

Speaking in Tongues in the Church

- The subject of speaking in tongues in the church is controversial and often leads to extreme viewpoints.
- Many religious people tend to study the Bible with an either-or mentality, but sometimes the truth lies in between.
- In the Messianic movement, there are two extremes: those who are strongly against speaking in tongues and mock those who practice it, and those who idolize speaking in tongues and see it as a requirement for salvation.
- Both extremes are wrong, and the Apostle Paul attempts to bring believers back to a balanced perspective.
- 1 Corinthians 14:39 is a starting point that pulls believers out of the extreme against speaking in tongues, emphasizing that they should not forbid it.
- Paul affirms that what he writes is the commandment of Yahweh, and those who choose to be ignorant and forbid speaking in tongues are Anti-Christ.
- Churches that forbid speaking in tongues are considered ignorant, but Paul does not say they are lost.

Speaking in Tongues - Paul's Perspective

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- The Apostle Paul never forbade speaking in tongues.
- Speaking in tongues is not the same as speaking in unknown gibberish.
- Paul's command is against promoting tongues as the evidence of the Holy Spirit or as a superior gift, and against allowing tongues to dominate the church service.
- The confusion arises from the difference between the gift of other tongues and the gift of unknown tongues.
- Other tongues refer to known languages, while unknown tongues refer to languages that are not understood.
- In 1 Corinthians 13:1, Paul clearly distinguishes between the languages of men and the languages of angels.

Understanding the Language of Heavenly Nature

- In the text, it is mentioned that there is an Angelic language that is not known or understood by men.
- Paul, according to the text, spoke both in foreign languages known to men and in a Heavenly language known only to God.
- The Heavenly language cannot be taught in any translation school and is only given by and understood by God.

- The text refers to 1 Corinthians 14 as a chapter that provides a detailed explanation of the Angelic language.
- The verse by verse study of 1 Corinthians 14 is intended to clarify any confusion or misunderstandings regarding the subject.
- The importance of earnestly desiring spiritual gifts, including the gift of tongues, is highlighted in the text.
- Paul encourages the pursuit of spiritual gifts and advises against forbidding their use in the church.
- The distinction is made that speaking in an unknown tongue is not meant for communication with men, but rather as a secret communication with God.
- The Greek word "Mysterion" is mentioned as a better translation for "mystery" or "secret" in relation to the Angelic language.
- The purpose of speaking in an Angelic language is stated to be for the individual's edification, rather than for the edification, exhortation, or comfort of the church.

The Role of Prophesying and Speaking in Tongues in the Church

- The term "prophesying" refers to preaching the word and serving as an interpreter of the oracles and hidden things of God. It involves being moved by the spirit of God and declaring to men what has been received by inspiration.
- "Prophecy" means to break forth under sudden impulse in lofty discourse of the Divine counsels, under a teaching to teach.
- John the Baptist is mentioned as an example of a prophet.
- Speaking in an Angelic language, or speaking in tongues, primarily edifies the individual who is speaking.
- On the other hand, teaching or preaching under divine inspiration edifies the entire church.
- Not every Christian is expected to speak in tongues, contrary to what some believed in the Pentecostal church.
- Paul acknowledges that not all believers in the Corinthian Church speak in tongues.
- Paul states that his desire is for everyone to preach and teach the word, emphasizing that it is more valuable than speaking in tongues.
- One reason for elevating preaching and teaching over speaking in tongues is the understanding that these actions can benefit the entire church.
- However, if someone speaks in tongues and interprets the message, it can have a similar edifying effect as preaching and teaching.

Speaking in Tongues and Edification in the Church

- The text discusses the concept of speaking in tongues and its role in the edification of the church.
- Speaking in tongues, if interpreted, serves a great purpose in the church's edification.
- The gift of speaking in tongues is an individual expression between the person and God, and it edifies the individual.
- Speaking in tongues without interpretation during a church service interrupts the flow and does not benefit anyone.
- Teaching Doctrine, giving revelations, knowledge, and prophesying are beneficial to the church's edification.
- Speaking in unknown tongues in the church is useless as no one will understand it.
- It is good to be zealous for spiritual gifts, including speaking in tongues, but it should be for the purpose of edifying the church.
- Those who speak in unknown tongues should also pray for the gift of interpretation.
- Interrupting the service and becoming the center of attention by speaking in tongues loudly is not appropriate.

Praying and Speaking in Unknown Tongues

- In the service, it is incumbent upon a person to interpret what they have said in an unknown tongue immediately after speaking, so that the church may understand the message from God.
- Paul acknowledges that he prays in an Angelic language, refuting the belief that praying in an unknown language is demonic.
- Paul is able to pray in both the language of men and the language of angels, although his human mind may not fully understand the Angelic language.
- Praying in an unknown language is a gift that not everyone possesses, and it is not referring to foreign languages.
- On the day of Pentecost, the disciples spoke supernaturally in foreign languages, but this was for a specific reason which will be explained.
- When praying, Paul prays in both the Angelic language and human languages, and also sings in both.
- Those who do not understand or forbid speaking in tongues are missing out on the beauty and power of this gift.
- When blessing with the Holy Spirit and speaking in the Angelic language, those who do not understand it cannot respond appropriately.
- The belief that speaking in tongues is a gift from God, not to be forbidden or misunderstood.

The Context and Instructions for Speaking in Tongues

- This text discusses the context of Paul's teachings on speaking in tongues.
- Speaking in tongues was a new phenomenon in the New Testament Church.
- In those times, news traveled slowly, and speaking in tongues was unheard of.
- Paul is setting the stage for his instructions on speaking in tongues.
- His instructions only apply when there are unlearned unbelievers present.
- The instructions do not apply in settings where only learned believers are present.
- The instructions may be applicable in settings with a mix of believers and unbelievers, like funerals.
- Paul emphasizes that speaking in tongues should edify others and give thanks to God.
- Paul personally speaks in tongues more than anyone else and values the spiritual gift.

The Significance of Speaking in Tongues

- The speaker claims to speak in tongues more than anyone else, but distinguishes between speaking in tongues privately and speaking in tongues in church.
- In church, the speaker values speaking in a known language over speaking in an unknown language, as it allows for teaching and communication with unbelievers.
- The speaker emphasizes the importance of understanding and maturity in faith, drawing from 1 Corinthians 14:20.
- The speaker references a prophecy from Isaiah (Isaiah 28:11-13) that speaks of God speaking to the people of Israel in stammering lips and a foreign tongue due to their refusal to listen in their own language.
- The speaker concludes that speaking in tongues is a sign for unbelievers, while prophesying is meant for believers.

The Use of Foreign Languages for Divine Communication

- In the context, God utilized foreign languages to capture the attention of the Israelites when the Assyrian army attacked. This unknown language confused them, and it was a method used by God to communicate with them.
- Similarly, on the day of Pentecost, the apostles spoke in foreign languages as a judgment upon the Jewish people. It was not an angelic language, but rather a gift from the Holy Spirit for missionary work.

- The apostles, numbering 12 in the upper room, had already received the Holy Spirit earlier when Jesus breathed on them. The gift of languages at Pentecost was a special phenomenon and has not been witnessed since.
- This unique event served as a means for spreading the message of the coming Kingdom divinely through foreign languages that all could understand.
- The use of a foreign language was also seen in the book of Isaiah as a sign for the Israelites to pay attention to the word of the Lord.
- Paul references this concept in 1 Corinthians 14:21, stressing the importance of speaking in other tongues to reach and engage people effectively.
- The overall idea is that foreign languages can serve as a powerful tool for divine communication, capturing attention and ensuring that the message is understood.

The Purpose and Order of Tongues in the Church

- Paul explains in verse 22 that tongues are a sign, not to those who believe, but to those who do not believe.
- The Greek word for "sign" is "seon," which means a wonder or miracle that grabs attention and transcends the common course of nature.
- Paul emphasizes that speaking in tongues without interpretation is not beneficial in the church.
- If the whole church speaks in tongues without interpretation, it may appear chaotic and lead unbelievers to think the church is mad.
- However, if everyone prophesies, an unbeliever or someone who is unlearned can be convinced of the truth and have the secrets of their heart revealed through preaching and teaching.
- It is important for order to be maintained in church gatherings, with everyone contributing songs, doctrines, tongues, and revelations in a structured manner.

Church Order and Speaking in Tongues

- In order to maintain order in the church, there must be someone in charge of the meeting to prevent things from getting out of control.
- Verse 27 states that if someone speaks in an unknown tongue, there should be interpretation. If there is no interpreter, they should keep silent in the church and speak to themselves and to God.
- The verse suggests that if there is no interpretation, the person should not be given center stage or a microphone in the church. They can pray and speak in tongues privately, between themselves and God.
- The text also mentions prophets speaking in the church and recommends that only two or three prophets speak during the service to avoid overpowering the entire service.

- Others should judge the prophecies, and if someone else receives a revelation while one is speaking, the first person should hold their peace to maintain order.
- The spirit of the prophets is subject to the prophets, suggesting that individuals have control over their own spiritual gifts and should not use lack of control as an excuse.
- Verse 33 emphasizes that God is not the author of confusion, and churches should strive for peace.
- There is a mention of women being commanded to keep silent in the churches, but it is revealed that this command comes from the oral law, not the Torah. It is not a commandment from God but a tradition that Paul and Yahweh disliked.

Women Speaking in the Church

- Paul quotes an oral law that prohibits women from speaking in the church.
- Orthodox Judaism also restricts communication between men and women.
- Paul criticizes the obedience to oral law and emphasizes that the word of God is not exclusive to men.
- Paul does not allow women to usurp authority over men but corrects the practice of women keeping silent in the church.
- The church remains unlearned in Paul's time and continues to be so.
- Paul encourages speaking in tongues and forbids forbidding them.
- Those who desire to prophesy should do so, and everything should be done decently and in order.
- 1 Corinthians 2:14 states that the natural mind cannot understand the spiritual things of God.

Speaking in Tongues and the Mind

- The concept of speaking in tongues is seen as incomprehensible to the human mind, and those without the spirit of Yahweh often oppose it.
- Speaking in tongues may be considered demonic due to the ability of demons to mimic the phenomenon.
- Speaking in tongues is not considered as the evidence of anything in Harvest Ministries, but rather as a sought-after gift.
- The balance between Messianic and Pentecostal Churches lies in the belief that the human mind should submit to the spiritual mind.
- The spiritual mind evaluates all things and is begotten by Yahweh, while the old mind tends to disbelieve in speaking in tongues.
- Speaking in unknown tongues is a judgment against the logical thinking of the old mind, and a sign for the unbeliever.
- The gift of tongues is a tool to make the logical mind surrender to the supernatural power of God.

- Prophecy or preaching the word of God is for the spiritual mind, as believers embrace the new mind.
- The gift of tongues is seen as an important part of the believer's life according to the Book of Romans, chapter 7.

Speaking in Tongues and the Gift of Interpretation

- Speaking in tongues can bring judgment upon the logical mind and may be viewed as foolish to the human mind.
- The inability to speak in tongues does not mean a person is not saved or lacks the spirit of God, but rather indicates a lack of yielding to judgement.
- The gift of interpretation of tongues is important in order to fully understand and receive instruction from messages spoken in unknown languages.
- Paul stated that speaking a few words in a known language is preferable to speaking in tongues without interpretation.
- Speaking in tongues is not to be forbidden or glorified, but is invaluable and can be sought after as a gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Those who desire to speak in tongues should earnestly seek it and submit their human logic to receive the Angelic language.
- Not everyone will receive the gift of speaking in tongues, as God gives gifts according to His will.
- The evidence of the Holy Spirit is not necessarily the gifts, but may be seen in other manifestations or fruits of the Spirit.

The Importance of Obedience and Seeking Truth

- Obedience is regarded as something that Satan cannot imitate.
- The desire to know and follow God's truth is seen as evidence of being led by Him.
- Paul emphasizes the earnest desire for speaking in tongues.
- Seeking truth and obedience are crucial elements to spiritual growth.