

The Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues were promised to us by the prophets and they are just a couple of our benefits in this first Messianic Age. Shaul (Paul) quotes Isaiah when he says, “In the law it is written: ‘With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,’ says the Lord;” 1 Corinthians 14:21 CJB. This scripture is clearly in the context of the gifts or evidences of the Holy Spirit that Shaul devotes a considerable portion of his letter in 1 Corinthians to in chapters 12-14.

Shaul talks about speaking in tongues being a sign. He probably means that it is a sign that the Messiah has come.<sup>1</sup> Yeshua said, “And these signs will accompany those who do trust: in my name they will drive out demons, speak with new tongues;” Mark 16:17 CJB. Do you want to trust in God? It is somewhat shocking to me that some people who believe in God think that something that a good God does is strange. Often these people are more concerned with how they will be seen instead of wanting something amazing and supernatural from God. Perhaps this has to do with not understanding the many ways that God uses speaking in tongues in the life of believers.

Rabbi Shaul (Paul) talks about the work of the Holy Spirit in many of his letters. The Holy Spirit is talked about in the New Testament letters because the Holy Spirit is something that believers in the Messiah received and still receive when the Messiah came. After Yeshua’s first messengers spoke in tongues, Kefa (Peter) said, “For the promise is for you, for your children, and for those far away - as many as ADONAI our God may call!” That includes you and me!

The early Jewish believers in the Messiah Yeshua were excited about the possibility of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit from God. Yet some believers in the Messiah today still refuse to put God in His proper place and they want to do things their way instead of following God’s commandments and receiving the Holy Spirit into their lives. Isaiah prophesied that some will still not hear. They will not go unpunished. Yeshua said that those who believe in Him will receive the Holy Spirit and those who blaspheme (speak against) the Holy Spirit will be held accountable. Yet God is merciful. I doubted that speaking in tongues was genuine at first, but God still allowed me to receive the Holy Spirit. I was willing to give God a chance. How about you? God wants you to have the Holy Spirit, the various evidences of the Holy Spirit, and to receive speaking in tongues.

### **Spiritual Gifts and Evidences**

First of all, speaking in tongues is an evidence of the Holy Spirit (one of the ways we see the Holy Spirit at work). God gives different gifts, ways of service, workings, and evidences (manifestations). God is the One that empowers these gifts or evidences<sup>2</sup> of the Holy Spirit so they involve God’s supernatural work. These shouldn’t be thought of what we can do, but it is what God does through us. The Bible says that it is the “Spirit,” God, “at work.”

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<sup>1</sup> “Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is not for unbelievers but for believers;” 1 Corinthians 14:22 CJB. We should understand that “signs” are important. For example, the ancient rabbis said that only the Messiah would heal a person that was born blind. Yeshua did that in John 9. According to the scriptures, speaking in tongues is an important part of the life of a believer. It is not only a constant reminder to us and to others that the Messiah has come, but God uses it for His purposes in many ways the Bible says.

<sup>2</sup> Shaul calls the work of the Holy Spirit both gifts or evidences. In 1 Corinthians he calls them “manifestations;” in Romans he calls them gifts. “But **we have gifts** that differ and which are meant to be used according to the grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, use it to the extent of your trust; if it is serving, use it to serve; if you are a teacher, use your gift in teaching; if you are a counselor, use your gift to comfort and exhort; if you are someone who gives, do it simply and generously; if you are in a position of leadership, lead with diligence and zeal; if you are one who does acts of mercy, do them cheerfully;” Romans 12:6-8 NKJV.

### 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 CJB:

Now there are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. Also there are different ways of serving, but it is the same Lord being served. And there are different modes of working, but it is the same God working them all in everyone. Moreover, to each person is given the particular manifestation of the Spirit that will be for the common good. To one, through the Spirit, is given a word of wisdom; to another, a word of knowledge, in accordance with the same Spirit; to another, faith, by the same Spirit; and to another, gifts of healing, by the one Spirit; to another, the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, the ability to judge between spirits; to another, the ability to speak in different kinds of tongues; and to yet another, the ability to interpret tongues. One and the same Spirit is at work in all these things, distributing to each person as he chooses.

If you remember from my other teachings, lists are used by Jewish (what is a Jew)<sup>3</sup> teachers as a way of communicating at least part of what needs to be taught. That is why we see other lists for spiritual gifts in other places that are different than this list in 1 Corinthians like in Ephesians 4:11-12<sup>4</sup> and Romans 12:6-8.<sup>5</sup> Shaul is not confused, but he uses examples of various gifts at different places. We should by no means think of God being limited in what He can do. Even in the Old Testament portion God gave spiritual gifts that included those we read in the New Testament portion.<sup>6</sup> God even gave spiritual gifting for the work of the Jewish Mishkan (Tent of Meeting in the desert).<sup>7</sup>

### God's Gifts are Good

The Bible tells us that the gift of the Holy Spirit is a good gift and so we should also understand that speaking in tongues is something good. The scriptures say that speaking in tongues may involve speaking spiritual mysteries; the scriptures say that it edifies us, it builds us up; it also builds up believers in the congregation when it is interpreted (this is done by a believer supernaturally by the Holy Spirit); it can be used for prayer; and it can be thanks and praise. God can use it as He wishes and it is good God that is empowering us so why would we not want to speak in tongues? Yeshua said that when we receive the Holy Spirit, it empowers us. "But you will receive power when the Ruach HaKodesh comes upon you;" Acts 1:8 CJB.

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<sup>3</sup> Ancient Israel had become a Judean society because Northern Israel had been defeated and dispersed. Jewish then refers to the people of the southern Judean Kingdom. The name Judah means praise. The Jews were to be a people of "praise" to God and be lights to the world. They were believers in the true God. Shaul talks about a people of praise in Ephesians. "So that we who earlier had put our hope in the Messiah would bring him praise commensurate with his glory." Ephesians 1:12 CJB. Now that the Jewish Messiah had come, the believers in Yeshua, the Nazarene Jews, were also to be to God's praise. Believers in the Messiah become part of the believing community; we do not replace the believing community (see Ephesians 2:19).

<sup>4</sup> "Furthermore, he gave some people as emissaries, some as prophets, some as proclaimers of the Good News, and some as shepherds and teachers. Their task is to equip God's people for the work of service that builds the body of the Messiah;" Ephesians 4:11-12 CJB.

<sup>5</sup> "But we have gifts that differ and which are meant to be used according to the grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, use it to the extent of your trust; if it is serving, use it to serve; if you are a teacher, use your gift in teaching; if you are a counselor, use your gift to comfort and exhort; if you are someone who gives, do it simply and generously; if you are in a position of leadership, lead with diligence and zeal; if you are one who does acts of mercy, do them cheerfully;" Romans 12:6-8 CJB.

<sup>6</sup> The spiritual gifts seemed more limited in the Old Testament portion, but those listed in the New Testament portion can be found in the Old Testament portion. The Holy Spirit works powerfully in the believers of Yeshua so that God's spiritual gifts are evidenced regularly, even it seems as we desire to pursue them and use them.

<sup>7</sup> "1 ADONAI said to Moshe, 'I have singled out B'tzal'el the son of Uri the son of Hur, of the tribe of Y'hudah. I have filled him with the Spirit of God - with wisdom, understanding and knowledge concerning every kind of artisanry;" Exodus 31:1-3 CJB.

## What People Believe

When I accepted Yeshua (Jesus) as the Messiah, the believers in Yeshua that I knew at the time spoke in tongues (nearly 100%, I'm not kidding). As I began to talk to other believers about speaking in tongues I found that:

- Some believe it is wrong (clearly the Bible says that **it isn't wrong**; 1 Corinthians 14:40 CJB, "Do not forbid speaking in tongues.").
- Some say that only some receive speaking in tongues (There is evidence that all the evidences or gifts are available; the scripture seems to support this in the KJV; 1 Corinthians 12:7 KJV, "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man;" namely, the gifts or evidences of the Holy Spirit are for every believer).
- Some say that everyone can speak in tongues if they are a believer in Yeshua (1 Corinthians 14:5 CJB, "I wish you would all speak in tongues."). God appears to liberally give this gift to nearly all those who seek it; that's been my experience. How is it possible that when speaking in tongues is taught that so many are willing to benefit from it? It seems that God wants to give speaking tongues to those who ask.

## Speaking in tongues was prophesied by Isaiah – It's a Messianic Benefit

Let's look at the verse that Shaul quotes<sup>8</sup> from Isaiah that is about speaking in tongues: "So with stammering lips, in a foreign accent, [ADONAI] will speak to this people. He once told this people, "It's time to rest, the exhausted can rest, now you can relax"- but they wouldn't listen;" Isaiah 28:11-12 CJB. Since speaking in tongues was prophesied as a future benefit of the messianic kingdom, it is a messianic benefit to believers in Yeshua.

It is tremendously exciting to being given words from God. I remember sitting in front of a mirror and speaking in tongues shortly after I first spoke in tongues. I was completely amazed – it was proof to me that God is who He says He is and that Yeshua rose from the dead. Yeshua said that if we believe we would see. I can speak in tongues anytime and know that God is there; it is a witness to me. Shaul said, "Now because you are sons, God has sent forth into our hearts the Spirit of his Son, the Spirit who cries out, 'Abba!' (that is, 'Dear Father!');" Galatians 4:6 CJB. God's Spirit is in us calling out to God (We do this probably when we speak in tongues; not just because His Spirit is in us, but we are actually using a spiritual gift like speaking in tongues).

## The Holy Spirit is good for us

God gives us His gifts for our benefit. Yeshua said, "Is there any father here who, if his son asked him for a fish, would instead of a fish give him a snake? or if he asked for an egg would give him a scorpion? So if you, even though you are bad, **know how to give your children gifts that are good**, how much more will the Father keep giving the Ruach HaKodesh from heaven to those who keep asking him!" Luke 11:11-13 CJB.

I kept asking God for the gift of speaking in tongues and I received it. Doesn't it seem weird that anyone would turn down something that God wants to give them? I sometimes tell God that I want what you want, I will do what you want me to do, and I will be faithful to follow all your commandments.

If someone came along and gave you a brand-new car with no strings attached, would you just leave it in the garage and walk everywhere? What about the Holy Spirit? God can give us things that can be lifesaving. Who is to say that speaking tongues can't do that; the Bible says that it is supernatural prayer.

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<sup>8</sup> Shaul quotes Isaiah in 1 Corinthians 14:21 CJB, "In the law it is written: 'With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,' says the Lord."

All the riches in the world are worth nothing compared to what God can do. God wants to give us good gifts and He wants us to use them.

### **Some understand what is being spoken**

The Bible says that the language we are speaking is either a tongue of men or of angels. Sometimes a person will understand the speaking in tongues because the Bible says that it can be language of men; 1 Corinthians 13:1 CJB, “I may speak in the tongues of men, even angels.” On Shavuot the people understood Yeshua's appointed messengers (apostles) when they spoke in tongues. The way I understand it is Yeshua's appointed messengers spoke in a language and someone from the area where that language was spoken understood them. It was a miracle. Most of the time we don't understand what is being spoken in a tongue and that's what the Bible says too. They weren't the only ones to ever speak in tongues; the Bible says that it is an evidence or manifestation of the Holy Spirit and is therefore a common spiritual gift.

I've heard that some people have understood someone speaking in tongues and it wasn't during missionary work – so speaking in tongues is not necessarily associated with missionary work. Some make the mistake of thinking God will miraculously give them the language of the local people without learning it; God can do that, but the Bible actually tells us what speaking in tongues is for; so, let's see what the Bible says.

### **God gives us the words – we speak to God (spiritual mysteries)**

The Bible says we don't understand what we are speaking; God gives the words as we speak. “For someone speaking in a tongue is not speaking to people but to God, because **no one can understand, since he is uttering mysteries in the power of the Spirit.**” 1 Corinthians 14:2 CJB.

God gives us the words and the Bible says we are speaking to God. One of things we are speaking are mysteries. Since we don't understand what we are speaking, perhaps that is the mystery. What we are speaking is from God and it is up to God how He uses the tongue. We could be speaking something amazing about almost anything. Remember God is giving us the words. Doesn't the Bible say that God spoke the creation into existence? Genesis 1:3-5 CJB, “Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. So there was evening, and there was morning, one day.” It's possible; what if God actually had us speak something into existence, why not?

Shaul assures us that God intends to work powerfully. “For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of words but of power;” So those who say otherwise are wrong. God is not far from us, “So that people would look for him and perhaps reach out and find him although in fact, he is not far from each one of us;” Acts 17:27 CJB. God has not changed; just like He was with His people in the desert every day as the shekinah glory and fed His people, God is still at work on behalf of His people. This is your chance to experience and accept what God wants for you.

### **The emissaries did the speaking. We have to open our mouths and make the sounds/words. Also, it is not by possession.**

“They were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh and began to talk in different languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak;” Acts 2:4 CJB.

After we receive the Holy Spirit, the Ruach HaKodesh, then we can speak in tongues. We need to be a believer first. Then it says that they began to speak. Just like we speak in the natural, we have to decide to

open our mouths and say something. We can stop and start when we want to; we decide to speak in the tongue that God gives us.

It says the tongue is a specific language. It is not just a bunch of gibberish. We might repeat ourselves a lot giving praise to God, but doesn't He deserve thanks? It is not "goo goo gaga, boo boo, hoomagoobidubi." There are many different languages and sounds. I heard a story once about someone hearing a very strange sounding tongue and they began crying because they understood it; it is God that is giving us the words. Some think that God has to take them over to speak in tongues. That is not speaking in tongues. As we speak God will give you the words. The Bible says they "began to talk."

### **We edify ourselves**

What person doesn't want to be built up or edified? The Bible says, "A person speaking in a tongue does edify himself." 1 Corinthians 14:4 CJB. Perhaps we are feeling a little anxious and don't know what to do. You could try speaking in tongues. I'll often feel a sense of satisfaction after I speak in tongues. I'm not sure what God has done, but it could be that God built me up supernaturally, or perhaps it is just the Holy Spirit letting me know that God heard my concerns, or it is God letting me know that He loves me because I just gave Him praise by speaking in tongues. Wouldn't you like the self-satisfaction of knowing that God loves you or at least recognizes that you are giving him praise?

### **When we come together we should interpret or others should so the people present are edified**

Shaul makes a good point about speaking in tongues. When we get together it should be for the purpose of building up others. Since speaking in tongues is not understood and we are speaking to God, Shaul says that when we get together it is okay to do this if we interpret. The interpretation is done supernaturally by God giving the interpretation; we are to pray to interpret. Either the person speaking in tongues or someone else should give the interpretation from God. If I speak in tongues in a meeting, I am always ready to believe God to interpret if no one else does it. "Therefore someone who speaks in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret;" 1 Corinthians 14:13 CJB.

This is what the believers did when they came together. They had teachings, songs (psalms), spiritual revelations (information given by God for encouragement and help which includes prophecy), and speaking in tongues and an interpretation. We would expect many different evidences of God at work when we get together. Shaul said, "What is our conclusion, brothers? Whenever you come together, let everyone be ready with a psalm or a teaching or a revelation, or ready to use his gift of tongues or give an interpretation; but let everything be for edification." 1 Corinthians 14:26 CJB. When we get together we are to do things to help us do better spiritually, to be edified.

### **Speaking in tongues is prayer**

Shaul says that speaking in tongues can be prayer. How awesome is that! Have you ever prayed, "Lord, you know what this person needs and I ask you to answer that prayer?" God knows what we need. What if a person's life depended on our prayer; God knows everything and He can take care of that. "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit does pray, but my mind is unproductive. So, what about it? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.;" 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 CJB.

We don't have to be annoying and pray in tongues out loud in front of someone. Remember, they don't know what is being prayed for. Instead, we can tell the person to wait a minute while we get quiet and then speak in tongues quietly to ourselves for them. It could be praise or it could be something they need prayer for. It doesn't hurt. Theatrics can be annoying. I used to know someone who would scream, "fire of God" while they were praying. I couldn't even think while they were screaming.

### **We give thanks and praise to God; Shaul spoke in tongues a lot.**

We have so much to be thankful for. I recently made a list of messianic benefits in about 15 minutes and I came up with about 55 things to be thankful for. I was really surprised. Those are the things I could think in just a short time. I'm sure there's more, but think about the possible things God does for us every day that we don't know. I've even heard of God preventing auto accidents by lifting up cars and moving them away from believers. We should probably be praising God a lot.

Shaul says that we should be thanking God a lot. "For undoubtedly you are giving thanks very nicely, but the other person is not being edified. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you;" 1 Corinthians 14:17-18 CJB. When you think of it, Shaul had reason to be thankful a lot. He was busy leading people to the Messiah and he often faced opposition. Shaul said, "I've worked much harder, been imprisoned more often, suffered more beatings, been near death over and over." 2 Corinthians 11:23 CJB.

I just happened to think of the story of the woman that wiped clean Yeshua's feet with her tears. It is a very touching story.

Luke 7:37-38 CJB

A woman who lived in that town, a sinner, who was aware that he was eating in the home of the Parush, brought an alabaster box of very expensive perfume, stood behind Yeshua at his feet and wept until her tears began to wet his feet. Then she wiped his feet with her own hair, kissed his feet and poured the perfume on them.

She knew who Yeshua was and was willing to humble herself before Him. If we only knew how much we have to be thankful for. Wouldn't it be nice to honor God with our thanks? Shaul said, "I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you;" 1 Corinthians 14:18 CJB. Also, Shaul said that we should imitate him, "Imitate me, even as I myself try to imitate the Messiah;" 1 Corinthians 11:1 CJB.

There doesn't have to be a reason to thank God. We should be willing to give Him praise and thanks, and speaking in tongues is one of ways to do that. Speaking in tongues a lot is a good thing to do.

### **Speaking in tongues needs to be taught**

The first believers I knew all spoke in tongues because it was taught. I visited a pastor near my house when I lived up north. The congregation had about 400 (big for up North) members. She said that they have someone in their congregation that does that and then laughed. I found out that if it is not taught and encouraged then people don't receive this messianic benefit. Also, if people believe that speaking in tongues is only for a select few then they will often not seek to speak in tongues.

Sometime people have heard weird stories about speaking in tongues. I had never heard anything about it and I was excited about receiving something from God. Some interpret one scripture to mean that we are to pick up poisonous snakes and speak in tongues. That is definitely weird; why would anyone do that? The Bible says that we are not to tempt God, so don't do foolish things. "You shall not tempt the Lord your God;" Deuteronomy 6:17 CJB. That is a commandment of God.

Also, don't be obnoxious and annoying when speaking in tongues. God gives the speaking in tongues, but He doesn't approve of being disrespectful, weird, or putting on theatrics. I once visited a church where people did all kinds of annoying things and they said these ridiculous behaviors came from God. The Bible says that there shouldn't be any theatrics surrounding speaking in tongues. In the context of the spiritual evidences, 1 Corinthians 14:39-40 says, "Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. **Let all things be done decently and in order.**" If you have used the Holy Spirit in a wrong way, decide today that you will not do that again.

People can do crazy things at times; pastors scream and hop around, people roll around on the floor and fall down. If I'm feeling the peaceful presence of God, I sit down. Don't scream and fall down. God doesn't need our help. Being respectful and orderly applies to all the spiritual gifts. I once had someone give me a prophecy in squeaky voice, "This is God speaking." I don't doubt his prophetic gifting, but he didn't need to add the ridiculous theatrics.

I've heard of people being pushy with speaking in tongues. One time I heard of a group of people speaking in tongues while surrounding a new believer to get them to speak in tongues. Let people accept it on their own and want to speak in tongues. Shaul laid out the commandments for spiritual gifts and evidences of the Holy Spirit and said, "Let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant." If someone doesn't want to be blessed you can't force them. I offer to pray for people at times, but if they say no, I let it go.

### **The Spiritual Gifts are to Help Us**

I've talked to people who don't believe in speaking in tongues. One person told me he couldn't speak in tongues; perhaps he didn't understand that it is up to us to speak. We won't speak in tongues if we don't open our mouths and start speaking. You need to actually try to say something. Then there are those who see people doing weird things or sinning. Perhaps they are thinking that speaking in tongues is wrong because the person speaking is a sinner. Yochanan (John) said, "If we claim not to have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us;" 1 John 1:8 CJB. We all sin and we are not perfect, but don't think for a minute that God is fooled by people who habitually sin. The Bible says, "Don't delude yourselves: no one makes a fool of God!" Galatians 6:7 CJB.

If someone needs correction, try to help them (knowing that we are not perfect) having their best interests in mind. Do not let the poor behaviors of others about spiritual gifts influence us. Go ahead and receive what God wants to give you. God doesn't demand perfection or no one would be worthy to receive His gifts or salvation. We are on a lifelong pilgrimage to do what is right and good. The spiritual gifts and evidences are there to help us to do that. "Their task is to equip God's people for the work of service that builds the body of the Messiah, until we all arrive at the unity implied by trusting and knowing the Son of God, at full manhood, at the standard of maturity set by the Messiah's perfection;" Ephesians 4:12-13 CJB.

### **Seek the things of the Spirit**

In the context of the spiritual gifts or evidences of the Holy Spirit Shaul said, "Pursue love! However, keep on eagerly seeking the things of the Spirit;" 1 Corinthians 14:1 CJB. Doing things with love is very important, but **Shaul says that the Holy Spirit is important too.**

I encourage you all to walk out in faith and speak in tongues. You have to speak and let God give you the words. It was promised to us by the prophets, the Holy Spirit is a good gift, we may speak spiritual mysteries, we are edified, we can edify the believers when it is interpreted (this is done supernaturally by the Holy Spirit), it is prayer, and it can be thanks or praise. God can use it as He wishes so why not do it.

### **It can be supernatural prayer for others**

There are scriptures that allude to speaking in tongues with the words "in the spirit." To speak "in the spirit" can mean to either speak words from God in our own language or to speak in tongues. In the case of our own language, God tells us what to speak or we are inspired and then we tell the people present what God revealed. In the case of prayer, we simply pray what God has told us. In the case of inspired prayer, God often gives the words as we speak. Speaking by or in the spirit can be prayer, prophecy, or the prophetic.

When we speak in tongues it can also be praying “in the spirit.” It works just like inspiration works; God gives us the words as we speak. Shaul seems to say that when we speak in tongues we can be praying for each other. “For I know that this will work out for my deliverance, because of your prayers and the support I get from the Spirit of Yeshua the Messiah;” Phil. 1:19 CJB. Shaul says that he gets prayer and support from others “from the spirit.” This must be talking about either getting words from God and praying or by praying in tongues.

Also, in Ephesians it says, “As you pray at all times, with all kinds of prayers and requests, **in the Spirit**, vigilantly and persistently, for all God's people;” Ephesians 6:18 CJB. Remember Shaul said, “I will pray **with my spirit**, but I will also pray with my mind;” 1 Corinthians 14:15 CJB. When he says that he will “pray with my spirit” he can be referring to speaking in tongues. Shaul must be encouraging believers to speak in tongues for each other as well as getting revelation for prayer or by praying by inspiration. Shortly after that I learned what speaking in tongues was for and I wanted to pray and praise God and I wanted to pray for others. I don't think that any of us can figure out what is going through someone else's head or what they truly need. The Bible seems to say that the Holy Spirit helps us to pray for others. “Similarly, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we don't know how to pray the way we should. But the Spirit himself pleads on our behalf.” Romans. 8:26 CJB. This probably is talking about speaking in tongues.<sup>9</sup>

It isn't complicated. We can either pray in the spirit by God giving us revelation or inspiration and then we pray the words in our own language or since speaking in tongues is also prayer, we pray in tongues in the prayer language God has given us.

There are other scriptures that use the term “in the spirit.” For example Jude said, “But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith, and pray in union with the Ruach HaKodesh;” Jude 1:20 CJB. This also must be talking about praying by the Holy Spirit which includes speaking in tongues. It says that this can build up our faith.

### **Why I Speak in Tongues**

The primary reason I spoke in tongues initially is because I wanted the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues from God. I believed that God wanted to give it to me. After I learned what the Bible said about speaking in tongues, I realized the importance of speaking in tongues. I often think of how important it is to praise God and to be thankful. The different things that God uses speaking tongues for also encourages me. It helps to take dedicated time each day to speak in tongues, even if it is for only 10 minutes out loud.

I also want to implicitly believe in God and speaking in tongues is a way for me to do that. I tell myself that I am going to trust in God and allow Him to use me for prayer or praise. I am happy to trust in my God. People might say, “My God what's happened to you; isn't speaking in tongues weird?” I say, “My God, that's what has happened to me.”<sup>10</sup> God has offered to use us; we probably don't deserve such trust, but why not make yourself trustworthy.

Some say that you have to be perfect before you speak in tongues, but that is not what the Bible says. The evidences of the Holy Spirit and gifts are to help us grow as a believer. “Their task is to equip God's

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<sup>9</sup> Some people say this scripture is about making noises like grunting. Speaking in tongues makes more sense; Shaul said we don't understand what we are speaking and this verse seems to be saying that we can pray for something specific. A grunt is a grunt and speaking in tongues is an actual language where we can actually pray for something. Some people call it your prayer language.

<sup>10</sup> Recalling the words of a teaching I once heard.

people for the work of service that builds the body of the Messiah;" Ephesians 4:12 CJB. So, if God's gifts are to help us grow, then they must be available to us and we don't have to wait to receive all of them. Some of them like teachers are for the more mature believer.

Years ago, I had just led a young man to believe in Yeshua just two weeks earlier. We had gotten together a few times since he first believed. We got together again and I started talking to him about the spiritual gifts and speaking in tongues. He started speaking in tongues while I was talking to him about speaking in tongues. I was stunned; he was just a baby believer, but that's what I have seen. God appears to give speaking in tongues liberally. Another time I was talking to someone on the phone and the subject of speaking in tongues came up. He told me that he had been waiting to speak in tongues for years and I talked to him about speaking in tongues for about 5 minutes and I told him that God wants him to speak in tongues. He called me back about 10 minutes after we hung up and told me he spoke in tongues. Fortunately for him, he didn't have to keep waiting.

I didn't learn any of the bad stigma about speaking in tongues and that probably helped me. People actually write negative teachings about it. Yeshua gave us a warning to not have a bad attitude toward the Holy Spirit. "Because of this, I tell you that people will be forgiven any sin and blasphemy, but blaspheming the Ruach HaKodesh will not be forgiven;" Matthew 12:31 CJB. Wikipedia says that, "Blasphemy is the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence." In this case it is contempt for the Holy Spirit. How I see this is if we dig in our heels and remain stubborn about the things of Holy Spirit, then God will not give us the Holy Spirit and we will be judged for our bad attitude. I would be careful not to be critical of this gift. Yeshua was very stern about being critical of His spiritual gift.<sup>11</sup>

I got my master's degree from a Baptist college. In this one class, our professor was talking about treating each other with love and how the Chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians is in the middle of Shaul's message about the gifts of the Holy Spirit.<sup>12</sup> The gifts and evidences of the Holy Spirit are to be used with love. "I may speak in the tongues of men, even angels; but if I lack love, I have become merely blaring brass or a cymbal clanging. I may have the gift of prophecy, I may fathom all mysteries, know all things, have all faith- enough to move mountains; but if I lack love, I am nothing ...". 1 Corinthians 13:1-2 CJB. So, live an honorable life of love and holiness.

### **Speaking in Tongues is Intended for this Messianic Age**

Speaking in tongues is intended to be used in this messianic age as it says in Isaiah. Wouldn't we want what God wants for us. We can pray when we get up, when we eat (speak in tongues in our mind), when we work, we can speak in tongues out loud or to ourselves. It seems we can pray in tongues almost all the time. Shaul said, "Pray without ceasing;" 1 Thessalonians. 5:17 NKJV.

Will we listen? "So with stammering lips, in a foreign accent, [ADONAI] will speak to this people. He once told this people, "It's time to rest, the exhausted can rest, now you can relax"- but they wouldn't listen;" Isaiah 28:11-12 CJB. Speaking tongues can give us rest and peace. God wants to help us and bless us and speaking in tongues is good and the Holy Spirit is good. I speak in tongues everyday as much as I can because I know that it is God's will for His believers. **Shaul said, "I wish you would all speak in tongues;"** 1 Corinthians 14:5 CJB.

<sup>11</sup> People who don't want to believe in the scriptures about speaking in tongues and the Holy Spirit often make up an alternate meaning or ignore scriptures about the Holy Spirit. I believe in the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Yeshua said, "the Ruach HaKodesh," the Holy Spirit is not to be blasphemed. One of the evidences of the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues.

<sup>12</sup> At this point we took a break from our class and the person sitting next to me told me that he hated people who spoke in tongues and asked me to forgive him. Especially, those that accept the power of God in our lives should also remember to ascribe to the power of love.