

# The False Gift of Tongues

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Corinthians 12, 14.
- B. The test of a counterfeit bill is simply to compare it to a genuine one.
- C. Genuine tongues must be examined to know if modern tongues are real.

## II. Characteristics of the true gift of tongues.

- A. It is a human understandable language, not muttering.
- B. It is spoken to God as praise and thanksgiving and not to man.
- C. Tongues are a sign to unbelievers, not a private prayer language—no gift is to be practiced privately.
- D. It is not to be used in a church meeting unless it is translated.
- E. Women are not permitted to exercise the gift of tongues.
- F. The gift of tongues is distributed by the sovereign choice of the Spirit, and not all speak in tongues—it is therefore not a unique sign of the baptism of the Spirit.
  - 1. The baptism of the Spirit takes place when a person becomes a Christian.
  - 2. There is no feeling attached to it, but it happens nonetheless.
  - 3. There is no Scripture that says tongues are a sign of the filling of the Spirit either.

## III. Modern tongues are counterfeit.

- A. A person can be sincere but misled by his own sense of dedication.
- B. A group can have all the gifts but imitate them carnally.
- C. When it occurs in church, it often occurs as a status symbol.
- D. One can be psychologically deceived into experiencing tongues.

## IV. The results of supporting modern tongues.

- A. It can be divisive.
- B. It is diversionary. Tongues are a manifestation of carnality.

**Application questions:**

1. What has your experience with the gift of tongues been? What are the characteristics of modern tongues?

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2. How would you respond to someone who began speaking in tongues at your home Bible study?

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3. Which result of supporting modern tongues stands out to you? Explain.

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