

THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

“To render tongues understandable to the audience, thus producing spiritual profit. The interpretation must always be judged by the Word of God for spiritual quality and scriptural correctness.” -Frank Damazio

1 Corinthians 14:6-25

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

From Bill Kimball

The gift of interpretation is the **supernatural, spontaneous ability to interpret an utterance given in tongues to the language understood by the people present.**

NOTE: Again, it has nothing to do with natural knowledge of languages, but comes directly from God. **This gift is referred to as the “interpretation of tongues” and not the gift of “translation of tongues.”** There is a distinct difference.

To interpret means to “explain, expound, elucidate or unfold.”
To translate means to “convert from one language to another.”

This fact explains the discrepancy of length between the actual utterance and the interpretation. An interpretation may be a brief summary or a lengthy explanation and yet not be an exact translation. We should also bear in mind that, even when translating from one language to another, there is often a great discrepancy between the length of the message and the number of words required to say the same thing. (Notice in Daniel 5:25-28 that the interpretation of “mene mene tekel upsharin” was about nine times as long as the original message.)

***The February 13th message will be on the Romans 12 gifts. Check out this online assessment to determine your gifts:
<http://www.churchgrowth.org/cgi-cg/gifts.cgi?intro=1>***

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PROPHECY

A vehicle of God’s communication to people and the church; a divinely inspired utterance or revelation

“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.”
1 Corinthians 14:1-4 (NIV)

Instructions for Prophecy

1. **Desire to prophecy**
2. **Prophecy is a gift used for speaking to people**
3. **Prophecy is to build up the church, or to strengthen it**

“So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.”

1 Corinthians 14:12 (NIV)

4. **Prophecy is to encourage and comfort the body**
5. **A prophecy is to be tested by the word of God**
 - **The enemy has a counterfeit to every gift so each must be subject first to the word of God**

“Do not smother the Holy Spirit. Do not scoff at those who prophesy, but test everything that is said to be sure it is true, and if it is, then accept it.” 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 (TLB)

6. Prophecy is to help a believer learn

7. Prophecy is to convict the unbeliever

“Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is for believers, not for unbelievers. So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, ‘God is really among you!’” 1 Corinthians 14:22-25 (NIV)

8. Prophecy must be demonstrated in order, with love

“Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said. But if someone is prophesying and another person receives a revelation from the Lord, the one who is speaking must stop. In this way, all who prophesy will have a turn to speak, one after the other, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged. Remember that people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can take turns. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the meetings of God's holy people.” 1 Corinthians 14:29-33 (NLT)

THE GIFT OF TONGUES

“The power to speak by the Holy Spirit in a spiritual language or an unlearned language.” -Frank Damazio

Acts 2:1-8

1 Corinthians 14:1-4

TONGUES

From Bill Kimball

The gift of diverse kinds of tongues is the **supernatural linguistic ability to communicate in a language that you are not familiar with. It may involve the languages of men or the supernatural languages of angels.**

NOTE: This “gift” has nothing to do with natural linguistic ability, eloquence of speech, or a new sanctified way of talking. Though the Holy Spirit may be involved in and produce all these, they are all separate from the subject at hand. The gift of tongues, in whatever mode, is the supernatural manifestation or expression of the Holy Spirit through a person’s speech organs. **The word “tongues” (1 Corinthians 12:10) is the Greek work “glossa” and means language. It is not gibberish, but languages.**

Some modern translations of the New Testament call speaking in tongues “ecstatic speech.” This is a misleading translation. **The terms “ecstatic utterance” and “tongues of ecstasy” are never found in the Bible.** Those who hear the speaker in tongues are sometimes described as “astonished” or “amazed” (Acts 2:12; Acts 10: 45), but the speaker is never referred to in this way. The idea we receive is that of someone losing control, and in a frenzied burst of uncontrollable emotions goes into a berserk trance. This kind of uninspired notion is very misleading.

The utterance in tongues is simply referred to as a “speaking.” It has the same potential for mental and emotional control as any other form of speech.

For a complete teaching and downloadable document, go to www.fbc.org, under Media/Sermons/Wednesday Sermons/ Wednesday, May 9, 2012.