the subject of tongues. We have been refuting Charismatic church practices as they relate to tongues. This lesson is a review. We will summarize the basic lessons that we learned from each of the major passages that we have studied.

Read and study these passages:

- Mark 16:17-20
- Acts 2
- Acts 10
- 1 Corinthians 12
- 1 Corinthians 13
- 1 Corinthians 14

Review Questions:

Teacher: Perhaps you could begin the review by simply asking your class, “What did we learn from Acts 2 concerning tongues?” and similarly for Acts 10, and 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14. If they do not give you all of the thoughts that are listed in this review, you can use the questions listed below to help them remember.

You could make a game out of this review. You could divide up into teams and compete for a prize. Be creative! Have fun!

LESSONS ON **TONGUES**

1. Acts 2

- a. What prophecies were fulfilled by the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2?

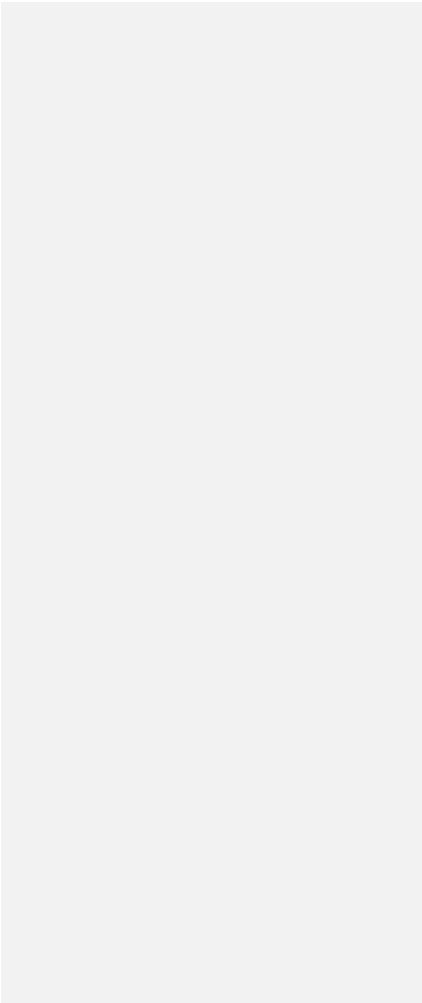
- b. How many separate miracles were done on the Day of Pentecost?

- c. Who heard the disciples speak in other tongues? In what language did these hear the disciples speak?

- d. Were ecstatic utterances spoken in Acts 2?

- e. Are *other tongues* and *new tongues* the same thing in Acts 2?

- f. What are the most important things that occurred on the Day of Pentecost?



Tongues Review

2. Tongues and the Filling of the Spirit

- a. Who in the Scriptures were filled with the Holy Spirit but did not speak with *new tongues*?

- b. What did all of these do when they were filled with the Holy Spirit?

3. Acts 10

- a. What did Gentile believers being filled with the Holy Spirit confirm to the Jewish believers?

- b. What did the speaking of tongues by the Gentile believers reveal about the relationship of the Holy Spirit to Gentile believers in general?

LESSONS ON **TONGUES**

- c. How do we know that the speaking of tongues in Acts 10 was not ecstatic utterances?

4. **1 Corinthians 12**

- a. Why is it not scriptural to require tongues speaking of every believer?

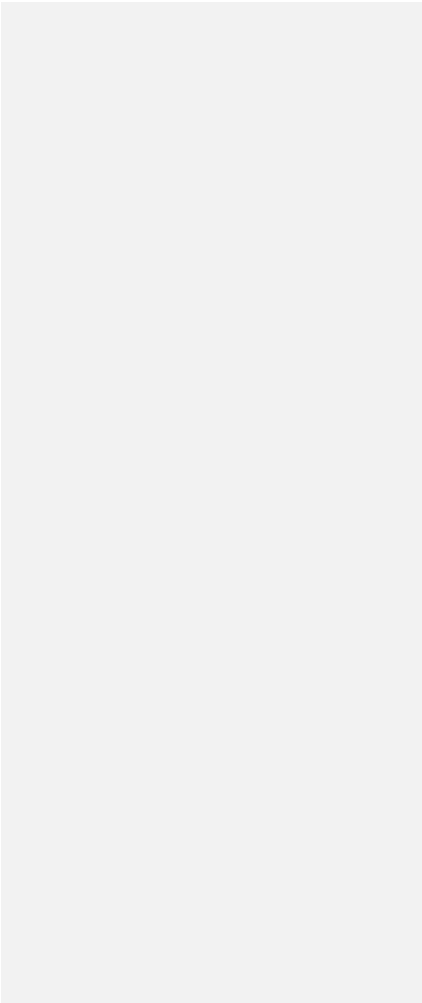
- b. Why were spiritual gifts given?

5. **1 Corinthians 13**

What is more excellent than our gifts and abilities?

6. **1 Corinthians 14**

- a. What are *unknown tongues*?



Tongues Review

- b.** For a language that is not understood to be permitted in the church, what must occur?

- c.** What must one who cannot speak in a language that is easily understood do if no one is present to interpret?

- d.** What are the three purposes for speaking in the church according to this chapter?

- e.** Church services are to be free of _____ and to be conducted _____ and in _____.

- f.** _____ are not permitted to speak or preach to the church congregation.

- g.** Of what must one who speaks in the church have control?

- h.** What is the maximum number of people in the church who should be speaking at the same time?

LESSONS ON TONGUES

Answers to the Review Questions:

1. Acts 2

- a. The Day of Pentecost was a fulfillment of the prophecy that the disciples would be filled with power from God. (Acts 1:8, Luke 24:49)
- b. There were three separate miracles done on the Day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:1-4)
- c. Those that heard the disciples speak in other tongues were men from every nation. Furthermore, they heard them speaking in their own native languages. In other words, they did not hear them speaking gibberish (talking that cannot be understood).
- d. *Other tongues* and *new tongues* in Acts 2 are the same things. The disciples spoke in languages that could be understood by the people who spoke those languages. They spoke in languages other than their own native tongue (*other tongues*) and they did so by the miracle working power of God (*new tongues*). So, what happened in Acts 2 concerning tongues could be accurately described as *other tongues* or *new tongues*.
- e. There were no ecstatic utterances being spoken in Acts 2.
- f. The most important thing that happened in this chapter is that people heard the Gospel, believed, and continued in the faith. Sadly, in most Charismatic churches the emphasis is on spiritual gifts and not the preaching of the Gospel. (Acts 2:41-42)

Tongues Review

2. Tongues and the Filling of the Spirit

- a. There were many in the Scriptures that were filled with the Holy Spirit but did not speak with *new tongues*. Examples: Zacharias, Elisabeth, John the Baptist, Stephen, and Jesus.
- b. What all who were filled with the Spirit had in common is that they testified about God and the truth. They were bold to speak on God's behalf.

3. Acts 10

- a. The fact that Gentile believers were filled with the Holy Spirit gave evidence to the Jewish believers that Gentiles had a place in the church and in God's service.
- b. Speaking in tongues here in this story was undeniable evidence that these Gentiles had been filled with the Holy Ghost. (Acts 10:45-48)
- c. What took place in Acts 10 was the same as Acts 2; therefore, this tongues speaking was not ecstatic utterances. (Acts 11:15-17)

4. 1 Corinthians 12

- a. Tongues were not to be spoken by every believer, so to require it of everyone is simply not scriptural. If not every believer has this gift, then how can it be a sign of salvation? It cannot be! (verses 28-30)
- b. Spiritual gifts are not given to divide and bring jealousy and envy. Rather, they are given to bring unity. (verses 24-26)

LESSONS ON TONGUES

5. 1 Corinthians 13

There is something much more excellent than our gifts or abilities. There is something of far greater power than spiritual gifts and that is charity (love).

6. 1 Corinthians 14

- a. *Unknown tongues* are foreign languages.
- b. It is forbidden to speak in a language that is not understood by the congregation unless there is interpretation. This includes prayer time. (verses 14-19, 28)
- c. Those who cannot speak in a language that is easily understood and who cannot interpret, must keep quiet. (verse 28)
- d. The purpose for speaking in the church according to this chapter is to edify, exhort, and comfort the church body. Whether it is preaching or praying, this is true. (verses 4-5, 17)
- e. Church services are to be free of confusion and to be conducted decently and in order. (verses 33, 40)
- f. Women are not permitted to speak or preach to the church congregation. (verses 34, 35)
- g. Any speaker must have control of himself. (verse 32)
- h. Never should more than one be speaking at a time. If more than one person is speaking at a time, that is confusion. (verse 31)

Tongues Review

Conclusion:

There has been much confusion concerning the subject of tongues. It is my hope that this book has helped to bring clarity to the subject, and that this book will help to equip believers with the truth concerning tongues. Tongues-speaking never anywhere in the Scriptures involved mysterious languages. The tongues spoken, though unknown by some, could always be understood by someone. May our focus always be the preaching of the Gospel!

Appendix: How to Go to Heaven

We've ended our discussion on tongues, and I hope it helped you. However, there is something much more important than that, and I want to make sure you have a clear understanding of it.

I have asked many people this question that I'm about to ask you. It has rightly been called life's greatest question, and I hope you have a well-founded answer. Sadly, many people don't have a good answer.

So, what about you?

If you died right now, would you go to Heaven? _____

What do you believe a person must do to go to Heaven?

The Bible teaches that some people go to Heaven when they die and some people go to Hell. **Do you believe that?** _____

What do you believe is the reason that some people get to go to Heaven and other people have to go to Hell?

I began with the questions above so that you can see what you are trusting to get you to Heaven. Now we will look at some Bible verses that explain what one must do for God to take him to Heaven.

If what you stated above does not agree with the Bible, will you change your mind to believe what the Bible says? _____

LESSONS ON **TONGUES**

Here are six simple truths from the Word of God that explain clearly how we can know for sure that we will go to Heaven when we die.

1. We have all sinned.

Romans 3:23, *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”*

Sin is doing wrong. Telling a lie is a sin. Stealing is a sin. Sin is breaking God’s laws. In the Bible God has given us many commandments. When we break any of those commandments, we are guilty of sinning.

Have you ever sinned? _____

Are you guilty of breaking any of God’s laws? _____

Romans 3:10, “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.”

To be righteous means to be without sin; to be innocent. You may do many good things. Others may even consider you to be a righteous person. God says, “There is none righteous”, because God sees your heart. God knows all of the wickedness that you have ever had in your heart. God knows every sin you have ever committed, even the sins that no one else knows about.

According to Romans 3:10, are you righteous in God’s sight? _____

No one is righteous in God’s sight because we have all sinned.

2. *There is a punishment for sin.*

Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death...”

The word wages means payment. If I hire you to work for me and I agree to pay you \$50 for your work, when you finish the work, I will pay you \$50. That money is your wages or your payment. Wages are what you deserve for the work you have done.

God says there is a payment or wages for our sin. God says there is something we deserve for our sin.

What is the payment or wages for sin? _____

Revelation 21:8, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the **second death**.”

This verse talks about the second death. This is referring to the lake of fire, which is commonly called Hell.

When God says, “**The wages of sin is death**,” He is talking about more than your body going to the grave. He is also talking about the second death, which is when your soul is separated from God forever in the lake of fire.

This leads us to an important question: *Who deserves to go to the lake of fire?*

Revelation 21:8 lists some wicked people who deserve to go to the lake of fire.

Murderers - people who wrongfully kill others

LESSONS ON TONGUES

Whoremongers - fornicators and adulterers

Sorcerers - those involved in witchcraft (Satanic powers)

Idolaters - idol worshippers

Would you agree that these people deserve to go to the lake of fire? _____

Notice Revelation 21:8 also says that “all liars” shall have their part in the lake of fire.

If a man tells one lie, that makes him a liar.

Have you in your entire life ever told a lie? _____

So, what does that make you? A l _ _ _.

According to Revelation 21:8 where do you have your part? In the lake of _____.

Many times people will look at someone they consider to be a wicked person and say, “He is a wicked sinner. He will go to Hell!”

However, the Bible says in **James 2:10**, “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

If we have broken even one of God’s laws, the Bible says we are just as guilty as if we had broken **ALL** of God’s laws.

Therefore, we are **ALL** wicked sinners. We **ALL** deserve to go to the lake of fire. Our sin is an abomination to God!

Because of your sin, where do you deserve to go when you die? _____

Appendix: How to Go to Heaven

In conclusion, the second truth you need to understand is that the punishment for your sins is to die and go to the lake of fire.

3. *There is nothing we can do to save ourselves.*

Please pay attention carefully to the following statements and verses!

Many people think that by giving up their sinful ways, and living a righteous life, they can be accepted by God and go to Heaven. Many people think that by confessing and forsaking their sin and by obeying God's commandments that they can get to Heaven.

Though these are good things to do, the Bible **DOES NOT** teach that doing these things will get us to Heaven!

Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Not of works**, lest any man should boast."

We are saved by grace through faith. Salvation is the gift of God. Being saved is not of works, so that no man will boast or brag about saving himself.

We do not work for a gift. We do not earn a gift. A gift is free. Someone else paid for it, and we get it for free.

We cannot work to get to Heaven. We cannot earn our way to Heaven by being good.

Titus 3:5, "**Not by works of righteousness which we have done**, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

LESSONS ON **TONGUES**

Does God save us because of the works of righteousness that we have done? _____

Isaiah 64:6, “But we are all as an unclean thing, and **all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags**; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

All of our righteous deeds can never make us acceptable to God. They are as f _____ r _____.

If I brought you a gift box that was wrapped very nice, you would likely be happy to receive it. You would want to look inside to see what I brought for you.

If you opened the gift box and found a dirty, filthy old handkerchief, would you be happy? _____ Would you want to accept this gift? _____

If I gave you a gift like that, would you be insulted that I would offer you a dirty, filthy old rag? _____

When we attempt to be righteous in order to earn our salvation, God is insulted that we would even think that we are righteous enough to be accepted by Him. Our sins are an abomination to God!

Romans 3:20, “Therefore **by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight**: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

To be justified means to be declared righteous and innocent. In order to go to Heaven, we must be justified in the sight of God.

What will NOT make us innocent, according to Romans 3:20? The d _____ of the law.

Appendix: How to Go to Heaven

According to Romans 3:20, who will be justified in God's sight by the deeds (works) of the law? _____

If keeping the law will not justify us before God, then that means we are still guilty before Him even if we try to obey His commandments.

Romans 3:28, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

Fill in the blank with the correct answer. (Choose a, b, or c.) Man is justified in God's sight by _____.

- a. His faith and the deeds of the law
- b. His faith alone - without the deeds of the law
- c. His obedience to God's commandments

We see from Romans 3:28 that a man is justified by faith alone - without the deeds of the law.

Keeping in mind what you have learned, please answer the following questions:

Can you get to Heaven by doing good works? _____

Can you get to Heaven by being righteous? _____

Can you get to Heaven by obeying the law? _____

If you believed that your own works of righteousness would get you to Heaven, then you have put your trust in something that cannot save you. You need to have a change of mind.

LESSONS ON TONGUES

At the beginning of this appendix, you wrote down what you believed a person must do to go to Heaven. Were you right or wrong? _____

In conclusion, we have learned:

- 1) We have all sinned.
- 2) The punishment for our sins is to die and go to the lake of fire.
- 3) There is nothing we can do to save ourselves.

4. *Jesus died to pay for our sins.*

Romans 5:8-9, “But God commendeth (or showed) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”

Jesus died in our place. He suffered a very painful death on the cross and He shed His blood for us.

I Corinthians 15:3&4, “...how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

We are sinners. We deserve to die and spend eternity in the lake of fire because of our sin. Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sins, and God raised Him from the dead, so that we can have eternal life.

Appendix: How to Go to Heaven

Let's quickly review. We have learned so far:

We have all _____.

The punishment for our sins is to die and go to the lake of _____.

here is nothing we can do to _____ ourselves.

_____ died to pay for our sins.

5. *We are saved from the lake of fire by faith in Jesus Christ alone.*

Let's look again at some verses we used earlier.

Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace are ye saved through **FAITH**...."

Romans 3:28, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by **FAITH** without the deeds of the law."

According to these verses, we are saved or justified by what? F _ _ _ _ _

Since it is faith that saves us, it is very important for us to understand what faith means in these verses. Faith is believing or trusting or relying upon something.

The questions at the beginning of this booklet were chosen carefully to reveal to you what you are trusting to get to Heaven. Your faith is in the things you listed at the beginning of this booklet.

LESSONS ON **TONGUES**

Remember, there is nothing we can do to save ourselves. In other words, if I am trusting my good works, my righteousness, or my keeping the commandments to get to Heaven, then my faith is in the wrong place!!!

You wrote at the beginning of this booklet what you were trusting to get you to Heaven. **Was your faith in the wrong place?** _____

Now, let's see where your faith must be in order for you to be saved.

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

What does this verse teach a person must do to have everlasting life? _____

John 3:36, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

He that _____ on the Son hath everlasting _____. **He that believeth _____ the _____ shall not see life.**

Acts 16:30, "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?**"

This man, who was a jailor, is asking Paul and Silas what he must do to be saved. Look at their response:

Acts 16:31, "And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,** and thy house."

Did Paul and Silas tell the jailor to be righteous, or to obey the commandments to be saved? _____

Appendix: How to Go to Heaven

What did they tell him to do? _____

At the beginning of this Appendix, you were asked this question: *What do you believe a person must do to go to Heaven?*

Look back at your answer and write it again on these lines.

When Paul and Silas were asked what a person must do to be saved, they said, "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.*"

Is that the answer you wrote down to the above question? _____

Before reading this appendix, you may have already known about Jesus and that He died for your sins. But, if your answer to the previous question was "No", then your faith was not in Jesus Christ to save you. You need to stop trusting yourself, or your goodness, or whatever else you were trusting, and put your faith in **JESUS ALONE** as your only hope of Heaven.

6. Once you are saved from the lake of fire, you are always saved from the lake of fire.

We have learned from Romans 6:23 that the gift of God is **E** _____ life.

LESSONS ON **TONGUES**

For the following questions, fill in the blank with the correct answer. (Choose a, b, or c.)

If something is eternal, for how long will it last? _____

- a. 1 year
- b. 1,000 years
- c. Forever - there is no end

Therefore, when a person believes on Jesus alone for salvation and receives the gift of eternal life, for how long are they saved? _____

- a. They are saved until they sin again.
- b. They are saved as long as they turn from their sin after they do something wrong.
- c. They are saved forever; they can never lose their salvation.

If your answer to the last question is **a** or **b** please pay attention carefully to the following verses and statements.

John 5:24, "...He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, **hath everlasting life**, and **shall not come into condemnation**; but is passed from death unto life."

When a person believes on Jesus Christ for salvation, they have **EVERLASTING LIFE** and they **WILL NOT COME INTO C** _____.

Condemnation means judgment or damnation. This verse is speaking of the judgment of being sent to the lake of fire.

Appendix: How to Go to Heaven

Therefore, God's promise to those who put their faith in Jesus Christ is that **they will never be sent to the lake of fire for their sins.**

When you believe on Jesus to save you, He saves you completely. His blood covers **ALL your sins** - past, present, and future.

The Bible teaches that when we place our faith in Jesus that we become the children of God.

Galatians 3:26, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

Once you become the child of God, you will never be cast out of God's family. You are safe and secure. You are headed to Heaven. You will never be separated from God in the lake of fire.

So what happens to believers when they sin? Since believers are saved forever, meaning they will never go to the lake of fire, does this mean believers can live wicked lives, fulfilling their sinful desires with no consequences? **NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT!**

If you choose to continue in sin, God will chasten or punish you. **Hebrews 12:6**, "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."

There are many different ways that God punishes His disobedient children - none of them are pleasant! One of His punishments is even physical death.

Still, no matter what sin a child of God commits, God will never punish His child by sending him to the lake of fire. God gives His children (believers) the gift of eternal life, and He will never take that gift away from them.

LESSONS ON TONGUES

Is it possible for someone who has believed on Jesus for salvation to go to the lake of fire? _____

In conclusion, the Bible plainly teaches:

1. You have sinned
2. You deserve to go to the lake of fire because of your sin
3. You cannot do anything to save yourself
4. Jesus died to pay for your sins
5. You must believe on Jesus Christ alone to save you
6. Once you are saved, you are always saved

If you believe these truths and you want to be saved today, then tell God in a prayer something like this,

“Dear Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I know that I deserve to go to the lake of fire because of my sin. I believe You died to pay for my sins, and I believe God raised You from the dead. I trust You, and only You, to save me and to take me to Heaven when I die. Thank you for saving me today. Amen.”

Acts 16:31 says, “...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...”

Did you just believe on Jesus to save you? ____ According to this verse, has God saved you from the lake of fire? ____

So, if you die now, where will you go? _____

CONGRATULATIONS! If you believed on Jesus Christ to save you, please let us know so that we can rejoice with you!