

THE BENEFITS OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Andrew Wommack

Today I want to share with you some of the benefits of speaking in tongues. Hopefully you've already received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and Scripture says that you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. The purpose of all this is that God never did anything without the Holy Spirit. He created the heavens and the earth by the Spirit moving upon the waters. Jesus did no miracles until the Holy Spirit descended on Him and anointed Him. We can't be effective without the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Even after you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, it's not automatic. It doesn't mean the power of God flows out of you at all times.

There are things you have to do to release and manifest the power of the Holy Spirit, one of which is speaking in tongues. Jude 20-21 says, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God." When you put this scripture with some others and research them, I believe when they say "praying in the Holy Ghost" they are talking about praying in tongues. One of the things that happened when the baptism of the Holy Spirit came was that they spoke in tongues. Acts 2:4 says that on the day of Pentecost they were filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Consistently all the way through the book of Acts there was a manifestation of God's presence when the people received the Holy Spirit.

Of course, there is much more to the Holy Spirit than speaking in tongues, but it is one of the important manifestations. One of the reasons for this is in 1 Corinthians 12 where it lists nine of the different gifts of the Holy Spirit and gives some instructions about speaking in tongues. For the sake of time, I will go over to 1 Corinthians 14:13-14 where it says, "Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he might interpret. For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful."

I've already taught that when a person is born again, they literally receive a new identity and become a totally new person in their spirit. They are completely changed. So how do you get this change out? There are a number of the ways, and one of them is that when you are praying in tongues, your spirit prays. This part of you that has the perfect wisdom, power, and faith of God is being released when you speak in tongues. When you pray in tongues, your spirit prays.

In 1 Corinthians 2:6-7, the Apostle Paul says, "Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory." Paul said he was speaking wisdom not of this world but the wisdom of God, and it came in a mystery. Put this together with Ephesians 3:3 where he said that God had revealed these mysteries to him. How is it that you get revelation, that these mysteries become alive? If you remember, he said he was speaking the hidden wisdom of God in a mystery. Put that together with 1 Corinthians 14:2, "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries." This is the exact same terminology, by the same author, and in the same book. So he is saying here that you are speaking the hidden wisdom of God when you speak in tongues.

In 1 Corinthians 2:16, the same context of the verse we just used, it says, “. . . we have the mind of Christ.” And 1 John 2:20 says, “But ye have unction [anointing] from the Holy One and ye know all things.” This isn’t talking about your brain. You can prove by your last test score that you don’t yet know all things with your mind, but in your spirit you have the mind of Christ—you know all things. How do you make this wisdom functional in your life? One way is to start speaking in tongues, and according to 1 Corinthians 14:2 in the spirit you are speaking mysteries, the hidden wisdom of God. Then in verses 13-14, which we have already read, it says that once you speak in tongues, pray that you interpret so your understanding will become fruitful.

I can give my own personal testimony that when I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost and started speaking in tongues, it changed my life dramatically. I believe when I got born again Christ came to live inside of me and deposited everything there, but when the Holy Spirit came upon me, it started to manifest to me and other people. There are a couple things that happen. When I pray in tongues, it’s foolishness to my mind. The first year I prayed in tongues, my mind told me it was crazy, that all I was doing was wasting time. It took faith for me to pray in tongues, which is the reason Jude 20 says you build yourself up in your most holy faith. It takes you out of natural thinking and reasoning, and puts you into a supernatural realm of faith.

Another thing I experienced was that when I prayed in tongues, people I hadn’t thought of for years would come to my remembrance. I’d start praying for them, and within a day or two they would contact me and I’d find that something miraculous had happened. This happened so many times that I finally began to put these things together and realize that when I was praying tongues, I was praying with wisdom that went beyond my mental ability. My spirit that knew all things and had the mind of Christ was praying for people in ways that I could never do with my own physical understanding.

One day I was praying in tongues—as I said, it took faith for me to pray in tongues—and I was battling some thoughts like, “You could be speaking in English and doing some good instead of speaking this gibberish.” I had to deal with these thoughts and put them down, and I just kept praying. A guy I hadn’t seen for four years knocked on my door. He came in, didn’t say hello or anything, sat down, and began to cry and pour out his heart because he was having a lot of problems. I sat there thinking, “Boy, I should have been praying in English.” My next thought was, “How would I have known to pray for him when I hadn’t seen him in four years?” Finally it just dawned on me that I had been praying and God had been preparing me. I had been interceding for him in a way that I couldn’t have done if I were praying with my understanding. Suddenly, a revelation began to come to me and I told him, “I can tell you what your problem is.” I finished his story for him and gave him his answer.

You have to understand that this was back when I was in a denominational church. He didn’t know what had happened to me, I wasn’t sure, and it scared us both. But it was the power of God in manifestation, and He used it supernaturally. That is what this means: when you pray in tongues, it is your spirit praying. Your spirit has been born again, has the mind of Christ, and knows exactly what to do. It has an unction (anointing) from God so that you know all things, and there is no limitation in your spirit. If you could walk in the power and revelation of your spirit, it would transform your physical life. One way of doing that, though not the only way, is to just start speaking in tongues. Recognize and believe that when you do you’re building yourself up in your most holy faith, that your spirit is praying the hidden wisdom of God, and the perfect revelation of God is coming. Then, according to 1 Corinthians 14:13, pray that you can interpret. That doesn’t mean you have to stop praying in tongues and pray in English to interpret; it just means your understanding becomes fruitful.

If you give a message in tongues in a church service, you have to stop and interpret in English. When you're praying by yourself, what I do is pray in tongues and trust that God is giving me revelation. Sometimes my attitude just changes. I don't have a specific word, but suddenly I see things clearly and get a different perspective. It may take a week before I get the full revelation, but I believe the time spent praying in tongues and believing I interpret is a part of it.

Speaking in tongues is important for many reasons, certainly more than to prove you've received the Holy Spirit. It should be a part of everyday life. It is a way to communicate directly from your heart to the Father, bypassing your brain with its doubts and fears. It builds you up in your most holy faith and releases the hidden wisdom of God. I just pray that all of you will be able to flow in this, release your faith, and receive the full benefit of speaking in tongues.

THE BENEFITS OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES (Outline)

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

God never did anything without the Holy Spirit. He created the heavens and the earth by the Spirit: Genesis 1:2: “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” Jesus never did any miracles until the Holy Spirit descended upon Him and anointed Him. Matthew 3:16: “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him.” And we can’t be effective without the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Acts 1:8: “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

There are things that you can do to release the power of the Holy Spirit.

Praying in the Holy Ghost is praying in other tongues and it builds up your faith. Jude 20: “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost”; 1 Corinthians 14:4: “He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.”

When you pray in tongues the power in your spirit, the part of you that has the perfect wisdom, power and faith of God, is released. 1 Corinthians 14:14: “For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.”

You speak the hidden wisdom and mysteries of God when you speak in tongues. I Corinthians 2:6-7: “Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: ⁷But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.” I Corinthians 14:2: “For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.”

When you pray in tongues it’s foolishness to your mind. It takes faith for you to pray in tongues. It takes you out of natural reasoning and thinking and puts you into a supernatural realm of faith.

When you pray in tongues for other people you are praying for them with the wisdom of God that goes beyond your mental ability. You are praying the mind of Christ for them that goes beyond your understanding and supernatural things can happen for them.

When you're praying in tongues, it's your spirit that knows exactly what to do—it's your spirit that's praying. If you could walk in the spirit, the power and revelation that's in your spirit, it would transform your life. One way of releasing that power is by praying in tongues.

When you speak in tongues, believe that you are building up your faith. Jude 20: "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost." Believe that your spirit is praying the hidden wisdom of God and then pray that you interpret it or get the understanding. 1 Corinthians 14:13: "Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret."

Praying that you interpret doesn't mean that you have to stop praying in tongues and start praying in English, it just means that your understanding becomes fruitful. Sometimes that interpretation can mean a different attitude or perception about something.

Praying in tongues should be a part of your everyday life. It's a way to communicate with God and bypass your brain, which has all the doubts and fears in it.

THE BENEFITS OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES (Teacher's Guide)

1. According to Jude 20, what great benefit is received by praying in the spirit?
You build yourself up.
2. A. In Acts 2:4, how many people were filled with the Holy Spirit?
All of them.
B. What did they do as a result of being filled?
They spoke in tongues.
3. According to 1 Corinthians 14:14, what part of you is praying when you pray in an unknown tongue?
Your spirit is praying.
4. A. According to 1 Corinthians 14:2, who are you praying to?
God.
B. Who understands these tongues?
No man.
C. According to 1 Corinthians 14:2, your spirit is speaking what?
Mysteries.
5. According to 1 Corinthians 14:4, when you pray in tongues you do what?
Edify yourself (build yourself up).
6. A. According to 1 Corinthians 14:16, when you speak in tongues your spirit is doing what?
Blessing God.
B. You are also doing what?
Giving thanks.

THE BENEFITS OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

(Detailed Teacher's Guide)

Note: The following information may be read out loud (a numbered section at a time) with the person(s) being discipled. After each numbered section is read, pause and ask the question(s) that correspond to the paragraph(s), and then discuss them.

¹ Many people question what is accomplished by speaking in tongues. There are four verses in 1 Corinthians chapter 14 where Paul gives us insight on this. In 1 Corinthians 14:2, Paul says we are speaking mysteries.

Paul made it clear that his revelation of the mysteries of God came through the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10). When we pray in tongues, our spirits are praying (1 Corinthians. 14:14) through the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4, Jude 20). Normally our understanding is unfruitful (1 Corinthians 14:14) when we pray in tongues, but we can change that by praying for the interpretation. The way this works is that as we speak in tongues and believe for the interpretation, and revelation knowledge comes. This might be insight into some truth of God that we are pondering, or godly insight into some situation that we are praying about.

² In 1 Corinthians 14:4, Paul says we edify ourselves through speaking in tongues. The word “edify” means, “the act of building . . . the promotion of spiritual growth” (W. E. Vine). Speaking in tongues builds us up (Jude 20) and promotes spiritual growth.

The Lord promised us that He would comfort us in all our tribulation (2 Corinthians 1:4) and that is specifically what the gift of speaking in tongues does for us. Later in 1 Corinthians 14:21, Paul quotes from Isaiah 28:11-12, and specifically applies those verses to speaking in tongues. Therefore, in Isaiah 28:11-12, the Lord said that speaking in tongues was refreshing and the “rest” where with you may cause the weary to rest.

Speaking in tongues is a powerful force for promoting spiritual growth and giving us refreshment and rest in trying situations.

¹ (a) What happens when we pray in tongues according to 1 Corinthians 14:14?

(b) What may we ask for according to 1 Corinthians 14:13?

² (a) According to 1 Corinthians 14:4, what do we do when we speak in tongues?

(b) What does the word “edify” mean?

³ 1 Corinthians 14:14, says our spirits are the part of us that prays in tongues. Our born-again spirits have the mind of Christ. They have all the power of Christ (Ephesians 1:18-20). Our spirits are complete (Colossians 2:9-10). Therefore, when we are praying from our spirit, we are praying with the mind of Christ, using our most holy faith (Jude 20). Too often our minds, with all their wrong thinking and unbelief, get in the way. Praying in tongues bypasses our minds and allows our spirits to have unhindered communion with the Father.

⁴ In 1 Corinthians 14:17, Paul says we are giving thanks unto God when we speak in tongues. This is a very powerful benefit of speaking in tongues. When we speak in tongues we are praising God. And since we are praying from our spirit, we don't experience the hindrances that are present when we pray from our mind. We are giving perfect praise unto God, without the limitations of human language or thought. If there were no other benefits associated with speaking in tongues, this would be more than enough reason to seek this gift.

³(a)How are we to pray according to Ephesians 6:18? In the Spirit

(b)When one prays in tongues, is he praying in the spirit? (1 Corinthians 14:14)

⁴What happens when we pray in tongues, according to 1 Corinthians 14:17?

THE BENEFITS OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES (Discipleship Questions)

1. Read Jude 20
What great benefit is received by praying in tongues?

Read Acts 2:4

2. How many people were filled with the Holy Spirit?
3. What did they do as a result of being filled?

Read 1 Corinthians 14:14, 16

4. What part of you is praying when you pray in the Holy Spirit?
5. What is your spirit doing when you pray in tongues?
6. What else are you doing?

Read 1 Corinthians 14:2, 4

7. When you are praying in tongues, Who are you praying to?
8. Does man understand these tongues?
9. What is your Spirit speaking?
10. What are you doing when you are praying in tongues?

Read Ephesians 8:18-19

11. How are we to pray according to verse 18?
12. Is utterance given to us or do we make it up?
13. How then should we open our mouths?
14. Why?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18, 20, 25, 27

15. What is foolishness to those who are perishing?
16. What is the message of the cross to those who are being saved?
17. Verse 20, What did God do with the wisdom of the world?
18. Verse 25, "Because the _____ of God is _____ than men, and the _____ of God is _____ than men."
19. Verse 27, What two things has God chosen to put to shame the wise?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____

Speaking in tongues is foolish to the natural mind. It sounds like nonsense, and our natural minds cannot wrap around its logic. I pray that you receive revelation of 1 Corinthians so that you can receive what God has ordained as the Precious Promise.

THE BENEFITS OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES (Discipleship Answer Key)

1. You build yourself up in your most holy faith
2. All who were in the upper room
3. Spoke in tongues
4. My spirit
5. Blessing God
6. Giving thanks
7. God
8. No
9. Mysteries
10. Edifying myself
11. Perseverance and supplication
12. Given
13. Boldly
14. To make known the mystery of the gospel
15. The message of the cross
16. The power of God
17. Made it foolish
18. Foolishness – wiser – weakness - stronger
19. A. Foolish things of the world
B. Weak things of the world

THE BENEFITS OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES (Additional Information)

One of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. It is one of the most powerful gifts that God ever gave to the church. There are a lot of reasons why speaking in tongues will set you free, but most people don't know or understand them.

The Bible says faith comes by hearing the Word of God. You must speak in tongues in faith. You have to have faith and believe that it works.

Speaking in tongues is a gift to you. Since it is a gift, this means that you can speak in tongues anytime you want. You don't have to wait for a special occasion. It's the Holy Spirit Himself that gives you the utterance to speak in this unknown language. It is so fought against because speaking in tongues is the most powerful manifestation gift of the Spirit. Because it accomplishes so much, Satan fights against it.

You can fake all kinds of things, but speaking in tongues is an action—it is something that you cannot fake. When you speak in tongues you are acting in faith, it releases a lot of power. Here are some scripture verses

1. Speaking in tongues is a spiritual gift for self edification.

1 Corinthians 14:4: "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. (NKJV)"

2. Speaking in tongues is a spiritual gift for communication to the church.

1 Corinthians 14:5: "I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless he interprets, that the church may receive edification (NKJV)."

You can ask the Holy Spirit to give you an interpretation of what you are speaking so that the church may be edified.

3. Speaking in tongues is a spiritual gift for communication with God in private worship.

1 Corinthians 14:2: "For anyone 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." (NKJV).

4. Speaking in tongues is a means by which the Holy Spirit intercedes through us in prayer.

Romans 8:26: “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express” (NIV).

5. Speaking in tongues is a spiritual gift for singing in the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:15: “So what shall I do? 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” (NIV).

6. Speaking in tongues is one of the gifts of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:1: “Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant” (NIV).

7. The Apostle Paul was thankful to God for the privilege of speaking in tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:18: “I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you” (NIV).

8. The Apostle Paul desired that all would speak in tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:5: “I would like every one of you to speak in tongues” (NIV).

9. Isaiah prophetically refers to speaking with tongues as a rest.

Isaiah 28:11-12: “Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people, to whom he said, ¹²‘This is the resting place, let the weary rest,’ and, ‘This is the place of repose,’—but they would not listen” (NIV).

Isaiah prophetically refers to speaking in tongues as “refreshing.”

10. Speaking in tongues sometimes follows as a confirmation of the Word of God when it is preached.

Mark 16:17: “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues” (KJV).

Mark 16:20: “Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it” (NIV).

1 Corinthians 13:8: “Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away” (NIV).

When is the time that tongues shall cease? They will cease at the end of this age, when “perfection comes” which is Jesus Himself. Until then, we need the Holy Spirit and His gifts in our churches. There is no indication in the scriptures that the manifestation of the Spirit through His gifts would cease at the end of the first century era. Three things will have to happen at the same time tongues cease:

1. Knowledge will have to pass away.
2. We will see face to face.
3. We will know all things as we are fully known.

The only time this will happen is at the second coming of the Lord when we will receive a glorified body. Then we will be total and complete with a renewed mind, body, soul, and spirit. Until the return of the Lord, speaking in tongues is for us today.

THE PURPOSE OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Many people don't speak in tongues because they do not know what it accomplishes. They just think of it as something they do to let people know that they have received the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:2. You speak mysteries unto God. Your Spirit prays—That's where the power is! When we pray in our own understanding we are limited. You pray the hidden wisdom of God when you pray in tongues. You become spiritually minded. You speak the revelation knowledge of God. We cannot receive the things of God with the carnal mind. They are received only through the Spirit by speaking in tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:4. Speaking in tongues edifies you—it builds you up and promotes spiritual growth.

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

Speaking in tongues is a powerful weapon against the devil. That is why he tries so hard to keep God's children from receiving this gift.

Some people say that speaking in tongues is of the devil. If this was of the devil, why aren't all those who follow the devil doing all manner of evil by speaking in tongues? Those who frequent bars where the environment is often filled with people who are drunk and have no ability to think clearly, do they speak in tongues? No, so this myth is only a myth.

1 Corinthians 14:39: “forbid not to speak with tongues.”

Luke 11:13: “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” This verse refers to the baptism of the Holy Spirit that Christ promised to His followers, not the impartation of the Spirit at the new birth.

According to your faith, so be it done unto you. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a real occurrence. It happened in the book of Acts, in every instance there was a manifestation. It is normal. Receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit is so important that the Holy Spirit will instantly begin to initiate tongues to be spoken through you.

1 Corinthians 12:31: “But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way.”

The gifts and callings are without repentance.

Read Acts 2:1-4. When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each one of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them. It hasn't ended, and it will not end until Jesus comes at the second coming—at the end of the age.

Copyright © 2004
Discipleship Evangelism
P.O. Box 17007 Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935-7007 U.S.A.
www.krowtracts.com www.delessons.org Phone: 719-577-7775