

Session 4

The Gift of Tongues

Definition:

Speaking in tongues is prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker. (Grudem, Systematic Theology)

Five Common Questions About Tongues

1. Was the tongues in Acts 2 at Pentecost real human languages or 'syllables not understood by the speakers'?

2. Are tongues evangelistic?

3. What does Paul say is the purpose of tongues?

4. Are tongues to be used only in one's private devotional prayer life?

5. Should all Christians speak in tongues?

Encouragement To Those Who Don't Speak In Tongues

1.

2.

3

4.

5.

Conclusion

1. Tongues is a good gift from God, never to be despised or mocked or made fun of, but to be received with gratitude and used with wisdom.
2. As good and helpful as speaking in tongues is, it is not a sign of spirituality; it is not a sign maturity; it is not a sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit; in fact, it is not a sign of anything other than a gift God graciously imparts to you for your private praise and prayer. The important thing is not to make tongues more or less important than this.
3. If you have the gift, give thanks. If you didn't and wish you did, persevere in prayer and if the Holy Spirit gives you the gift, rejoice. If not, still rejoice. Your Name is already written down in heaven!