

**Discovering Your Gifts #9**  
*The Interpretation of Tongues*  
1 Cor. 12:10

We have been examining the three vocal gifts: Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues and Prophecy. In this lesson we will look at the Interpretation of Tongues. Tongues has been defined as a supernatural utterance in an unknown language. The Interpretation of Tongues is showing forth by the Spirit the meaning of a supernatural utterance in an unknown language.

The purpose of Interpretation is to render the gift of tongues intelligible to the hearers so that the Church as well as the possessor of the gift may know what has been said and may be edified thereby. 1 Cor. 14:5. Tongues is a sign for unbelievers and the unformed. v. 22, 23.

Let's consider some observations about the Interpretation of Tongue...

**I. It Is Interpretation Not Translation**

- A. Sometimes people are surprised when a long message in tongues receives a brief interpretation. Or, at times, a brief message in tongues receives a long interpretation in the known language.
- B. The Holy Spirit is interpreting, not translating.

**II. We May Interpret in Private Prayer**

- A. 1 Cor. 14:13-15, 27-28, 40
- B. In your devotional time when praying in tongues, you may ask for the interpretation and begin speaking in English what you have been speaking in tongues.
- C. It is not necessary that we understand everything we pray in tongues, it still edifies us.

**III. We May Interpret in Public Ministry**

- A. 1 Cor. 14:27
- B. In public only two or three messages in tongues should be given.
- C. If you bring a message in tongues, you may ask for the interpretation. If you are unwilling to interpret, make sure there is someone in the group who does interpret.

**IV. All Should Be Done Decently and In Order**

- A. 1 Cor. 14:3 Sometimes when the vocal gifts are manifested there can be confusion. Paul is giving some guidelines to avoid confusion.
- B. The healthy use of the gifts results in peace – imparts the peace of God.

**V. We Have A Variety of Tongues.**

- A. 1 Cor. 12:28
- B. Different languages for different purposes.
- C. Devotional, worship, message with interpretation, warfare

Tongues and Interpretation are much under-appreciated gifts of the Spirit. The Devil has raised us controversy over tongues and many have been hindered from seeking to move in this gift. Many of those with powerful ministries (John G. Lake, Kenneth Hagin) attribute the success of their ministries to much praying in tongues.