

# ***PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT***

***BY ANTONIO BALDOVINOS***

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***"And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." (Mark 16:17-18)***

## **I. THE GIFT OF TONGUES FOR TODAY**

1. Speaking in tongues is supposed to accompany those who believe. This is for all of us today. This is not set a part for a personality type and transcends characteristics and personalities, even cultures. It's a gift available to all!
2. The Church in many ways has placed tongues on the fringe or a thing of the past or for certain sects or groups. But I am more convinced not only is this entry level Christianity but fundamental & the kick start to all spiritual gifts available to us (if you believe).
3. The Church was born again on tongues. The Church was established and started by tongues. I believe that God is raising up a people that is a tongue praying Church to have great power in their secret lives as well as great power in public and a great harvest of souls will once again be swept in, just like 3,000 people were added in one day, just by the power of tongues.

***I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all. (1 Corinthians 14:18)***

***"For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the Spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding." (1 Corinthians 14:14–15)***

***"He who speaks in tongues edifies Himself." (1 Corinthians. 14:4)***

***"Praying with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:18)***

***"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit." (Jude 20)***

These passages state some clear purposes for praying in tongues:

1. When we pray in tongues, we pray to God.
2. When we pray in tongues, we speak mysteries in the spirit.
3. When we pray in tongues, we build ourselves up.
4. When we pray in tongues, our spirit prays.
5. Paul made speaking in tongues a very high priority in his life.

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6. Praying in the Spirit is part of the armor of God as described in Ephesians 6, which means that this serves as protection from the enemy.
  7. We get rooted in faith when we pray in the Spirit. (Spirit of revelation awakens our spirit and we step out in faith firmly established in God!)
- A. *“Praying in the Spirit”* means that our spirits are praying into the Spirit of God— the Spirit who searches the depths of God, the Spirit who knows all the things of God. We are praying into God; we are, so to speak, turning on a flashlight in our souls and going on a treasure hunt for God. Building God a home. Strengthening and fortifying a home for God to reside in. Build up ourselves. This is stronger than anyone laying hands on you. There are great teachings and meetings but there’s nothing like praying in tongues and building yourself up in the Spirit.
- B. When we see those things in God by the Spirit, we are able to pray with conviction in our souls, because we have seen the reality of what we are asking. We can’t ask something from somebody if we are not sure if they have it or not. For instance, we would have a hard time asking for one hundred million dollars from a middle-class working family with four kids. It would be easier to ask for the same amount from a billionaire who has no family and who has a generous spirit. Our asking is based on our knowing.

## **II. WHY PEOPLE DON’T PRAY IN TONGUES**

- A. Fear & improper teaching is one of the main reasons why people don’t pray in tongues. Many have questions like this:
1. How do I know this is really a language?
  2. Is this really doing any good?
  3. Why are the words I speak so often repeated?
- B. I’ve never known any God-given experience that our adversary of our souls won’t challenge us with similar doubts, such as:
1. How do you know you’re really saved?
  2. Why do you believe this book is the Word of God?
  3. What difference do you think getting “wet” (baptism) will make anyway?
  4. Do you think its silly to go through the motions with bread and wine?

**BUT the BIBLE says this & you can take this to the bank!:**

***“The one who speaks with tongues is speaking to God” (1 Corinthians. 14:2)***

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C. *Most people don't pray in tongues because its foolishness. It's a wisdom issue; it simply doesn't make sense to our natural mind. The mysteries of God are babbles. Of course it would only be a God, our God who hung on the cross. These are the ways of God. We must get faith that we are building ourselves, trading our own might for God's might.*

D. Proper Teaching and principles of praying in Tongues:

***"I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified."*** (1 Corinthians 14:5)

Here are some of the important points in this passage:

1. The apostle Paul wanted ***everyone*** to speak in tongues. Why? Because it edifies us when we speak in tongues. There is a personal benefit that we receive when we pray in tongues (the private form of tongues), as Paul explained in 1 Corinthians 14:4, above. All Christians, even in modern times, benefit from praying in the Spirit, and that's why the Bible tells us to "pray in the Spirit on ***all*** occasions" (Ephesians 6:18).
2. Paul also said that when we speak in tongues ***to a church congregation*** (using the public form of tongues, the "gift" of tongues) and we interpret what was said (using the gift of interpretation), this is equivalent to prophesying. Speaking in the gift of tongues and then speaking forth the interpretation results in the same benefit and edification for the church congregation as the gift of prophecy does.
3. Notice that in this passage the apostle Paul has fully endorsed both the private and the public forms of tongues, as long as they are used properly.

## **III. THE BENEFITS OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES**

A. When we speak in tongues, we keep a commandment of the Lord.

***"What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding ... let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord."***  
*(1 Corinthians 14:15,37)*

B. When we speak in tongues, we walk in obedience to the Lord and experience more of the power of His Spirit while fulfilling His great commission.

***"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*** (Mark 16:17-18)

C. Our prayer language calls forth the secret truths and hidden things only known in the intimate

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places of heaven.

***“But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)***

***“For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.” (1 Corinthians 14:2)***

D. When we speak in tongues, we convey the glorious acts of God.

***We hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God. (Acts 2:11)***

E. When we speak in tongues, we pray for things beyond our knowledge and comprehension.

F. When we speak in tongues, our spirits stand side by side with the Holy Spirit, laying hold of all the promises of God regarding our inheritance in Christ Jesus.

G. God gave the gift of tongues to all believers for spiritual rest and refreshing, and to circumvent the effects of weariness and stress. We are spiritual beings, but live in the body. Our westernized mindsets set high priority on rest and relaxation but true rest is only found in our spirit man and our physical man will follow suit. Most of us are getting our tail ends whooped because we are mostly run by our emotions rather than by the Spirit. God wants us to build our most holy faith by praying in tongues.

***For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, to whom He said, “This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,” and, “This is the refreshing”; yet they would not hear. (Isaiah 28:11–12)***

H. Speaking in tongues serves as protection from the enemy’s schemes and works. It is a special communication between our spirit and God’s.

I. Exercising our prayer languages releases the essence of wisdom, guidance, and discernment into us. (Prayer languages can be spiritually discerned.)

J. Speaking in tongues ushers in holiness in speech, conduct, awakens us, etc.

K. When we pray in tongues we get aligned *spirit, soul and body*.

## **IV. THE GIFT OF TONGUES FOR TODAY**

A. The gift of tongues is not the same thing as praying in tongues, also called praying in the Spirit.

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1. In 1 Corinthians 12:10, the gift of tongues is described as the supernatural ability to speak in other languages (Acts 2:6-8), or an unknown tongue in a corporate setting. These utterances are to be accompanied by an interpretation.
  2. In 1 Corinthians 14, it is clear that all can speak in tongues – a devotional prayer language in which we speak not to men, but to God. This is because man cannot understand the language. When a man speaks in tongues, he speaks mysteries in his spirit.
- B. Paul spoke in tongues more than all, and thanked God for it. Paul speaks of unceasing prayer several times in his epistles. Here Paul gives us a profound glimpse into his secret devotional life with God. Speaking in tongues was a large part of Paul’s unceasing life of prayer. He is speaking of the regular daily life of the believer in the Spirit. We are called to pray in the Spirit all the time, whatever situation we are in.

## **V. THE SPIRIT THAT SEARCHES THE DEPTHS OF GOD**

- A. God has placed His Spirit within everyone who has been born again. As the temple of the Holy Spirit, we have the power of an indestructible life within us. Jesus defined the role of the Holy Spirit within us as leading us into the knowledge of God and the revelation of Jesus.

***However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. (John 16:13)***

- B. The Spirit is hearing things all the time – the deep things of God, the mysteries of His heart.

***But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. (1 Corinthians 2:9-12)***

1. The Spirit is constantly searching the depths of God, discerning what the Father is feeling and thinking. The Holy Spirit is searching and seeing and hearing, and will gladly reveal His findings to those who will engage Him. Praying in tongues is a powerful and practical way to engage with the Holy Spirit unto knowing more of the heart of God.
2. Mysteries are not hidden to be hidden; they are hidden for the purpose of being known & being found.

As we pray in tongues and read the Word of God:

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- a. We understand more of what God's heart is like.
  - b. The spirit of revelation touches us and we know more of our identity. We know more of what we look like to God as sons of God, as the Bride of Christ, as the family of God, as the temple of the Holy Spirit, etc.
  - c. We know what God is doing in the earth. We understand His prophetic purposes. Sometimes God will speak a sentence, phrase, word picture, or a question. God does not give us a question because He needs the answer. A question is an invitation. Sometimes, as with Jeremiah and Ezekiel, a question is an invitation into the realm of the prophetic and supernatural.
3. These deep mysteries have been prepared by God for those who love Him. This is one of the express reasons God has given us His Spirit - so that we might know these deep mysteries that are freely given to us by God.
  4. The things that ***have been*** given to us. This is written in the past tense because the Holy Spirit has already been deposited into our spirit at the new birth. The invitation then, is to find out or know those things that have been freely given to us by God.

## **VI. PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT WITH FOCUS**

***He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. (John 7:38)***

- A. While praying in your devotional prayer language, it is important to put your attention on God. For example: focus on Him as the indwelling Holy Spirit, or as the Father upon the throne.
- B. Some Eastern religions believe that we are all gods, and talk to their own spirits. When we pray in the Spirit, we want to pray to a Person – the Holy Spirit, the uncreated God.

## **VII. WORDS OR IMPRESSIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- A. While walking around, ask the Lord to give you impressions, burdens, pictures or words to pray into or to pray or encourage others.
- B. Our hearts are postured towards Him and He begins to give subtle impressions or whispers.
- C. We must act out on them as the Spirit gives them to us. They are keys and He wants to give us more keys. We must use them.

## **VIII. EXAMPLES OF REVIVALISTS WHO PRAYED IN TONGUES**

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***“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”***  
***(Hebrews 13:7-8)***

1. **JOHN G. LAKE:** *“I want to talk to you with the utmost frankness and say to you that tongues has been the making of my ministry. It is that peculiar communication with God when God reveals to my soul the truth that I utter to you day by day in my ministry. Many Christians do not understand the significant of tongues any more than the other man understands the experience of your soul when you are saved from sin. It has take place in you. It is in your heart, it is in your mind, it is in your being...it is better felt than told, they knew it by internal knowledge, so it is with tongues.”*
2. **KATHRYN KUHLMAN:** *“There is a place where you die so completely, and you surrender so completely to Him- sometimes I could go fifteen minutes and not remember one single thing that I said. Oh, beloved, there’s more, there’s more. There is a place of surrender to Him...when He takes your whole tongue, and you become so detached from the whole things its as though...your being thrilled at what you are hearing (your own voice speak). But it is not your mind. It is not your tongue...There is a place where He’ll take your tongue, and He’ll use that tongue for the edification of the Church. He’ll take that tongue, and you’ll speak with that tongue in a language that can be heard, a tongue that will bring the lost to the Lord Jesus Christ. He’ll take your mind. Do you know what it’s like for Him to take your mind? I stand there only as a vessel...and He used my mind. I feel myself saying, “It isn’t Kathryn Kuhlman,” and nobody knows any better than I do. How does one know the women over there in the such-and-such dress is being healed? I do not know. If my life depends on it, I could not tell you. I do not know, but the Holy Spirit knows.”*
3. **SMITH WIGGLESWORTH:** *Prayed in tongues one hour every morning before anything else.*
4. **CHARLES FINNEY:** *“Be full of prayer whenever you attempt to preach, and go from your place of prayer to your pulpit with the inward groanings of the Spirit pressing for utterance at your lips.”*
5. **GEORGE WHITFIELD:** *“The sign of Christianity is not a cross, but a tongue of fire.”*