

Evaluating the Gift of Tongues

1 Corinthians 14:1-25

15 Guiding principles for the gift of tongues:

1. The gift of tongues was prophesied in Isaiah 28:11
2. Jesus promised the coming of the Holy Spirit to empower believers to fulfill the Great Commission.
(Acts 1:4-5, 8)
3. The Holy Spirit filled believers at Pentecost with signs which included tongues. (Acts 2:1-4)
4. God graciously gave tongues at Pentecost which is the Jewish festival of Shavuot or Harvest.
5. The gift of tongues is the ability to speak a real foreign language without previously learning it.
6. The gift of tongues given at Pentecost was not unintelligible babble.
7. Tongues is not a gift for the spiritually elite but one of the lesser gifts.
8. It is NOT God's will that every believer speak in tongues.
9. Praying to God in a tongue edifies the praying believer but does nothing to edify the church.
10. If tongues are used in church, they are to be interpreted otherwise the use of tongues is out of order. (1 Corinthians 14:13)
11. The gift of tongues is meant to reveal God's truth and not conceal it.
12. In the church, preaching with clarity is to be preferred over the exercise of tongues.
13. Tongues is not THE evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
14. We are not to forbid speaking in tongues, but we are to test the spirit empowering the tongue. (1 Corinthians 14:39)
15. Tongues, knowledge and prophesy will cease only when "the perfect comes." (1 Corinthians 13:8-9)

Conclusion: Love never fails!