

## **“Speaking in Tongues” – Wed Study Oct 22, 2024**

“There are three occasions in the book of Acts where speaking in tongues accompanied the receiving of the Holy Spirit—[Acts 2:4](#), [10:44-46](#), and [19:6](#). However, these three occasions are the only places in the Bible where speaking in tongues is an evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit. Throughout the book of Acts, thousands of people believe in Jesus and nothing is said about them speaking in tongues ([Acts 2:41](#), [8:5-25](#), [16:31-34](#), [21:20](#)). Nowhere in the New Testament is it taught that speaking in tongues is the only evidence that a person has received the Holy Spirit. In fact, the New Testament teaches the opposite. We are told that every believer in Christ has the Holy Spirit ([Romans 8:9](#); [1 Corinthians 12:13](#); [Ephesians 1:13-14](#)), but not every believer speaks in tongues ([1 Corinthians 12:29-31](#)).”

Acts 2:4 “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Acts 10:44-46 – “While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared,”

Acts 19:6 “And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.”

Romans 8:9 “You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.”

1 Corinthians 12:13 “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

Ephesians 1:13-14 “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, “who is the guarantee[a] of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it,[b] to the praise of his glory.”

### **So...What’s the big deal about speaking in tongues?**

- So, why was speaking in tongues the evidence of the Holy Spirit in those three passages in Acts? [Acts 2](#) records the apostles being baptized in the Holy Spirit and empowered by Him to proclaim the gospel. The apostles were enabled to speak in other languages (tongues) so they could share the truth with people in their own languages.
- Peter and the other early Christians, being Jews, would have a hard time accepting Gentiles (non-Jewish people) into the church. God enabled the Gentiles to speak in tongues to demonstrate that they had received the same Holy Spirit the apostles had received ([Acts 10:47](#), [11:17](#)).
- Speaking in tongues is nowhere presented as something all Christians should expect when they receive Jesus Christ as their Savior and are therefore baptized in the Holy Spirit.

- Tongues was a miraculous gift that had a specific purpose for a specific time. It was not, and never has been, the only evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit.
- It is primarily a sign for the early church and the spread of the Gospel. They may view it as a temporary phenomenon that was meant to validate the apostles' message.
- These gifts were specific to the early church and are not normative for today.
- We should prioritize Scripture as the ultimate authority in faith and practice. We shouldn't do anything that seems to deviate from biblical teachings - potentially misleading or focusing on emotional rather than truth.
- The Spirit's role today is about conviction of sin, regeneration, and sanctification rather than miraculous signs (dispensationalism).

### ***Myths and Problems with Speaking in Tongues:***

- That all Christians should or must speak in tongues as a sign of spiritual maturity or fullness.
- The perception of speaking in tongues as an indicator of a "higher" spiritual status.
- There is no danger is the misinterpretation or selective reading of biblical passages related to tongues..."to each their own".
- Those who promote speaking in tongues may introduce teachings that diverge from traditional Christian doctrine "God told me"...never should replace "God's Word says..."
- That speaking in tongues can lead to emotionalism, where feelings take precedence over biblical truth and sound theology.
- That speaking in tongues is necessary for a person to be saved. In reality, salvation is based on faith in Jesus Christ, not on any specific spiritual gift.
- Everyone Should Speak in Tongues: The idea that all Christians are expected to speak in tongues is a common misconception. The Bible indicates that not everyone has the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:30).
- "Glossolalia" often consists of unintelligible sounds and syllables that do not correspond to any known language.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fXTqADUWr0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHECI-ZHP6A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYOMdTBV3dk>

<https://www.wisdomonline.org/wisdom-journey-episodes/rules-for-speaking-in-tongues>

<https://www.wisdomonline.org/wisdom-journey-episodes/guiding-principles-for-the-gifts-of-prophecy-and-tongues>