

“Gift of Interpretation of Tongues” (Part 9 of 16)

1 Cor. 12:10, 29-30; 1 Cor. 14:6-19, 26-28, 40

1 Corinthians 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, **to another the interpretation of tongues.**

1 Corinthians 12:29-30

29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?

30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? **Do all interpret?**

- More said about the Gift of Tongues and the Interpretation of Tongues than any other gifting
 - Yet – most abused gifts in the modern church – perhaps also in the church of Corinth

1 Corinthians 14:6-19

6 But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching?

7 Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played?

8 For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?

9 So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.

10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them *is* without significance.

11 Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks *will be* a foreigner to me.

12 Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual *gifts*, *let it be* for the edification of the church *that* you seek to excel.

13 Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15 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.

16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say “Amen” at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say?

17 For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified.

18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;

19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

1 Corinthians 14:26-28

26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, *let there be* two or at the most three, *each* in turn, and let one interpret.

28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

1 Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

- Gift of tongues and the gift of interpretation of tongues are closely related:
 - Some what dependant upon each other
 - Exercise of Tongues not dependant upon the exercise of Interpretation of tongues
 - Personal expression need not be interpreted
 - Interpretation of tongues obviously is dependant on an exercise of Tongues in a public setting.

Defined: the supernatural showing forth by the Spirit of God the meaning of an utterance in other tongues.

Note: Gift of Interpretation – not Gift of Translation

- **Translation: is a rendering from one language to another in equivalent words or grammatical terms.**
- **Interpretation: a declaration of meaning**
 - **May be parabolic, pictorial, descriptive or literal.**
 - **Greek word: “to explain thoroughly”**
 - **Jesus gave interpretation of parables taking them from the natural to the spiritual**
 - **Parable of the sower and the seeds (Matt. 13:24-30)**
 - **Interpretation: (Matt 13: 36-43)**
- **Operation of the gift:**
 - **Not an operation of the mind of the believer but of the Spirit of God**
 - **Interpreter never understands the tongue they are interpreting**
 - **Never a part of their gifting to provide equivalent terms in his own language for the supernatural words spoken.**
 - **Don’t necessarily follow any rules of grammar**
 - **Phrases of the tongue may sound as though they are repetitious but do not require a repetitious interpretation.**
 - **They are unknown words.**
 - **Interpretation just as much a miracle of the Spirit as the tongue spoken.**

- Both are utterances directly from God.
- Purposes of the gift:
 - To render an utterance in the gift of Tongues intelligible
 - Necessary in public utterances
 - For the profit of all

1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one **for the profit of all:**

1 Corinthians 14:27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, *let there be two* or at the most three, *each* in turn, and **let one interpret.**

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 indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.**
 - To edify the church with utterance from God equal to prophecy in power.
 - To further edify the tongue speaker.
- Concerns of the gift:
 - Those with the Gift of tongues are instructed to seek the gift of interpretation

1 Corinthians 14:13 Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.
 - Utterances in tongues cannot number more than three in any one public meeting – and each utterance interpreted

1 Corinthians 14:27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, *let there be two* or at the most three, *each* in turn, **and let one interpret.**
 - Let one interpret
 - “one” doesn’t mean one person acts as interpreter– means each utterance to be interpreted individually.
 - One to interpret – all others to remain silent
 - Others with the gift may also want to interpret the utterance – but only one is allowed.

1 Corinthians 14:30 But if *anything* is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent.
 - Interpretation of tongue is different in “message” than prophecy
 - Prophecy – God speaking to man
 - Tongue – man speaking to God
 - Interpretation – man speaking to God
 - However – both edify the church