

The Beauty of Spiritual Language

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1 Corinthians 14

The promise of Pentecost also known as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is available for every believer. We see in the scriptures that this promise is available to all believers of all generations. To all who will ask.

We see in Acts 2 as well as Acts 19 that this promise is different than the salvation experience. It is a distinct empowering of the Holy Spirit to help us share our faith and live victorious lives.

In this teaching, I want to talk about an added benefit or blessing that is also available for us. If you want all that God has for you, there is something awesome and beautiful you can enjoy and will enhance your spiritual walk with God.

This benefit or resource will:

- Enrich your private prayer
- Enlarge your personal worship
- Strengthen your spirit

This added blessing is listed as one of the Spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12.

I am talking about the beauty of a spiritual language referred to as the gift of tongues.

Let me explain what this spiritual language is and then I will share how we can all enjoy its benefit in our lives.

In 1 Cor.14 Paul writes to correct some misuses of spiritual gifts but gives us a good picture of God's purpose of spiritual language or the gift of tongues.

What is this Spiritual Language?

It is my spirit praying, speaking, or singing through me.

1 Cor. 14:14-15 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So, what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.

God created us different than the animal kingdom. He gave us a spirit and our spirit has the ability to commune with God apart from our mind or intellect.

God has given us a wonderful resource in enabling our spirit to bypass the limitations of our human understanding with this spiritual language.

Notice what Paul says in **1 Cor. 14:22 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit.**

Our spirit understands the deep things of God, the mysteries of God and ministers on that level through us as we pray, worship or sing with the spiritual language he gives to us.

When I pray with my spiritual language I pray mysteries with my spirit. In others words I pray things that my mind does not understand about God or about the situation I may be praying about.

With my spiritual language, I can pray on a deeper level and connect with the perfect will of God.

You see, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit communes with our spirit and so when my spirit prays I am praying in the spirit with spiritual insight that my mind does not yet comprehend.

1 Cor. 14:4 Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.

As I pray with my spiritual language my spirit is also strengthened. I am strengthened on the inside so I can deal with problems and temptations on the outside. I am edified and stirred up to pray for people and allow the gifts to flow through me.

It is a powerful, wonderful, amazing gift God has given us to remain strong and to do spiritual warfare in prayer.

I believe this is why the devil has distorted and made this gift so controversial. He knows its power and potential in our lives.

This spiritual language is controlled by our will. We choose whether or not we will release our spirit from the control of our mind to speak to God directly in this prayer language of tongues.

Your spirit is subject to your will. **1 Cor. 14:15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.**

It's the same as praying in English. You decide to do it, to start, to stop.

It is a benefit not a commandment. I believe when you see the blessing and beauty of this gift you will want to enjoy it. Your spirit longs for it in you.

There are different kinds of spiritual languages or tongues. (1 Cor.12:10)

1. Earthly languages.

- But not known to the one speaking it.

- "Each one heard them speaking in their own language." Acts 2:6-11

2. **An angelic language.**

- I Cor.13:1 "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels....."

There are two purposes of this gift.

1. **The primary purpose of the gift of tongues is for our personal prayer life**

- **To help us minister to God. I Cor.14:2**
- **To strengthen our spirit. I Cor.14:4**
- **To pray more effectively. Eph.6:18**
- **To enrich personal worship.**
- **No interpretation is needed** ...when speaking to God in our spiritual language for he understands all languages.
- **We initiate this anytime we want and everyone can experience it 1 Cor.14:15**

It is appropriate to pray and sing aloud in our spiritual language without interpretation when we are all ministering to God in prayer and worship in a group.

2. **A public message from God to man.**

God at times speaks a message to our spirit for a gathered group or person, which our spirit then speaks forth in a spiritual language.

I Cor.14:26 What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

- **This is God ministering to us 1 Cor. 14:26-27**
- **To strengthen the believers I Cor.14:5, 26**
- **When used as a message for a group it needs to be interpreted so that those who hear the message from God understand what God is saying. I Cor.14:5, 27-28**

- **God initiates when it is a message for the group. God does not use everyone for this purpose.** I Cor 12:30
- **Sometimes used to evangelize unbelievers in their mother tongue.** I Cor.14:21-22

In contrast to the personal prayer language, which we can initiate as we desire, this public message is something that God initiates. We decide to be obedient to His prompting.

In 1 Cor 12: 30 Paul indicates that not everyone will be used to give a public message in tongues. He asks “**do all speak in tongues?**” He is speaking here of the public worship service.

Paul does seem to put more emphasis on prophecy in the public service than messages in tongues. But tells us not to forbid it if it is interpreted for the common good. The context here was smaller groups not large church services.

So, the primary blessing and beauty of this spiritual language is for our personal strengthening and for the benefit of our spirit that desires to communicate with God freely beyond the limitations of our natural mind.

Paul had learned the tremendous value of this gift in his life and says in **1 Cor 14:18. “I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you”**. He said that to encourage us in it.

This spiritual benefit is for every believer. You can enjoy this language in your private worship and prayer life.

How do we release our spirit with this language?

You begin by asking for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. (Baptism of Holy Spirit)

Some people find themselves enjoying this language immediately when they have someone pray over them to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:4; 19:6

You begin by the exercise of your will and faith as the Holy Spirit enables you.

There are many different ways people begin, but an exercise of your will and faith is always involved.

It is not something God zaps you with. It is something you simply begin to exercise in faith. It takes some initiative on our part!

- 1 Cor. 14:15 – It is something we decide to do, our spirit enables us with the syllables but we choose to speak them forth.
- Acts 2:4 – they began to speak as the spirit enabled them. Not as the spirit overpowered them. We have a spirit. Our spirit has the ability. We simply need to release it.

Sometimes we need extra encouragement and understanding to get beyond some hang-ups and misconceptions.

My Testimony. After someone laid hands on me to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit I definitely sensed a shift in my life. The scriptures, prayer and ministry were all stirred afresh in me with new power and anointing. But as much as I was open to the gift of tongues it just was not working for me. I assumed that the gift was not for everyone but yet there was this longing of my spirit to be released in this way. I now understand that my problem was that my mind would not release my spirit to pray in this way. I expected this gift to overpower me in such a way that it involuntarily flowed out of me without any of my effort involved. My mind didn't want to give up control and be "unfruitful" as the Apostle Paul described it. My mind struggled with letting syllables come forth that did not make any sense and sounded like gibberish. It felt like I was just making them up on my own. But once I took the step of faith and was willing to sound foolish even to my own mind and just begin to speak the syllables that came trusting the spirit to be using them, it was like a dam broke within me and it began to flow much more naturally. I could stop and start on my own volition. I was speaking in tongues and it became a huge blessing. Several times I had a message for a group and it was interpreted and encouraged the people. But primarily it has become a strong part of my personal prayer life. It brings a greater release of the others gifts along with it. It is a beautiful thing!

You don't have to speak in a spiritual language but if you have prayed for the fullness of the Holy Spirit you can enjoy the beauty of this spiritual language.

It requires a step of faith in beginning no matter how simple or strange it may seem.

God didn't make it hard or complicated because he wanted all his kids to enjoy the beauty and blessing of this gift.

Some people begin with just a few syllables which they repeat but it is their beginning. As they faithfully share the little they have God will increase it to a beautiful flowing language that will bless their spirit.

I encourage you in your own prayer time to begin using your spiritual language. It is already in you! You just have to take a step of faith and begin speaking.