

Tonight, we take a detour from our verse-by-verse study of Acts and take a closer look at the phenomenon described in Acts 2: the baptism of the HS with speaking in tongues! Also, we compare this experience with the gift of tongues.

TONGUES TESTIMONIES

Opening Idea: Tony Campolo's book: "How to be Spirit-filled without Speaking in Tongues"

Using 1 Cor. 12: 8-11, let's use some other "benefits" of the HS in that title:

"How to be Spirit-filled without ... _____"

(*wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, power, prophecy, discernment*)

Key: those who want to be Spirit-filled w/out tongues are seeing tongues as an obstacle ...

-- not a blessing!!

* Tonight: My Tongues Testimony (2 Distinct Experiences)

(1) Spirit-Building (For any believer)

-- explain what I mean (private speaking in tongues when filled – singing in the Spirit, etc.)

-- my journey: college, I had prayed, thought I was Spirit-filled, never spoken.

-- camp in VA, the RESULT: no more Stephen King!!!

-- Tongues became an avenue for the HS's GUIDANCE & PROTECTION!

-- How many who attend our church quietly suffer because they feel LESS SPIRITUAL!

-- ex: J. Rodman Williams – Nationally known evangelical – read the Bible – didn't measure up – so he prayed,

"Lord if this IS real and for TODAY, then I WANT IT! (He had to pull his car over because he couldn't even drive!!!)

(2) Body-Building (For certain believers – not all! See 1 Cor. 12: 12-31 (esp. v. 30))

-- explain: a message spoken out in a gathering of believers meant to be interpreted

-- Sunday evening service after coming back from camp – I wanted to go home – exhausted, dirty, wanting to be somewhere else – only stayed because I thought I should.

-- During worship I started worshiping in the Spirit – to myself. For some reason, I felt the urge to get louder, and louder and I found myself speaking very loudly to the whole congregation (from the back of the church).

-- the Pastor interpreted the message for the body.

--- NOW, LET'S HAVE SOME TESTIMONIES:

* How did you 1st experience tongues?

* Did / Do you see a result?

* Do you currently speak in tongues?

* Anything unusual.

COMPARING THE TWO DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES:

THE *SIGN OF TONGUES

- * It's for EVERYONE! (Acts 2:4)
- * Edifies the INDIVIDUAL
 - as evidence
 - as a prayer language when you don't know what to pray
 - spiritual ecstasy
- * Needs NO INTERPRETATION
- * Its nature is PRAISE. (Acts 2:11)
- * Numerous people can speak at once.

THE *GIFT OF TONGUES

- * It's NOT for EVERYONE! (1 Cor. 12:30)
- * Edifies the CHURCH (w/ interpretation)
- * Limited to use WITH INTERPRETATION - (1 Cor. 14:28)
- * Its nature is an EDIFYING MESSAGE for the church. (1 Cor. 14:5)
- * Only 2 – 3 people should speak at any given service – not simultaneously.

** Both uses of tongues are a gift from God. We only use the distinction of sign and gift to clarify the distinct purposes of each: tongues that accompany the baptism of the Holy Spirit are a sign – evidence – that the person has in fact received this baptism. Tongues accompanied by interpretation (1 Cor. 12, 14) are a gift to the church intended to edify the entire body that is gathered together.*

> Keep in mind that while these experiences of tongues differ in purpose and in nature, each is a direct result of the experience of being “Spirit-filled.” (The “gift” of tongues most likely won't occur unless the speaker has experienced the “sign” of tongues.)

Scripture References for comparison:

The sign: Acts 2:4; 8:12,14-18; 10:1-48; 15:7-8; 19:1-7

The gift: 1 Cor. 12:10,18-21,30; 14:1-33