

Book of Acts Study, Part 8 – Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Tonight's Main Text: Acts 2:1-13

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them: ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

The original Greek term used in this scene in Acts 2 is *heterais glossais*, and it is the same term used in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11:

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of

tongues. ¹¹ *All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*

The term used for *as the Spirit enabled them, as the Spirit gave the utterance*, indicates *spiritual prompting, or ecstatic prompting*. This wasn't just simply about translation into other languages

This is a gift from the Holy Spirit, *just as He determines*.

What is the gift of tongues used for?

First: *It is a gift of communication between the believer and God*

1 Corinthians 14:2

² *For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit.*

And in 14&15

¹⁴ *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.* ¹⁵ *So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.*

Secondly, *it is a gift for the corporate edification of the congregation.*

1 Corinthians 14:5

⁵ *I wish you could all speak in tongues, but even more I wish you could all prophesy. For prophecy is greater than speaking in tongues, unless someone interprets what you are saying so that the whole church will be strengthened.*

And in vv12-13

¹² *So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.*

¹³ *For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say.*

Chapter 14 of 1 Corinthians was written to give instruction on orderly worship. The Corinthian church had gotten off track on several things, and Paul was correcting them on orderly, effective corporate worship.

1 Corinthians 14:26-28

²⁶ *What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.* ²⁷ *If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.* ²⁸ *If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.*

Paul is saying tongues with interpretation is an important part of corporate worship. However, it needs to be done in a way that is beneficial for building up of the church, not adding confusion.