

# MY ENCOUNTER

*What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. – 1 Corinthians 14:26*

*Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. – 1 Cor. 14:39-40*

## DAVID'S STORY

The greatest thing in all my life is being a fully developing follower of Jesus Christ. Accepting Christ as Savior was the single most transformational decision I have ever made. However, as I was to discover, there was more that God had in store for me than just punching my “stay out of hell” card.

I had a subsequent encounter with the Holy Spirit, which would prove to be the key to my deliverance from pornography.

## A POWER ENCOUNTER

The devil does not give up ground in our lives without a fight. There will be demonic pushback whenever a man or woman is ready to exit a sinful habit. In my case, I finally came to the point where I was ready to stop pursuing porn, but I found that I didn't have the power to close the deal myself. Despite all my good intentions and resolutions, I would sooner or later cave into temptation. It was at this desperate time in my life that I encountered the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

I received this “endowment with power from on high” (Acts 1:8) not on a pew in a church but on a park bench on a college campus. I cried out to God for freedom from sexual sin; God's answer was gloriously filling me with the Holy Spirit. And yes, I began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit of God gave utterance (Acts 2:4).

So who is the Holy Spirit anyway? And what's the deal with speaking in tongues? Well, that's what this session, “My Encounter,” is all about. To give you a big head start, this next section features in Q&A format the 18 most commonly asked questions about speaking in tongues.



## 18 Q&A'S ABOUT SPEAKING IN TONGUES

The remainder of this document did not originate from me but is the result of the biblical research of one of my most trusted mentors and Bible teachers, my pastor, Ron Kairdolf.

**Q1: 1 Cor. 13:8-12 declares that tongues will cease. Did tongues stop after the apostles established the church in the first century?**

A. The issue revolves around verse 10: "...when the perfect shall come." The "perfect" has historically been judged as being Jesus Christ when He returns for His church.

B. Some adversaries to Tongues and Prophetic operations in the modern church use this verse by declaring the NT's arrival is what Paul is talking about, i.e., the complete canon of scriptures.

Verse 12 makes this interpretation unlikely: "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

C. Gifts, in contrast to love, are partial, not complete (v. 9); they are temporal, not eternal (vv. 10, 11); they communicate imperfectly rather than perfect knowledge (v. 12). Everything in this age compared to the perfection of the new creation is at a child-stage, including all gifts. Rather than suggesting the demise of gifts during this age or at some early point in church history, this passage proves just the opposite.

**Q2: Doesn't Paul say that prophecy is to be preferred over tongues?**

A. Yes and No.

1) Yes it is preferred in a Public Gathering.

2) Not in a private prayer session.

B. 1 Cor. 14:1 says, "Desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy." The context of Paul's remarks concerns the conduct of a public worship service, as you read the rest of the chapter. (See 14:3, 4)

**Q3: Is it true that not all believers will receive the gift of tongues when they are baptized in the Holy Spirit?**



A. The controversy surrounds 1 Corinthians 12:30: "Do all speak with tongues?" The implied answer of the text is "no." However, there are two issues relevant to this question.

1) If Paul is referring to the public exercise of the gift of tongues which is to be interpreted for the edification of the congregation, then the answer is NO; not all people will function in that exercise.

2) If Paul is referring to the devotional use of spiritual language then the answer is YES; all believers who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit may speak in tongues.

In reality, however, not all will use their privilege.

B. Paul's remarks in the following verses make no sense if God has sovereignly chosen some for this privilege and rejected others:

1) 1 Corinthians 14:4 – On personal edification

2) 1 Corinthians 14:5 – Paul desires for all to speak in tongues

3) 1 Corinthians 14:18 – Paul's personal commitment to the devotional use of tongues

#### **Q4: Aren't all tongues supposed to be interpreted?**

A. First Corinthians 14:27-28 is referring to the public exercise of the gift of tongues, not to the devotional use of tongues.

B. Note: all of the Spiritual Gifts should be limited in a Group Gathering. In a large meeting how could we allow everyone the freedom to do their thing?

#### **Q5: Aren't all tongues really just foreign languages to be used for evangelism?**

A. No. Read Acts 10:44-46. Nobody was being evangelized by the Gentiles speaking in tongues.

B. Read 1 Corinthians 14:2. Who is being addressed when people speak in tongues in this context?

#### **Q6: What does Paul mean in 1 Corinthians 14:14-15, "I will pray with the spirit... I will sing with the spirit."**

A. Here, Paul reveals the place of tongues in his own personal prayer life.

1) Praying in tongues is praying from the spirit instead of the intellect, and the same is true of singing praises.

2) For Paul, praying and singing, both in tongues and in everyday language, were normal and regular parts of prayer and praise. There is no suggestion of hysteria, emotionalism, or abnormality of any kind.

B. This is prayer and song in a person's spiritual language. Three times the NT speaks about praising God in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

1) Eph. 5:18-19 – Note the place of songful worship as a means to fulfilling the directive in v. 18 to be filled continually with the Spirit.

2) Psalms are scriptural lyrics in song; hymns are humanly inspired lyrics in song; spiritual songs are impromptu rhythmic lyrics given by the Holy Spirit in one's language or in tongues. (see Col. 3:16 & 1 Cor. 14:15)

**Q7: Isn't it wrong for people to speak or sing praise to the Lord in their spiritual language in church services or sing in their spiritual language at the same time? What about 1 Corinthians 14:27?**

A. Again, Paul is addressing the conduct of public worship. If there is an endless succession of messages in tongues with or without interpretation, the public meeting will become confusing and cease to edify the body.

B. What happened in Acts 10:46 happened in a public meeting. The believers all spoke in tongues at the same time, and it was received as praise to God.

C. Paul certainly endorses both prayer and singing with a person's spiritual language.

D. Note: the Holy Spirit interrupted Peter's teaching with the baptism of the crowd and the resulting prayer language of many.

**Q8: Isn't it selfish to edify yourself by speaking in tongues?**

A. No. It is a good thing for people in the church to be edified. If people are edified by prophecy (1 Cor. 14:4-5), then it is a good thing for the individual to be edified.

B. However, it is always possible that an insensitive person would exercise his or her personal privilege in a way that might interfere with the rest of the congregation when they gather. Obviously, this should be corrected when it occurs.

**Q9: Why are some people who speak in tongues so immature in the Lord?**

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is a gift (Acts 2:38, 10:45). Gifts from God are free, and thereby received by faith without consideration of our personal growth.

**Q10: Are Spirit-filled believers better Christians?**

A. No. The foundation of Christianity is love! The greatest Christians are those who have learned how to operate in LOVE.

B. However, a Spirit-filled believer has become more open to a realm of supernatural resource by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of expanded ministry to the body of Christ and outreach to the world (1 Cor. 12:7.31).

**Q11: Are there such things as false tongues?**

A. Probably. There are demonic counterfeits to many of the supernatural gifts God has given His church. Of recent date the fascination with New Age healing, prophecy, and knowledge is very pronounced in our culture.

B. Matthew 24:24 warns of “great signs” done by “false christs and false prophets.”

C. The imitation of Holy Spirit gifts is not new; even in the book of Acts, some people tried to purchase this power (Simon the sorcerer Acts 8:18-19).

**Q12: What if a person says he or she has received the baptism with the Holy Spirit and has not spoken in tongues?**

A. First, do not argue with them. What God begins in a heart may take some time to complete.

B. Second, encourage them to receive everything that is available in the Holy Spirit (1Cor. 14:5). When people become open to the miracle power of the Holy Spirit, it is usually just a matter of time before they begin to speak with tongues.

C. Don't become personally resistant to Speaking in Tongues!

**Q13: How can I be sure that I'm not just making up this new language?**

A. Luke 11:13 promises that you get from the Heavenly Father exactly what you ask for. He does not disappoint His children who seek Him. By faith we receive this gift from the Father. Be confident that He is at work as you have asked.

B. Secondly, understand that everything you get from God comes through faith.

**Q14: Why does my prayer language not sound like a language to me?**

A. Not all earthly languages sound alike, so why should heavenly languages sound alike? There are fundamental differences in sound between Romance languages and Oriental languages - is one set more authentic than the others? (Example Spanish and Chinese?)

B. In Africa one of the tribal dialects sounds like a succession of clicking noises to the outsider. But to members of that dialect group, it is a full language. Trust the Holy Spirit, after all, “he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God” (1 Cor. 14:2).

**Q15: Why didn't I feel anything special when I received my spiritual language?**

A. Personal experience varies widely on receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Just as with salvation, some people have dramatic testimonies of deeply moving emotional experiences when they receive the Lord. Others give their lives to the Lord in a rather sober and unemotional fashion.

B. Some of the differences are personality-based. Some are related to the circumstance in which they occur. Both are completely valid.

**Q16: Why is it that when I use my spiritual language it does not feel “natural” to me?**

A. We do not “learn” our spiritual language - we speak as the Holy Spirit “gives utterance.” (Acts 2:4).

B. We do, however, need to learn to allow ourselves to speak this new language without our need to consciously direct our speech patterns as in our mother tongue. For some people this takes time and use.

C. Using your spiritual language for fifteen minutes daily during your devotional time will help you become more “fluent” in your spiritual language.

**Q17: Is it possible that I am simply imitating the spiritual language of the person who prayed for me when I received my spiritual language?**

A. This question occurs because some people instruct those they pray for them to begin their spiritual language by repeating phrases from their own spiritual language.

B. This sows real doubt in the minds of many who have received their spiritual language this way.

C. When you pray for someone to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit, trust the Holy Spirit to give them their language from the beginning. If you have these doubts, they are either born of human fear or a devilish lie - once again read Luke 11:9-13. The Father does not allow us to receive a cheap imitation of the real thing!

**Q18: How do I receive the Holy Spirit and get my personal prayer language?**

A. In the Scripture there are many different ways people received the baptism of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2:4; 8:17; 9:17; 10:44-46; Acts 19:6).

1) Some were waiting and praying.

2) Some were hearing the word and responding to the teaching.

3) Some received it through the laying on of hands.

B. Below are some spiritual requirements and some helpful hints.

1) Get right with God...HS baptism follows salvation. (Acts 2:38-39)

2) Deal with your sin issues. (Acts 5:32 “Obedience”)

3) Passionately desire the fullness of the Spirit. (Acts 2; 19:1-7)

4) Ask in faith. (Luke 11:9-13)

- 5) Have other Spirit-filled believers pray with you. (Acts 8:17; 9:17; 19:6)
- 6) Begin to pray and worship at intimate level. (1Cor. 14:15-16)
- 7) Receive by faith.
- 8) Speak out the utterances of the Spirit. (Acts 2:4)
- 9) Continue with a seeker's heart. (Luke 11:9-13)

