

The Tongues Question

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Corinthians 14:1-37.
- B. We need the Holy Spirit.
- C. The Holy Spirit comes unquestionably to those who believe in Jesus Christ.
- D. The Spirit distributes His gifts according to His will.
- E. Consequently, one cannot say that the gifts of the Spirit have ceased since they are given according to His will.

II. The Scriptures are the testing grounds for the legitimacy of manifestations of tongues.

- A. It is only referred to once in Paul's letters.
- B. Tongues were gifts of known languages, which is made clear because only known languages were spoken on Pentecost.
 - 1. The gift of tongues should really be called the gift of languages.
 - 2. Tongues are a sign for unbelievers, not believers. Tongues were designed for nonbelievers to hear God's word in their own language. (Isaiah 28)
 - 3. Tongues is to be exhibited in a public place.
 - 4. Prophecy is greater than tongues for it edifies the church.
- C. There was a false manifestation of tongues in the church.
- D. Tongues had to be regulated with interpretation in order to be a blessing to all.
 - 1. Tongues can be divisive.
 - 2. The Spirit of God always places emphasis on the unity of believers.
 - 3. Tongues can be propagandized--believers are to seek the Giver not the experience He gives.
 - 4. The heart rests satisfied with the indwelling Spirit regardless of any manifestation.

Application questions:

1. What are the marks of the true gifts of tongues? How do modern manifestations match up?

2. How can tongues be problematic in a church? What was Paul's solution?

3. It is the speaker's conviction that tongues have not necessarily ceased because it is by the Spirit's will. What is your biblical conviction about the existence of tongues in the church today? Defend your answer.
