

WHY DID GOD CHOOSE TONGUES FOR US?



He was a deacon in a fashionable church, but he did not believe in the Pentecostal doctrine relative to the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Yet, he had been exposed to that belief through members of his immediate family. One night, at the close of an evangelistic service in an Apostolic church, he went forward to pray and was overwhelmingly filled with the Spirit of God. He spoke in other tongues fluently and was so inundated in the Spirit that even hours later he could not speak English. Definitely, this was a Biblical experience accompanied not only by speaking in another tongue, but also by the joy and peace of the Holy Ghost.

Countless millions have experienced this same Baptism in the Spirit. Wherever this message is proclaimed, the question is asked, "Why did God choose speaking in tongues as the initial, physical evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost?"

There are many answers to this question, and perhaps we do not know them all. Several key points are apparent, however.

The Sovereignty of God

First, we must recognize that God is not accountable to us for what He chooses to do! Isaiah asked, "Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being His counselor hath taught Him? With whom took He counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught Him in the path of judgment, and taught Him knowledge, and showed to Him the way of understanding?" Isaiah 40:13-14

We have no right to question God's way or dispute His actions. He Himself knows why He chooses to do things the way He does. It's not necessary that we understand why He does things the way He does. The following passages of scripture, when studied prayerfully with a hungry heart and an open mind, show that there is a definite connection between speaking in tongues and the Baptism of the Holy Ghost:

"For with stammering lips and another tongue will He speak to this people. "To whom He said, This is the rest wherewith you may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear!" Isaiah 28:11-12

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My Name shall they cast out devils, they shall SPEAK with NEW TONGUES!" Mark 16:17

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

"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the Word." And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost."

"For they heard them SPEAK with TONGUES, and magnify God!" Acts 10:44-46

"And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they SPAKE with TONGUES, and prophesied!" Acts 19:6

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba Father!" Romans 8:15

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God!" Romans 8:16

"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." Galatians 4:6

When you are filled with the Holy Ghost (the Baptism of the Holy Spirit) He will commune with you and be a witness to you about who you are in Christ; His child!

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Romans 8:26

The Holy Spirit prays for us when we speak in tongues as He gives the utterance.

Why did God choose blood as the basis for atonement? Why did God choose water as the element in baptism? Why did God choose gold as the overlaying metal for the ark of the covenant? Why did God choose stone as the material upon which to record the Ten Commandments?

Why did God choose Jerusalem as the site for the Temple? Why did God choose dust out of which to form mankind?

There is a divine purpose behind these choices, although we may not understand all the reasons. We certainly cannot deny or disavow God's sovereign right to do as He pleases and to choose what He wishes to!

Many Evidences There are many other evidences of the operation of the Spirit of God in a person's life.

For example, the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23 follows in the wake of spiritual infilling.

"But the FRUIT of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Peter and the six Jewish Christians who went with him to Caesarea knew that the Gentiles had received the Holy Ghost, not because of longsuffering, gentleness, meekness, or temperance, but because they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Acts 10:46 Peter specifically pointed to speaking in tongues as the irrefutable evidence. Acts 10:46-47 Tongues are an important witness of God, but not the only witness.

We know that salvation comes by faith in Jesus Christ. .

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life."

Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved!"

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8

The Bible says that faith is something which cannot be seen.....

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

But after salvation God is not done with us. He has more gifts to give! These are the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of ministry. With regard to ministry (Godly service to others) a simple truth is spoken in Ephesians chapter 4. God is "in all and through all" therefore His gifts of service are in all. Ministry, not a set of rules or education, but a true manifestation of God's love toward others--in ALL--this is true ministry--and so very needed by the world around us and by God Himself, since these are the gifts that "edify His Body"--the gifts that build up and add to, His collective Body in the earth.

Do you want to build a church--or do you want to build The Church? If you care about God you will care about His Church and desire at all costs to add to it--simply by letting people know about Jesus' love and salvation, healing and deliverance. And He has given you gifts to accomplish this--ask Him and He will direct you in all things.

In 1 Corinthians 12:7, 9 (The manifestation of the Spirit if given to every man to profit withal...faith) reveals that there is a special, supernatural gift of faith that can operate in a person's life over and beyond the faith necessary for Salvation. Saving faith and the spiritual gift of faith are the same in essence but different in administration and operation. In speaking about Being Born Again, Jesus emphasized the uniformity of the experience: "The wind bloweth where it will, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, an whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." John 3:8

Speaking in tongues by itself cause the Jewish Christians to recognize that the experience of the Gentiles at Caesarea was identical to theirs on the Day of Pentecost. (Acts 10:44-47, 11:15-17) "And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning." Acts 11:15 Then remembered I (Peter) the Word of the Lord, how that He said, "John indeed baptized with water: but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost." 11:16 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as He did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?" 11:17

Speaking in tongues was the first evidence of each individual filling. Yes of course it is a very important aspect in God's plan of salvation and a very useful tool for Godly communication. God the Holy spirit is meant to lead literally everything that the Church in the earth acts upon.

The church in the Bible was 100% Spirit-lead. In their actions, in their meetings and practices, in their ministry and function and in their giving EVERYTHING was lead by God. The prophetic gifts of the Holy Spirit were God's communication line for these instructions and the ministering of the Gospel to the lost was their first priority. Yes they were filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues, but, they "continued steadfastly in apostolic doctrine"--this means they witnessed the Gospel continually, and they had a result... "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47) They set a very high goal to strive toward, a goal of a constant witness of Christ's love to the world around them and salvation a frequent occurrence.

A Symbol of Complete Control

Speaking in tongues SYMBOLIZES our surrendering to God's Spirit and giving Him complete reign in our life. Perhaps this is one of the strongest reasons why God chose speaking in tongues as the initial evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. The SYMBOLISM becomes apparent when we study James 3, which provides more information on the tongue than any other chapter in the New Testament.

First, the tongue is capable of defiling the whole body. If so, is it incredible to claim that the tongue is capable of symbolizing the SANCTIFICATION of the whole body? Second, though the tongue is a small member, it has never been tamed by humanity. (Only God can help you do that) It is the most unruly member of the body. James illustrates the importance of the tongue by comparing it to the bit in a horse's mouth, which gives the rider complete control over the horse, and to the helm of a large ship, which gives the pilot full command of the vessel.

In other words, whoever controls the tongue of a person controls him. And a person cannot tame his tongue by himself; only God can tame it for him. But we have been willing to surrender our Will over to Him and turn to His Holy Spirit to help us control our tongues and thoughts and actions, which is much easier to do with the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

According to Matthew 12:29, Before someone can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, he must first bind the strong man. The strong man of our house is our TONGUE. We can tame every member of the body but this one. When God tames a person's tongue, that means we have surrendered to God to tame our tongue. (And we must also keep ourselves submitted unto God) When we are filled with the Holy Spirit we are endowed with a spiritual force from on high and also empowered for God's service.

We will now be able to be bold witnesses for Christ and have real, and continual communion with Him, and we will be able to be sensitive to His Spirit so that He can be our helper and guide in every way.

This is the difference between having the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and not having it. After we are filled we are able to feel His Presence and we can fellowship with Him on a continual basis. It also makes us much bolder to go freely before His throne and ask for whatever we need and want! Ephesians 3:12

The tongue provides the greatest expression of the human spirit. We humans are spiritual and emotional beings, and as such we must give expression to our emotions. The ability and power to coordinate thought and tongue into intelligent speech is one of our highest prerogatives, elevating us above the beasts of the field. This ability makes us superior to the rest of God's creation on Earth, and it is the most distinguishing feature of our being.

The tongue becomes the vehicle of expression of the spirit. All of the emotions--such as love, hate, anger, sorrow, joy, happiness, relief, and serenity--are communicated through the tongue. The tongue is the gateway to the heart, the feelings, attitudes, and spirit.

Conclusion

In light of these truths, it is not difficult to see why God has chosen speaking in tongues to express the greatest, most wonderful experience that we mortal humans can receive! In the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, His Spirit and our spirit become ONE! He uses our tongue and our voice to express this union!

It is a wonder of wonders, chosen not by humans, but by God, the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe!

Why fight against Him? Believe his Word! Accept what He says, and you too can be baptized with the Holy Ghost for God will give the Holy Spirit to ALL who repent, and ask in faith!

Repent, and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

Acts 2:38-39

Jesus said, "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." **Luke 11:13**

