

**What is “speaking in tongues”?**

Xenoglossia (speaking a strange tongue) vs Glossolalia (babelling)

Acts 2:1-13

Acts 10:44-48

Isaiah 38:14

Isa 28:9-13

1 Cor 14:14-15

**What does Jesus say?**

Mark 16:17

Matthew 6:7

**Challenge:**

John 14:26

Galatians 5:22-23

1 Kings 18:12, 20-40

Leviticus 10:1

**How can we know if it is the Holy Ghost?**

John 10:27-28

1 Corinthians 14:27-28

1 John 4:1-3

**What are the biblical signs of the Spirit of God, ie the Holy Spirit, being present?**

Ephesians 3:14-19

2 Timothy 2:7-14

John 16:8

2 Corinthians 2:15-16

Hebrews 2:1-4

*Challenge: The Gifts!*

**Final Thoughts: 1 Corinthians 14:26, 2 Corinthians 3:17**

**Final Song: [Spirit of the Living God](#), page 124**

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**Responsive Reading: 1 Corinthians 14**

**Intro:** Speaking in tongues is a difficult topic, no matter what church you are in. It has such a strong emotional response both in those who practice it and in those who reject it, that it is easy to take sides based on emotion rather than biblical truth. Let's take some time today to break down what the Bible says about speaking in tongues.

**I. What is “speaking in tongues?”**

- A. Xenoglossia (speaking a strange tongue) vs Glossolalia (babbling)
  - 1. Xenoglossia is only known to have occurred (with witnesses) in the Christian church, and continues to occur even up to today.
  - 2. Glossolalia is known to occur in many cultures and religions, most notably in ancient Greek worship as a part of many occultic rituals.
- B. Xenoglossia is actually mentioned in scripture a number of times:
  - 1. Let's read Acts 2:1-13
- C. Glossolalia is *also* mentioned in scripture (or at least, something that would be considered by scientists as glossolalia):
  - 1. Acts 10:44-48, notice that these individuals began to spontaneously speak in tongues, i.e. had no idea it was coming and didn't try.
  - 2. Isa 38:14, this is an emotional cry for help, and not necessarily motivated by the spirit of God - BUT GOD STILL LISTENED
  - 3. In short, God can hear the cry of your heart even if you are simply babbling (Isa 28:9-13) - just remember that it behooves you to also pray with understanding (1 Cor 14:14-15)

**Challenge:** While speaking in tongues is certainly a gift the Lord gives, be careful you are not simply babbling to make yourself feel better. The easiest way to tell the difference is this: did you “learn” to speak in tongues by starting to babel? If so, that is a simple physiological function anyone of any religion (or lack thereof) can learn - this is NOT speaking in tongues. If instead of “learning” or “trying” to speak in tongues, you surprised yourself by beginning to speak due to being overwhelmed by the Spirit of God, then you were speaking in tongues.

**II. What does Jesus say about this? Does he talk about tongues?**

- A. Mark 16:17, Jesus mentions that his followers will speak “in new tongues” foreshadowing the events of Pentecost
- B. Matt 6:7, Jesus here preaches against the already present practice of Glossolalia in the pagan communities, and teaches instead that His disciples pray understood and understandable words, and be short sweet and to the point.

**Final Challenge:** It is important to recognize the powerful spiritual truth of the Holy Spirit's influence on us as Christians. He is our teacher and our Comforter (John 14:26), He is the Power of God to produce fruit in the believer (Gal 5:22-23), He empowers us to do the work God has called us to do (1 Kings 18:12, [20-40 - for reference only]). Do not cheapen this gift by bringing strange fire into the temple of God (Lev 10:1).

**III. How can we judge what is of the Holy Ghost?**

- A. John 10:27-28, how do you know the voice of God? How did you learn the voice of your earthly parents? Time spent with them, repetition, and habit.
- B. 1 Cor 14:27-28, if you feel that the Lord is giving you a word for the church, speak it out! But do not interrupt the service to do it. If it is not the Holy Spirit, you won't be able to hold it - but if it is, He will still give it to you after the service is complete.
  - If the word you have been given is for the church, there will be an interpreter. The only way to learn the difference is to practice. If you speak out what you believe is a word for the church, but there is no interpretation, then it was not a word for the church - it was a word for you.

- C. Xenoglossia, along with prophesying and interpreted angelic languages (that which would be classified Glossolalia by the world, but is actually God given), all can be judged using scripture's measure in 1 John 4:1-3. Pure Glossolalia cannot be judged by this measure, and is therefore NOT speaking in tongues.

**IV. What are the biblical signs of the Spirit of God, ie the Holy Spirit, being present?**

- A. A changed life! Eph 3:14-19, 2 Tim 2:7-14
- B. Conviction of the nonbeliever! John 16:8, 2 Cor 2:15-16
- C. Signs and Wonders! Heb 2:1-4

**Challenge:** The Gifts of the Spirit were actually ranked in scripture. Speaking in tongues came in last place. That does not mean it is not desirable, it is a potent sign to the unbeliever, but be careful not to use it as a spiritual crutch. We need the Holy Spirit present in truth.

**Close:** The issue of speaking in tongues is an emotionally charged one, as the experience of speaking glossolalia is a very real, very emotional, very cathartic one. But we must be careful when we are dealing with the Fire of God that we do so humbly and reverently. The real, convicting, empowering, awesome power of the Holy Spirit should edify the body, 1 Cor 14:26. The Holy Spirit brings us together and helps us to be overcomers. For where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (2 Cor 3:17).

Closing Hymn: [Spirit of the Living God](#), page 124

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**"Brethren, Try the Spirits!"** Speaking in tongues is a difficult topic that often comes with heavy emotions. Not all who claim to be speaking the words of God are actually doing so...some are speaking out in innocence but speaking out of themselves, and some getting caught up in the moment wanting to be a part of the excitement. Join us today as we learn to tell the difference. Follow along with the message notes at [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LWdU1EB2xz0OR0F4yayjzVmB6Qjqw1\\_trM1PlscdAB0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LWdU1EB2xz0OR0F4yayjzVmB6Qjqw1_trM1PlscdAB0/edit?usp=sharing) Watch the sermon at <https://youtu.be/tamrzjHDQjs> Please like and join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CovenantBibleFellowship> Learn more about 1 Corinthians at <https://www.covenantbiblefellowship.com/a-study-in-1-corinthians> To find all sorts of resources, visit our website at <https://www.covenantbiblefellowship.com/> Copyright 2019 All Rights Reserved

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At Covenant, we firmly believe that questions deserve answers and that you have a right to know the Truth ~ John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall MAKE you free."

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Tongues, languages, men, angels, speaking in tongues, Law, emotional, outburst, Glossolalia, Xenoglossia, babbling, speaking, telling, revelation, decently, in order,