



## Life In The Spirit – Gift of Tongues & Interpretation

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Speakers:** Adam Pipe & Andy Smith

**Key Verses:** 1 Corinthians 12-14

### Talk Summary:

We are continuing our series called Life in the Spirit looking at 1 Corinthians 12-14. Gifts of the Spirit are gifts of God's Grace. They are not badges of spiritual honour. They are for the good of the whole body 'the common good' and everyone gets to play. Verse 14 summarises our series as a whole "Pursue the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit". On Sunday we looked at the last two gifts listed in 1 Cor 12:10: the gift of tongues and the interpretation of tongues.

### What is the Gift of Tongues? (1 Cor 14)

*'The gift of tongues is simply the Spirit-energized ability to pray, worship, give thanks, or speak in a language other than your own or one you might have learned in school.'* Sam Storms

- Tongues is speaking forth a Spirit-inspired message in a language unknown to the speaker.
- Tongues is a normal thing associated with the filling of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 10:44-46, Acts 19:1-7)
- The direction of tongues are us speaking to God. It is us praying or worshipping in an unknown language through the power of the Holy Spirit. Tongues are primarily a devotional language - Tongues is a way to pray. It is a way to pray for your own needs. It is a way to pray for the needs of others in intercession. It is a way to worship and cry out to God

### What is the Purpose of Tongues?

- Tongues build us up and strengthen us spiritually.
- In what ways does it build us up?
  - Gives our soul a voice - Things inside us need to come out. Things that we cannot express in words. Prayer in tongues allows us to communicate with God from the depths of our being.
  - Draws us close to God - Share our heart with God and we sense the nearness of God's empowering presence

- Leads to breakthrough – prayer in the Spirit is an essential weapon in spiritual warfare

## Practising the Gift of Tongues

- a. We should all desire the gift of tongues (V5)

What stops us speaking in tongues?

- Fear: what others will think, that we might lose control
- Sense of inferiority: its a gift you don't have to be holy to receive given to become holy
- Not for me: don't want it
- I will lose control: don't lose control
- Over intellectualism: if I don't understand it I won't do it. Chose to submit intellect to Almighty God
- Put off by abuse of the gift and wrong teaching

- b. How do we receive it?

- Ask and keep on asking
- Speak - God doesn't take over your mouth. You speak and the Spirit enables you. May get one word just use that, may get a whole vocabulary
- Practice it – Use it everyday in your private prayer life.

- c. Public practise

- Paul's concern in 1 Cor 14 is that in public worship what we do should be intelligible to outsiders. If public tongues are used there should only be a few at a time and they should be interpreted: (1 Cor 14:27-28)

## Group Discussion Questions:

1. What is people's understanding and experience of the gift of tongues?
2. Look at 1 Cor 14:1. What is the connection between pursuing love and desiring the gifts of the Spirit? (link to last week' session)
3. Do we eagerly desire the gifts of the Spirit? What does that look like in practice?
4. Look at 1 Cor 14:2. What is the gift of tongues? How would you define it?

The following quote may help:

*'The gift of tongues is simply the Spirit-energized ability to pray, worship, give thanks, or speak in a language other than your own or one you might have learned in school.'* Sam Storms

5. Look at 1 Cor 14:4 In what ways do tongues build us up?

Ideas: Give a voice to our soul (Romans 8:26-27); Draw us close to God & leads to breakthrough.

(Consider the example of Jackie Pullinger and her experience of the gift of tongues. See below for link)

## Watch & Discuss:

1. "Facing the Canon" with Jackie Pullinger [35-44 mins](https://youtu.be/dUOpHMNk-S0)  
<https://youtu.be/dUOpHMNk-S0>
2. Or for a shorter extract - Jackie Pullinger Interview // "Unwavering" [7:10-10:50 mins](https://youtu.be/f4D5kRwjaRU)  
<https://youtu.be/f4D5kRwjaRU>

-Discuss Jackie Pullinger's experience. What resonated with you? What challenged you?

-Could you spend a period of time each day speaking in tongues? (a takeaway challenge)

-What stops us speaking in tongues?

-How to we receive the gift? Ask, Speak & Practice

- Read 1 Cor 14:19, 23 & 27-28

-What is the role of public messages in tongues in church?

-What is the difference between the gift of interpretation of tongues and prophecy?

-Make time for prayer and ministry - A safe place to have a go at tongues.