

## THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT- Sermon 10

By The Most Reverend Michael Davidson

### The Gifts of Communication (Voice)

*An unreliable messenger can cause a lot of trouble. Reliable communication permits progress.*

*Prov. 13:17 (LB)*

### Interpretation of Tongues: 1 Cor. 12:10

1. **Its BIBLICAL Definition:** A supernatural ability to interpret communication given in tongues into a language understood by people present (1 Cor. 12:10; 14:30). We are to pray to interpret, not study languages. 1 Cor. 14:2 states that when one speaks in tongues no man understands him. It must be supernaturally revealed.
2. **Its UNIQUE Difference:** Not the same as translation (conversion from one language to another). Note that in Dan. 5:25-28, the interpretation of *Mene mene tekel upharsin* was 9X as long as the original message.
3. **Its SELECTIVE Application:** The setting determines if interpretation is needed. No interpretation was given in Acts. 2:4-6; 10:45-47; 19:6. In personal prayer and worship no interpretation is needed (1 Cor. 14:2, 14-18; Ro. 8:26-27). Only in public worship is interpretation needed.
4. **Its INDIVIDUAL Responsibility:** By the one given the gift or by another person (1 Cor. 14:27), or by the one who spoke in tongues (1 Cor. 14:5, 13). Everyone with the gift of tongues should seek to interpret and too prophesy (1 Cor. 14:1-5, 13).
5. **Its PERSONAL Realization:** One knows if they are to speak in tongues and interpret by being sensitive to the Spirit's inner prompting. No list of rules can be given. Note that Jesus did not judge or reject the disciples for making mistakes. God has patience as we learn to flow in the Spirit. His voice and inner promptings are gentle. In the beginning He may give us a greater sense to move out. As we grow this may subside as we grow in faith and greater sensitivity.

### 1 Cor. 14 on Tongues and Prophecy

*The Lord placed Public restrictions on Tongues, not canceling out the Private & Personal practice of Tongues.*

RESTRICTIVE THOUGHTS-Public Use	POSITIVE THOUGHTS-Private Use
1. v-2: one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men... no one understands him	1. v-2: but to God...utters mysteries in the Spirit
2. v-5: even more to prophesy	2. v-4: builds up himself
3. v-5: unless someone interprets	3. v-5: I want you all to speak in tongues,
4. v-6: how will I benefit you	4. v-14: my spirit prays
5. v-9: how will anyone know what is said	5. v-15: I will pray with my spirit
6. v-11: I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me.	6. v-15: will pray with my spirit
7. v-13: pray for the power to interpret	7. v-16: give thanks with your spirit
8. v-16: how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen"	8. v-17: you may be giving thanks well
9. v17: the other person is not being built up	9. v-18: I speak in tongues more than all of you.

10. v-19: five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.	10. v-21: In the Law it is written,
11. v-22: tongues are a sign not for believers	11. v-22: tongues are for a sign.
12. v-23: If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?	12. v-26: everyone has a tongue.
13. v-27: at the most by three	13. v-27: let it be by two or three.
14. v-28: if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent	14. v-28: speak to himself and to God
	15. v-39: do not forbid speaking in tongues.

## INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

### A Summary

#### A. WHAT IT IS NOT

**1. NOT SIMPLY IMAGINATION-** It cannot be the imagination of the mind, as some teach, because it works through the spirit of man, and not his mind. Mental ability is no more employed in interpretation of tongues than medical science was used when Paul said, "stand up right on your feet," and the man leaped and walked.

**2. NOT THE ABILITY TO TRANSLATE LANGUAGES-** Interpretation of tongues cannot be a translation of languages. One without the Spirit of God can have the natural talent of translating languages.

**3. IT IS NOT TRANSLATION BUT IS INTERPRETATION-** Because it is not a word for word translation, it may be given in first, second, or third person. It is not always in the first person. For instance, one person may bring the interpretation like this: "Behold, I am coming soon; be ye ready." The next one may say, "The Lord says He is coming soon and He says for you to be ready." Still another may bring the same message in other words, as "The Lord is coming very soon; be ye ready." This gift does not always quote the exact words as translators; for interpretation is not translation. It tells the meaning of a message as one may tell the meaning of a dream, a symbol, parable, sign, or an action. Two preachers bringing the same message from God do not use the same words. I may understand one better because he is from the same part of the country as I am. One interpreter may speak such large words that it would have to be interpreted to someone in the audience who did not have a large vocabulary. One interpretation may consist of just one-half as many words as another because one congregation may be better educated.

**4. NOT REPETITION OF SCRIPTURE-** This gift is not repetition of scripture, but can be sometimes.

**5. NOT SIMPLY THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION -** This gift is not the gift of interpretation, but interpretation of tongues. It is not and cannot be used if there has been no supernatural tongues spoken. It is not interpretation of people, thoughts, hard sayings, actions, riddles, dreams, or anything in the natural; but it is interpretation of supernatural tongues. It cannot be learned at school in a million

years, but can be given by the Spirit in a moment of time to any Spirit-filled person.

## **B. WHAT IT IS**

**1. DEFINITION**-The Spiritual gift of the interpretation of tongues is the supernatural manifestation of the Spirit of God using one's vocal organs, giving utterance in one's own language, telling the meaning of the words which have been spoken with tongues.

**2. APPLICATION**-This Spiritual gift is telling the meaning of what is spoken in a supernatural language. It is a vocal miracle. Paul says that interpretation of tongues is equal to prophecy (I Cor. 14:15). He says this gift helps us to profit (14:16). God says for us to pray for this gift if we speak with tongues (14:5), and for us all to speak with tongues (14:5&13). Paul said LET someone interpret (v. 27). There should be SOMEONE to interpret each message. There does not need to be a CERTAIN one; neither should there be competition (I Cor. 14:27).

**3. METHOD**-The meaning may be told in various manners (I Cor. 12:6, 14:6). It is possible sometimes to get the interpretation of prayers, psalms, praise, and songs, as well as a message to people. Although God may manifest this gift through any of His children, as He wills, we should prefer one who is more experienced to use this gift if he is present. The leader of an assembly is not required to wait until the "official interpreter" (if there be such a thing) is there for a message in tongues to be given and interpreted; for God will give the interpretation to the leader (I Cor. 14:5, 13).

## **C. BIBLE EXAMPLES**

There are many places in the Bible where it states "the Holy Spirit said" or "Hear what the Spirit says to the churches." It is not known in every case whether it was interpretation or prophecy. But some things we do know are:

- 1) The gift of interpretation of tongues was set in the Church (I Cor. 12)
- 2) This gift is NECESSARY (v. 22)
- 3) This gift was never taken out of the Church
- 4) This gift was used all down through Church history,
- 5) Paul taught the members the church at Corinth to use this gift (I Cor. 14).