

**Articles and Sermons :: The Truth About Speaking In Tongues - Zac Poonen****The Truth About Speaking In Tongues - Zac Poonen - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/3/2 16:33**

The Truth About Speaking In Tongues - Zac Poonen

"Every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation (change)" (James. 1:17).

God never makes a mistake, He never changes and He gives only perfect gifts. Therefore when He gave the gift of "speaking in unknown languages" ("tongues") to the church on the day of Pentecost, He knew exactly what He was doing. The gift of "tongues" was a perfect gift. God has not changed His mind about the gift, for He never changes.

God knew the controversies that would surround this gift in the 20th century. Yet He felt the church needed this gift to fulfill its ministry.

Even major truths such as the Trinity, the Deity of Christ, the Humanity of Christ and the Person of the Holy Spirit have been opposed and have faced controversy in the history of Christendom. So it should not surprise us if the gift of "tongues" has been controversial too.

It is always best to stick exactly to what Scripture says on all doctrinal matters. Let us look then, with an unprejudiced mind, at every single verse in the Bible on the subject of "speaking in tongues":

Truth No. 1

Mark 16:17: "These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Jesus said that some of the signs accompanying the company of "those who have believed" would be speaking in tongues, casting out demons and healing the sick. He did not say that ALL these signs would accompany EVERY believer. But He said that these signs would be found among the company of "those who have believed".

So every believer need not have all these gifts. Neither need every church have all these gifts. But they will be found in the whole church worldwide. The Holy Spirit sovereignly decides whom to give the gifts to.

Truth No. 2

Acts 2:4,7,11: "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance..... And the Jews from every nation marvelled saying....`We hear them in our own tongues speaking of their mighty deeds of God."

The first time that believers were filled with the Holy Spirit, they ALL spoke in tongues. The "tongues" were languages that others understood immediately. So there was no need for the gift of interpretation.

Notice also in verse 4 that it was the persons themselves who began to speak in tongues and not the Holy Spirit. The Spirit did not move their tongues. The Spirit only gave them utterance. They spoke themselves.

In no gift, does the Holy Spirit take away freedom of choice from us. In fact, the fruit of the Spirit is "self-control" (Gal.5:23). Only demon-possessed people lose control of themselves. One who is filled with the Spirit will have more control over himself than anyone else. "The spirit of the prophets is subject to the control of the prophets" (1 Cor.14:32).

Truth No. 3

Acts 10:46: "They were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God."

Here, in the house of Cornelius, all who were in his house were baptized in the Holy Spirit, at the same moment as they were converted to Christ. They spoke in "tongues" exalting God (praising Him) - not speaking to people, as was the case on the day of Pentecost.

Truth No. 4

Acts 19:6: "When Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying"

The Holy Spirit came upon the believers in Ephesus, when Paul laid hands on them. The "tongues" here seems to have been prophesying.

Note the following facts from the above instances in "Acts":

- (a) In Acts 2 they received the Spirit, after water baptism. In Acts 10, they received the Spirit BEFORE water baptism.
- (b) In Acts 2 and 10, they received the Spirit without anyone laying hands on them. In Acts 19, they received the Spirit after Paul laid hands on them.
(This proves that there is no standard pattern for receiving the Spirit. It could be either before or after water-baptism, and also with or without the laying on of hands).
- (c) In Acts 8:14-18, when the disciples in Samaria received the Holy Spirit, there is no mention that they spoke in tongues. But Simon the magician did see some evidence (we are not told what it was) which made him want the same ability that Peter had.

Truth No. 5

1 Cor. 12:7,8,10: "But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit... to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues."

The gift of tongues is for "the common good" - the good of the church. This was written 25 years after the day of Pentecost. And the gift of tongues was still being given then by the Spirit "for the common good".

Truth No. 6

1 Cor.12:11: "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills".

This is perhaps the clearest Scripture that teaches that the Holy Spirit sovereignly decides to whom to give each gift (including the gift of tongues). We cannot dictate to Him whom He should give any gift to.

Truth No. 7

1 Cor. 12:28: "God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then... various kinds of tongues."

It is God Who appointed the gift of tongues in the church - for some purpose. So we should never oppose this gift, lest we be found opposing God. Remember that He has more wisdom than we have.

Truth No. 8

1 Cor. 12:30: "All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?"

All believers do not speak in tongues, just like all believers do not have the gifts of healing. So obviously, God does not feel that "tongues" is an essential gift for all believers - either for being holy or for being effective in His service. If it were, He would have given this gift to everyone.

Truth No. 9

1 Cor. 13:1: "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal."

Speaking in tongues without love is useless. All pride in those who speak in tongues, and all "looking down" on others who don't speak in tongues is because of a lack of love. Such unloving believers who speak in tongues are as repulsive to God as a noisy gong is to us.

Truth No. 10

1 Cor. 13:8: "Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease."

se; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect come s, the partial will be done away."

When perfection comes at Christ's return, there will be no more need for speaking in tongues. In heaven, there will be no need for "tongues" - just like there will be no more need for Bible-knowledge or prophecy.

So "tongues" is a temporary gift needed only under the imperfect conditions prevalent on earth. This explains why Jesus never needed the gift of tongues. It was because His mind was perfectly pure and because He lived in perfect communion with His Father at all times,

Truth No. 11

1 Cor. 14:2: "One who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men, but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries."

The gift of tongues mentioned here is obviously different from the one manifested on the day of Pentecost - for this gift is not to "speak to men but to God" and no-one can understand what the speaker is saying.

Truth No. 12

1 Cor. 14:4: "One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself
The gift of tongues enables a believer to build himself up spiritually.

Truth No. 13

1 Cor. 14:5: "I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying. But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what shall I profit you, unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching?"

Paul wished that ALL spoke in tongues. This is yet another verse that clearly indicates that all believers do NOT speak in tongues.

Paul's wish here is similar to his wish that ALL should be single like he himself was (as he states earlier in the same letter - 1 Cor.7:7). Paul saw some benefits in being single. He also saw some benefits in speaking in tongues. But Paul recognised that just as God was sovereign in giving the "gift of being single" only to some believers, He was equally sovereign in giving the "gift of tongues" also only to some believers.

Therefore it is as foolish to expect all believers to speak in tongues as it is to expect all believers to be single!!

In the church-meeting, it is far better to prophesy (that is, to speak God's Word "to encourage, edify and console" others - 1 Cor. 14:3). If however a 'tongue' is interpreted, then it is equal to prophecy.

Truth No. 14

1 Cor. 14:9,13: "Unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear (understandable), how will it be known what is spoken?...Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret."
"Tongues" must be interpreted when used in a church meeting.

Truth No. 15

1 Cor. 14:14: "If I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. What is the outcome then? I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind. I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the mind."

When praying in tongues, a person cannot understand what he is praying. But Paul still felt that he should pray and sing "with the spirit" (in tongues), as much as he did with his mind (in a known language).

Truth No. 16

1 Cor. 14:18: "I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all." Paul was thankful to God for this gift. So it must have helped him.

Truth No. 17

1 Cor. 14:19: "However, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind, that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue."

In the church, speaking in a known language is always the best.

Truth No. 18

1 Cor. 14:22: "Tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers"

Tongues are for a sign to unbelievers - as on the day of Pentecost.

Truth No. 19

1 Cor. 14:23: "If therefore the whole church should assemble together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?"

It is madness for all to speak in tongues in a church-meeting - for no one will understand what anyone is saying. (This must obviously be referring to people speaking in tongues individually and not when all are praying together - for in the latter case, we do not listen to the prayers of even those who pray in a known tongue.)

Truth No. 20

1 Cor. 14:26, 27: "What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and let one interpret;"

Not more than two or three should speak in tongues in a meeting of the church, but each "tongue" must be interpreted. "Interpretation" is not the same as "translation". Translation is "word for word". Interpretation is "expressing the thought in one's own words".

Truth No. 21

1 Cor. 14:39: "Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues."

This then is the conclusion. Don't forbid the exercise of the gift of tongues. But if you are desiring a gift, seek for the gift of prophecy more than for the gift of tongues.

The True And The Counterfeit

There is a certain amount of mystery about the gift of tongues, as all those who have received the gift will acknowledge - if they are honest. We do not know everything about it. We know only in part (1 Cor.13:12).

As one who has spoken in tongues for the past 26 years, let me add a few words concerning what I presently understand about the gift, from my own experience.

When a person speaks in tongues, his spirit (heart) speaks forth syllables (directly from his heart to his mouth, bypassing his mind) and thus he pours out whatever is in his heart to God - whether that be an overflow of joy or a burden caused by sorrow or discouragement. Thus the pressure on his heart is relieved. That is how he is 'edified'

As we saw earlier in Acts 2:4, when anyone speaks in tongues, it is the person himself who speaks, and not the Holy Spirit. The believer forms the syllables himself, just as he does when speaking in a known language. The only difference is that now, he does NOT use a known language to pray, but concentrating on the Lord, speaks forth syllables with his mouth, straight from his heart, bypassing his mind - knowing that God understands the longings and pressures in his heart, even if he cannot understand himself what he is saying.

Unburdening himself like that in moments of pressure helps a believer, especially if his mind is too tired to pray in a known language. We may not be able to explain how this works, but it does.

Let us now look at the gift of interpretation: As we have already seen, interpretation of a tongue is equivalent to prophesying. So this gift will usually be given by the Spirit to one who has the gift of prophecy as well.

In a church-meeting, if someone speaks in a tongue, one of those having the gift of prophecy (usually one of the elders),

if he is walking in the light of God, will find a thought being impressed on his mind, if the "tongue" is genuinely from God. He speaks forth that thought in his own words - for it is not a translation, but an interpretation.

If another elder (who also has the gift of interpretation) had interpreted the "tongue", the interpretation would have been the same (although couched in that elder's own words). This would be the case if both elders were in perfect touch with the Lord.

Since no revelation from God can contradict what is written in the Bible, the interpretation will be in accordance with Scripture - just like all true prophecy will also be in line with the Scriptures.

Some who are sceptical of spiritual gifts have asked this question: If a "tongue" that was interpreted in a meeting, is copied on to a tape and someone else (with the gift of interpretation) in another place is asked to interpret it, will the interpretation be the same as the first one? The answer is: It should be, if both interpreters had a perfect understanding of the mind of the Lord. If the interpretation is different in content, (and not just in words), that would only indicate that one or both interpreters are not in such perfect touch with the Lord as to understand His mind perfectly. That is not abnormal, because no believer in the world is in such perfect touch with the Lord as to know His mind perfectly.

The following example will prove this fact beyond any doubt: Suppose you have to speak in a meeting and you have a particular message on your heart which you feel is the burden of the Lord for that meeting. Then, if you are unable to be at that meeting and someone else speaks in your stead, strictly speaking, he should give the same message as you had on your heart (even if it be in his own words). If that brother doesn't give the same message as you had on your heart, it would indicate that one of you did not have a perfect understanding of the Lord's mind for that meeting. So we see that believers could fail such a test even when giving a message in a known language.

That's why the Bible tells us to judge even a prophet's message (1 Cor.14:29). Similarly, we should judge, all messages in "tongues" and their "interpretations". What should we judge in such cases? Just this: Whether our spirit witnesses that the utterance (prophecy, tongues or interpretation) was Scriptural (and from the Lord) or not.

We are warned (in 1 John 4:1) not to believe every spirit but to "test the spirits whether they are of God". So every time, we hear "tongues" or interpretation in public, we must test it in our spirits. Many of the "supernatural utterances" we hear may not be from God. We must always reject a prophecy (or any part of it), a "tongue", or an interpretation, if we feel uneasy about it in our spirits, for any reason.

It is the unquestioning acceptance of everything supernatural and abnormal that has brought tremendous confusion into Christendom in this century - and tremendous dishonor to the Lord's Name as well.

Notice these facts in all instances of speaking in tongues in "Acts" :

- (a) In every case, the speaking in tongues was spontaneous;
- (b) In every case, all spoke in tongues - there were no exceptions;
- (c) In every case, there was no coaching or urging or instruction given on how to speak in tongues;

Today however, in most places, none of the above characteristics are found. Only where the gift of tongues is spontaneously received without any coaching, can we conclude that it could be genuine.

Of all the "speaking in tongues" that I have heard, my spirit has borne witness to only a small percentage of it as genuine. Most of the rest I have felt was an attempt to imitate the gift - either to be accepted by others in a group or to impress them. A small percentage could even be of demonic origin. My observations are based on the fruit and the results that I have seen in the lives of many people in many lands. Speaking and singing in tongues often appears to be a form of "exhibitionism" in many churches - and exhibitionism is characteristic of little children.

It is also a well-established fact that, at this present time, the maximum exploitation of believers for financial gain is practised by those preachers and pastors who claim to "speak in tongues". Most of the cults in the 20th century have also developed from tongue-speaking groups.

My advice to all believers therefore is: "Avoid churches that major on the gifts of tongues and healing - because many of them go to dangerous extremes and usually don't have spiritually-minded leaders. Seek instead for fellowship with a church that emphasises holiness and disciple-making primarily, that accepts the genuine gift of tongues and that does not c

over your money or seek to control your life."

Let me also emphasise that we need to use our mind (renewed by the Holy Spirit) if we are to understand God's will and His Word aright (Rom.12:2). Many believers tend to despise their minds. Our mind is to be like a wife. She should not be the head of the home. But she should not be killed either!! Jesus is our husband and head. Our mind should be submissive to Him through our heart.

In a nutshell then, here is a bit of sane advice on "tongues":

"If God gives you the gift of tongues, receive it and exercise it. Speak forth the syllables from your heart to God when you are alone with Him - anywhere - and especially when your heart is under pressure (through discouragement) or overflowing with joy. If you don't have the gift, don't worry about it. But be open to the Lord to receive it, at all times. Don't be against it and don't get into a frenzy to receive it. God will give it to you, if He wants you to have it, without any frenzy on your part. At the same time, don't believe that everything you see and hear in Christendom is inspired by the Holy Spirit. Test everything. Use your God-given faculties of discernment. If you don't have the gift of tongues, don't consider yourself inferior to those who have it. And if you do have the gift, don't imagine that it makes you spiritual or superior to those who don't have it. (Paul and the Corinthian Christians both spoke in tongues. But Paul was a spiritual giant, while the Corinthians were carnal!!)."

What Is Absolutely Essential

What is absolutely essential for all of us is to be endued with the Holy Spirit's power. It is power, and not speaking in tongues that is the evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

The Holy Spirit is to be received by faith (Jn.7:37-39), just as we received the forgiveness of our sins - on the basis of Christ's merit alone, and not on our own merit. We do not receive the Gift of the Spirit by fasting or praying or by any other work. He is a Gift (Acts 2:38).

We ask and receive - immediately by faith - and go forth believing in God's promise that He gives the Holy Spirit more readily to those who ask Him, than any earthly father would give food to a hungry son (Lk.11:13). If we are unsure about having received the Spirit, we can ask God to give us an assurance. He will not deny us such an assurance.

But we need to be filled with the Spirit continually (because we are leaky vessels - Eph.5:18), just like we need to be forgiven continually (because we sin - often without knowing it - Matt.6:12).

The devotion of our heart to Christ is far more important than our speaking in tongues. "Do you love Me more than everything else?", was our Lord's question to Peter, before commissioning him for His service. Arguments about "speaking in tongues" are therefore a diversion arranged by Satan to sidetrack believers from total devotion to Christ.

The greatest Christians in the world have been those who loved the Lord Jesus supremely - whether they spoke in tongues or not. Some like Peter, James, John and Paul spoke in tongues. Others like John Wesley, Charles Finney, D.L.Moody, A.B.Simpson, William Booth, C.T.Studd and Watchman Nee never spoke in tongues (as far as we know). But they all received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, they all loved the Lord with all their hearts and they ALL walked the way of the cross. These truths were central in their lives. Other things were secondary.

Let us follow their example and we won't go wrong..

He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Re: The Truth About Speaking In Tongues - Zac Poonen - posted by lyndon, on: 2007/3/2 16:56

Quote:
-----The Truth About Speaking In Tongues - Zac Poonen

Thanks for posting this its one of the better articles on this controversial subject that I've read.

Lyndon

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/3/2 16:59

i like it to, often people is "too" much on one of the two sides, i find zac poonen is very "balanced" in scripture and presents everything with a great anointing, i really like his teaching, and another thing when he preaches he can talk calmly and softly and still the word pierces and convicts the heart,

Re: - posted by lyndon, on: 2007/3/2 17:08

Quote:
-----i find zac poonen is very "balanced" in scripture and presents everything with a great anointing, i really like his teaching,

Yeah, he was at some tent meetings here a number of years ago, I was only going to go to one, but after hearing him speak I was back for the rest of the week. I happened to have tea with him during that week, he was very soft spoken, full of grace, and yet an authority if necessary. There is an anointing in his words and you can see that it comes from a relationship with Jesus.

Lyndon

Re: The Truth About Speaking In Tongues - Zac Poonen - posted by staff, on: 2007/3/2 19:16

Hi,
Very Good article,Very Helpful.Thanks for posting it, will help anyone with a hang up on tongues,
Rgds Staff

Re: - posted by TimmyJoe, on: 2007/7/18 18:42

Thanks for posting that. I go to a pentecostal church and sometimes I discouraged for not having received the gift.

God bless!-TimmyJoe

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/18 19:28

Quote:
-----I go to a pentecostal church and sometimes I discouraged for not having received the gift.

Hi Timmy. I know exactly what you mean. No believer should ever be made to feel inferior if they don't speak in tongues. I always try to remember that Charles Finney never spoke in tongues, or John Wesley or Spurgeon, Moody, Whitefield, the Puritans, etc. I can go on and on. According to grassroot Pentecostal doctrine, none of the above men were truly Baptized in the Holy Spirit, though their authority in the Word of God and fruit with anointing and power and global influence surpasses the so-called "Spirit-Baptized" groups we have today that can only show tongues on Sunday mornings as their evidence. Many tongue-talkers, in fact, are secretly imprisoned to sin and do ungodly things behind closed doors; the only evidence that they have the filling is through tongues. How sad that our modern Pentecostalism emphasizes mere *physical* evidence. Looking on the outward instead of the inward is always a quick recipe for disaster.

When I went to my first meeting where people laid hands to receive the Holy Ghost, I did the equivalent of a "courtesy drop" -- I spoke in Russian. Ahh! The ministers were delighted! They energetically praised God for my Spirit baptism! We

see here the fallacy, the deception of souliness, of a man-controlled outward evidence attempting to gauge the efficacy of a sovereign, God-controlled inner working. In your experience with God, what has always proved most accurate in terms of authenticity -- the physical or the spiritual? Physical manifestations mean absolutely nothing if inwardly there is still lack or falsehood. This article by Poonen is among the best I've read touching this ultra-sensitive subject. What makes it so great is the utter dependency on Holy Scripture Poonen employs to arrive at an extremely fair and accurate conclusion...in my humble opinion, anyhow.

Brother Paul

Re: - posted by Warrior4Jah (), on: 2007/7/18 20:03

Great article! :-)

Re: The Truth About Speaking In Tongues - Zac Poonen - posted by jarona (), on: 2007/7/18 20:37

Thanks for posting this. 8-)

Re: - posted by reformer, on: 2007/7/28 18:01

Quote:

TimmyJoe wrote:

Thanks for posting that. I go to a pentecostal church and sometimes I discouraged for not having received the gift.

God bless!-TimmyJoe

That is the major problem with tongues today, people feel insecure because they don't speak in tongues. I used to speak in tongues years ago, and I have come to don't practice it anymore. There are times that I start to speak in tongues. I feel that the canon of scripture is closed on those tongues. I believe that they were different back then as to what is now. I really closed off my heart on this matter and often still feel I need to take a closer look into the subject. I don't want to grieve the Holy Spirit. But so far from what I have study, I am not convinced that it is real as language of syllables. But I am going to try to keep an open mind.

I do believe a lot of what is going on in churches is just jibberish. It should not be done in a service like it is now, what does it profit those people in service unless they are not believers.

SO TimmyJO don't get concerned or worried. When you start to feel less about not having it, then you really need to look closely at that gift. We should never think of ourselves more importantly than our brothers. We need to be humble. If you want to pursue a gift, pursue His word, it's better to prophesy. (teaching and proclaiming His word) That benefits more people.

Good luck

Re: The Truth About Speaking In Tongues - Zac Poonen - posted by helengreen, on: 2008/9/30 14:24

I know this is an old thread but being new-ish thought I would add my thoughts...

I started speaking in tongues the week before I got baptized (in water), I was not coached it just happened. I go to a pentecostal church, some do and some do not speak in tongues.

I think doing down tongues is wrong, it's blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, speaking in the Spirit is a gift from God...

As is prophecy and many gifts mentioned in the Bible.

Do all speak in tongues? Years ago I would have said yes but now I have met people who do not and people who do whom are not saved! Devils tongues? Must be this was a New Age lady leading a "trapped spirit into the light" to "cure" a home of being haunted!

Also a program / documentary was done recently on British TV, whereby a minister had a CAT scan whilst speaking in tongues, the result was that unlike us speaking, the brain was showing no activity in the speech department - as though the whole brain was being bypassed.

So speaking in tongues (other languages of men and angels) amen. But the devil does deceive and the Bible says:

Mark 12:28-34

28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?"

29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. 30 And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

32 So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. 33 And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

34 Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But after that no one dared question Him.

ALL who believe on Jesus shall be saved, they must be born-again of the Spirit and then walk with Him. Let us go fishing for souls and act in love not worrying about things, our salvation is assured praise Jesus so long as we do the things He says and use our gifts - which may or may not include tongues, a cup of coffee and a hug to that lonely newcomer to the church is showing love and Jesus came to show us the way, teach us to serve and to love God foremost then everybody else putting ourselves last.

I would say let us follow Jesus' example and we WILL NOT go wrong, eyes on Jesus not on man!

Imitators of Christ we are called to be.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/9/30 15:47

Quote:

-----I think doing down tongues is wrong, it's blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

If a person "does down" tongues, there's no forgiveness for him - in this life or the next?

Re: - posted by Ruach34 (), on: 2008/9/30 17:16

I am not familiar with the term "doing down tongues." what is that? Or am I reading it incorrectly?

This article is very balanced and good. Zac is an authority in the whole body of Christ, I would say. His teaching is seasoned with grace and the Holy Spirit's power.

thanks for this post...

Re: - posted by helengreen, on: 2009/1/15 15:01

Please excuse the very late reply!

I am from the North west of England, UK so slang term to "do down" means to put down as though to say they are not from God.

The months I've been away from here (and it has flown) I have learnt to type without as much of my UK slang so people understand me.

Quote:

-----If a person "does down" tongues, there's no forgiveness for him - in this life or the next?

I maybe misinterpreted it a little and got over zealous for the Lord. I understand what was meant now.

I didn't mean the "unforgivable sin" I meant irreverence towards the gifts of the Spirit.

To the person above, I had never heard of that particular teacher before so was being cautious.

Apologies again and God bless you all, I hope you had a great Christmas and a Happy New year :-)

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2009/1/15 22:26

Good article on speaking in tongues. I agree with most of it.

Just asking, has Poonen ever mention whether he has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues.

I also believe that the preachers he mentioned had a baptism of the Holy Spirit who didn't speak in tongues. I also know that there is a baptism of the fullness of the Holy Spirit where one will definitely speak in tongues.

I can not say that all will speak in tongues but I will say that if you are filled like the apostles where in the book of acts you will definitely speak in tongues by the spirit giving the utterance.

Re: Tongues etc. - posted by savannah, on: 2009/1/16 10:58

Quote:

"...if you are filled like the apostles where in the book of acts you will definitely speak in tongues by the spirit giving the utterance."

"If...filled like the apostles...you will definitely..."

If I may offer the following message to any who may be interested, I think it'll be helpful to see the fallacy of such an understanding(above) from the perspective of the full counsel of God.

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?sid=41508219400>

Re: - posted by Lysa (), on: 2009/1/16 13:24

Quote:

rbanks wrote:

Good article on speaking in tongues. I agree with most of it.

Just asking, has Poonen ever mention whether he has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues.

He stated in the article:

As one who has spoken in tongues for the past 26 years, let me add a few words concerning what I presently understand about the gift, from my own experience.

It's about 1/2 way down the article, under The True And The Counterfeit.

Re: Savannah RE: The Truth About Speaking In Tongues - posted by Lysa (), on: 2009/1/16 13:31

Quote:

Quote:

"...if you are filled like the apostles where in the book of acts you will definitely speak in tongues by the spirit giving the utterance."

"If...filled like the apostles...you will definitely..."

If I may offer the following message to any who may be interested, I think it'll be helpful to see the fallacy of such an understanding (above) from the perspective of the full counsel of God.

I really messed this one up. I was trying to reply and totally erased my response to Savannah.

From memory. Savannah, where did you get those quotes? I do not think they came from the Zac Poonen article. I've looked everywhere.

Thanks

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2009/1/16 14:16

Quote:

Lysa wrote:

Where did you get those quotes above? I do not believe they came from Zac Poonen's article. I tried to look at everyone's reply but I couldn't find it.

Thanks!

I didn't get them from Poonen's article.

Here is what the scriptures reveal.

Ac 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Re: - posted by Lysa (), on: 2009/1/16 14:25

rbanks,

This is too funny. I put her name in the subject line, I should have addressed the post to Savannah. But I was asking Savannah where she got those quotes!

Sorry about that!

Re: Savannah RE: The Truth About Speaking In Tongues

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2009/1/16 14:48

Quote:

savannah wrote:

If I may offer the following message to any who may be interested, I think it'll be helpful to see the fallacy of such an understanding(above) from the perspective of the full counsel of God.

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?sid=41508219400>

Dear Savannah,

I did click on your link and clicked off of it because I don't have time to listen to people who down the pentecostal message.

Also Jesus said by your words you shall be justified and by your words you shall be condemn.

The fallacy that you speak of comes straight from the word of God. We will not be judged by the words of men but only by the infallible word of God.

Ac 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2009/1/16 16:48

Quote:
-----I don't have time to listen to people who down the pentecostal message.

This is why it is not good to go off on theological tangents. When I say "go off", I mean align yourself exclusively with one or another doctrine to the point where you refuse to listen to brothers/sisters with differing views.

On a larger scale, this is what is happening elsewhere in the forum...and people are self-destructing because of it. It steals your joy and splits good, Christian fellowship right down the middle.

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2009/1/16 18:49

Quote:

PaulWest wrote:

Quote:
-----I don't have time to listen to people who down the pentecostal message.

This is why it is not good to go off on theological tangents. When I say "go off", I mean align yourself exclusively with one or another doctrine to the point where you refuse to listen to brothers/sisters with differing views.

On a larger scale, this is what is happening elsewhere in the forum...and people are self-destructing because of it. It steals your joy and splits good, Christian fellowship right down the middle.

Dear Paul,

I agree with you concerning having unity and fellowship among the brethren. The scripture teaches that we are to be like minded toward one another.

Php 4:2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

Ro 12:16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Ro 15:5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

Ro 15:6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Co 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

2Co 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

1Pe 3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

1Pe 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

The bible also teaches us to be careful what we hear and receive into our spirit. Maybe I could have worded what I said a little better. I apologized if my words were taken wrong. I don't believe though that the Lord would want me to listen to unwholesome teaching that would tear down what God has clearly given, even though they may not understand it. I believe all true teaching comes from the Holy Spirit and therefore comes out of the life of the Spirit. The life of the Spirit will never come from a man's doctrine. We must be very careful concerning the doctrine we accept into our spirit. I pray by God's grace that I will not spend my time on any teaching that does not edify the spiritual man. We are told to redeem the time for the days are evil. We are told to take heed how we hear.

1Ti 1:3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

2Jo 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

Ro 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Eph 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Again, if I have misjudged the message of this preacher then I apologize, but I have been to that site before and was disappointed because they have shut out from their group anyone who claims to have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Many of the independent Baptist preachers say that it is no longer for today. Well I can say that I have not excluded any who have not received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking with other tongues from my fellowship.

I have just now decided to go there and copy what they have written above their articles of faith.

ARTICLES OF FAITH & POLICY STATEMENT FOR BROADCASTING ON SERMONAUDIO:

Articles and Sermons :: The Truth About Speaking In Tongues - Zac Poonen

FULL Members Only: SermonAudio.com embraces the historic Protestant faith and is not open to the dissemination of such distinctive Charismatic and Pentecostalist views as extra-Scriptural revelations, tongues, healing, women pastors/preachers/elders, etc.

Although the site is not affiliated with any particular denomination, we will only carry conservative churches that are fundamental in doctrine and Bible-believing. Every church wishing to broadcast with us must adhere to the following Articles of Faith:

It seems like to me they are the one's who have refused to listen to brothers/sisters with differing views.

Re: - posted by Lysa (), on: 2009/1/16 19:39

Quote:

rbanks wrote:

ARTICLES OF FAITH & POLICY STATEMENT FOR BROADCASTING ON SERMONAUDIO:

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Let me rephrase that off the cuff remark. I did not know about these articles of faith. I have not found many preachers on there that I enjoyed listening to. I found one but he did a sermon that would curl your hair against speaking in tongues and I never could bring myself to listen to him again. My bad, I guess.

Re: To RBANKS - posted by Lysa (), on: 2009/1/16 20:46

Quote:

Quote:
-----"...if you are filled like the apostles where in the book of acts you will definitely speak in tongues by the spirit giving the utterance."

"If...filled like the apostles...you will definitely..."

If I may offer the following message to any who may be interested, I think it'll be helpful to see the fallacy of such an understanding (above) from the perspective of the full counsel of God.

rbanks,

I been wondering ever since you answered me when I wrote to Savannah about where she got those quotes. But you wrote because you knew where those quotes came from. Were they originally in "your" post right above hers on the second page? Because they are not there now.

Re: "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:" - posted by pastorfrin, on: 2009/1/16 21:50

Hi all,

Paul says it so very clear in 1Cor. 14:

1 Cor. 14:18-33

I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? But if a

If prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth. How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

With the evidence we have been given in Acts and the teaching by Paul in 1Cor. I do not see the problem. If someone, preacher or not says the gifts have ceased, they are in error; when they say all tongues are of the devil, well the Lord will judge them. I as Paul will praise God that I speak in tongues and if it was of God then, the Spirit within me according to the word of God, says it is of God now.

savannah, sorry your preacher is not preaching the truth.

In His Love
pastorfrin

Re: The Truth About Speaking In Tongues - posted by Lysa (), on: 2009/1/16 22:06

I listened to Savannah's link and I just wanted to post what the preacher said; NOT to talk bad about him but to say that he, sadly, got a couple of things correct.

I do not have a problem listening to someone I disagree with (but I didn't listen to it all. I tried though! I really understand what rbanks wrote about why he won't listen. I do not judge him, that is his conviction. I have a conviction that if I constantly surround myself with people I agree with, I wind up being a "yes" person (if you know what I mean). And studying the other is how I left the ____- trib doctrine! Nuff said!!

Now, I'm not going to argue with anyone about this but I found him to be somewhat true on this. I will mark where. Please note, these are from my own handwriting so if something's missing, my bad!

A brief critique of the modern charismatic movement. He believes the charismatic movement is completely illegitimate because:

1. They know nothing about God
..... They reject the doctrine of the Trinity
..... It is (something called) Sabellianism where God is manifested in three different persons.
2. They know nothing about the nature of God in relation to holiness.
..... Like all armenians, charismatics can't stand the truth about God's absolute sovereignty. Neither do they understand the doctrine of grace.

I did not agree with the rest but the part above, I understood a little bit where he was coming from. I can see where He gets that opinion from. It does seem like most charismatics (I've done this same thing), when they receive the gift of speaking in other tongues and they throw their Bibles out the window, never to consult it again. "The Holy Spirit's my guide!"

We who do speak/pray in tongues need to be an example against this type of behavior, not causing it!!

That's my two cents worth anyway!

God bless,

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2009/1/16 22:07

Quote:

Lysa wrote:

Quote:

Quote:
-----"...if you are filled like the apostles where in the book of acts you will definitely speak in tongues by the spirit giving the utterance."

"If...filled like the apostles...you will definitely..."

If I may offer the following message to any who may be interested, I think it'll be helpful to see the fallacy of such an understanding (above) from the perspective of the full counsel of God.

rbanks,
I been wondering ever since you answered me when I wrote to Savannah about where she got those quotes. But you wrote because you knew where those quotes came from. Were they originally in "your" post right above hers on the second page? Because they are not there now.

Dear Lysa,

She made those quotes from the last paragraph in the post of mine right before hers. She seem to not agree with my last paragraph and made those quotes from a sentence out of the paragraph.

However her disagreement does not alter what I stated as truth from the word of God. There have been very few filled as the apostles were in the beginning of the church over the centuries. But right now in China there are millions in that underground church filled with the Holy Spirit.

My personal belief is that the bride of Christ will be filled as they were in the beginning. I believe that Jesus will have a people full of the Holy Spirit meeting Him in the air for the final battle over Satan as the Lord brings in His millennium reign.

Blessings to you!