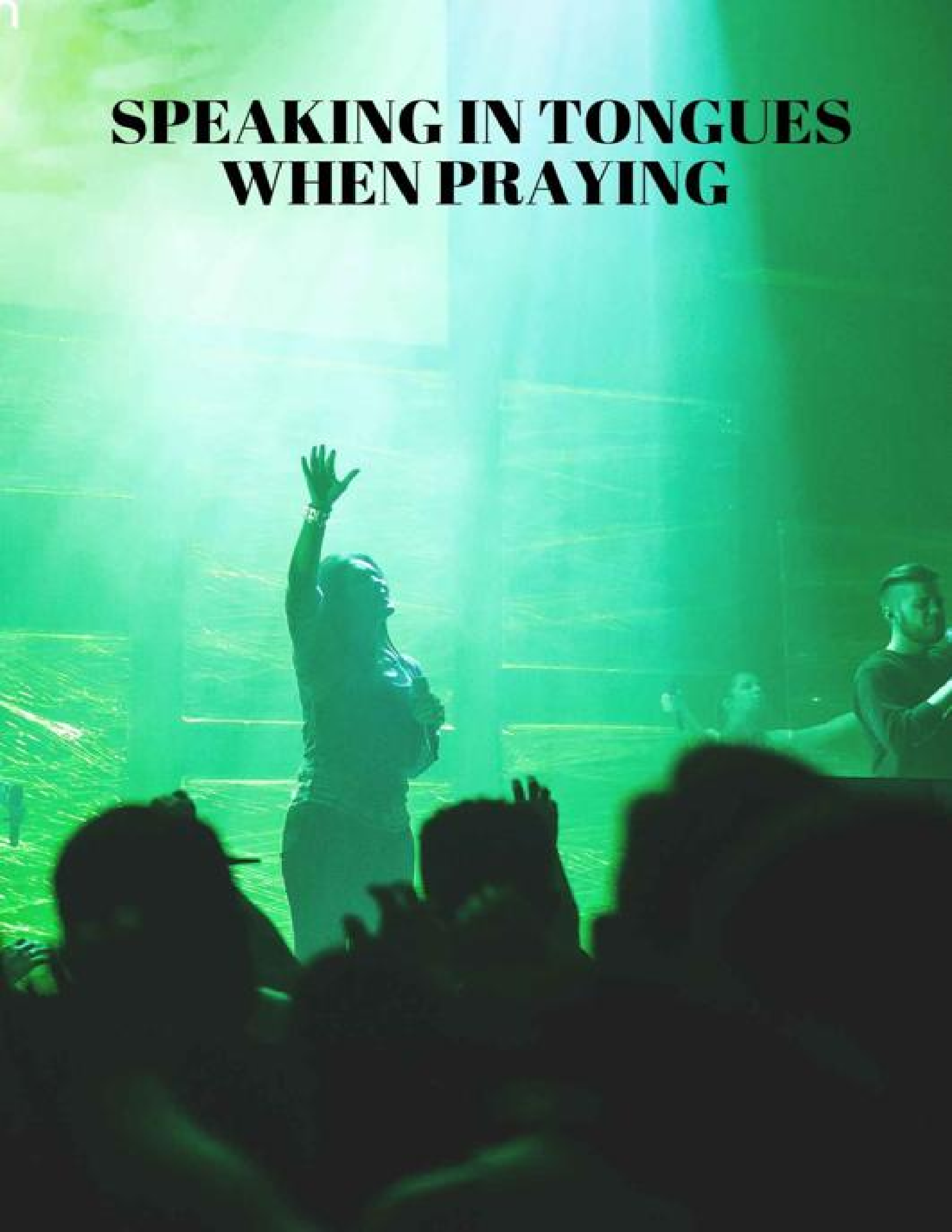
SPEAKING IN TONGUES WHEN PRAYING



SPEAKING IN TONGUES WHEN PRAYING:
Enjoying and Growing Your Spiritual Life By Understanding And Using The Power of Speaking in Tongues

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CHAPTER 1

Origin of Speaking in Tongues:

Before His ascension into heaven to sit at the right side of the Father, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to the eleven apostles and told them to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. He also encouraged them by foretelling unique and extraordinary abilities and protection that would be provided to them.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:16 He who believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be condemned.

Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out demons; they shall talk with new tongues; Mark 16:18 They shall pick up serpents; and if they drink any dangerous thing, it shall not shut them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Mark 16:19 So then when the Lord had spoken unto them, he was taken up into heaven and sat on the right hand of God.

Mark 16:20 And they went out and preached every place, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by signs following. Amen.

The Lord gives these promises to the early disciples. They will drive out demons. They will talk in new languages. They will be miraculously shielded from serpents and poison. They will miraculously cure the sick.

In Acts chapter 2 we witness the fulfillment of the Lord’s promise of speaking with new tongues.

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost had completely arrived, they were all with one accord in someplace.

Acts 2:2 And immediately there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing great wind, and it filled all the house where they were seated.

Acts 2:3 And there came unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to talk in different tongues, as the Spirit gave them speech.
Acts 2:5 And there were living at Jerusalem Jews, devoted men, from of every nation under heaven.
Acts 2:6 Now when this was noised forth, the crowd got together and were confounded, because that every man heard them talk in his own tongue
Acts 2:7 And they were all surprised and astounded, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?
Acts 2:8 And how hear we every man in his own speech, wherein we were born?
Acts 2:9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the inhabitants in Mesopotamia, and in Judea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,
Acts 2:10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the provinces of Libya near Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews, and proselytes,
Acts 2:11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them recount in our languages the wondrous works of God.
Acts 2:12 And they were all astounded, and were in doubt, asking one to another, What meaneth this?
The gift of tongues is one of the most disputed themes in the Church today, yet so much of the uncertainty may be overcome by simply stating precisely what this gift was. And this narrative of the apostles receiving this gift for the first time offers us a great description of the gift, and how it functioned. The apostles have been commissioned to preach the Gospel, and we are clearly informed in verse 5 that there are Jews in Jerusalem from “every country under heaven.” The Jews who had been dispersed throughout the captivity still returned to Jerusalem to mark the Day of Pentecost. And these Jews now spoke the language of the place where they had been born. Verses 9–11 name particular places where they had come from. And when the apostles began to preach the Gospel and the “wonderful works of God,” the Bible expressly declares that all these Jews from all locations, who all spoke different foreign languages, suddenly heard the Gospel in their own tongue. They heard the magnificent works of God revealed in the language of the country where they were born. This sentence is quite explicit on this point.
This is the true Biblical gift of tongues—the miraculous, God-given ability to preach the Word of God in a foreign tongue that the person had never learned and spoken before (a language that was unknown to the person, but

which they could now speak fluently through the miraculous gift of tongues). This was a significant gift for the propagation of the Gospel throughout the apostolic time. The gift of tongues was intentionally given as a sign for unbelievers—as a way of converting non-believers and bringing souls to Christ in the transitional time of the book of Acts.

"Unknown tongues" simply means "unknown languages"—languages that the individual does not know how to speak. To talk in a "new tongue" is to simply speak a language you have not spoken before. This is the way that "languages" and "tongues" have traditionally been used to refer to the diverse languages or tongues of different peoples and countries. This is how the term "tongues" has always been used in common speech and in the Bible itself, as we can see from the following texts in Revelation.

Pentecostals attempt to reinterpret the phrase "tongues" as some type of ecstatic speech that involuntarily pours out of the speaker's lips. But there is no foundation for this whatsoever, from the Bible, from history, or the widespread use of this term.

We can demonstrate that there is no feasible possibility that the gift of languages still exists today, by simply defining this gift according to its description in the Bible. The gift of tongues was not an emotional experience in which the individual started speaking in incomprehensible utterances that no one can comprehend. It was precisely the astonishing God-given capacity to talk in other languages that the individual had never truly learned. There is not one Christian alive today who possesses this capacity, and there never has been since the apostolic age

CHAPTER 2

What is Speaking in Tongues:

Speaking in tongues is a means of communicating with God. It is a prayer, and doing so talks directly to God alone, according to 1 Corinthians 14:2, “For anybody who speaks in a language does not speak to mankind but God. Indeed, no one understands them; they speak riddles by the Spirit.”

Paul further underlined this in his epistle to the Corinthians, “For if I pray in a language, my soul prays, but my intellect is unfruitful” (1 Corinthians 14:14).

Thus, the practice of speaking in tongues was crucial during Paul’s day to successfully converse with God via prayer.

Aside from it being a kind of prayer, speaking in tongues is also a method of worshipping God. It is, consequently, also a kind of devotion to the Almighty God. Paul further states in his epistle to the Corinthians. So what must 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 (1 Corinthians 14:15).

Here, Paul particularly included the verb “sing with my spirit” and “sing with my understanding” which indicates worshiping God as indicated in Ephesians 5:19, “Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and create song from your heart to the Lord.”

Paul further adds, “Otherwise while you are thanking God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now placed in the position of an inquirer, respond ‘Amen’ to your thankfulness, because they do not know what you are saying? You are offering thanks well enough, but no one else is edified” (1 Corinthians 14:16-17), laying additional emphasis on speaking in tongues as a way of worshipping God.

Aside from it being a kind of prayer and praise, speaking in tongues is also a method of strengthening oneself. It helps a person to better oneself morally and spiritually via God, as Paul says, “The one who talks in a

language grows up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church” (1 Corinthians 14:4).

It is further stressed in Jude 20: “But you, beloved, building yourself up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, maintain yourselves in the love of God.

Speaking in tongues involves not only developing oneself but also building others. It is a technique to edify and encourage people to faith.

As Paul writes to the Corinthians, “Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but much more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up” (1 Corinthians 14:5), he highlighted that the practice of speaking in tongues is a method to build the totality of the Church.

But what does Paul allude to when he writes about “but much more to prophesy”? He only states that prophecy is more liked since it is more intelligible in certain meetings than speaking in tongues.

However, when someone from the group can understand and explain the language being said, then, speaking in tongues might consequently be utilized to edify others.

Speaking in Tongues Is Done in Private

When is it beneficial to talk in tongues? Paul writes that it is better performed in secret, as he says,“For if I pray in a language, my soul prays, but my intellect is unfruitful” (1 Corinthians 14:14). (1 Corinthians 14:14).

What Paul implies by his remarks is that speaking in tongues in secret is worshipping God via the Spirit. It may not be perceived as he highlighted “my intellect is unfruitful” but he emphasized that the Spirit is praising and adoring, instead.

When speaking in tongues, the intellect alone cannot discern what is occurring, but the Spirit can understand it.

The Gift of Tongues Is from the Holy Spirit and Spoken Only to God

Speaking in tongues is exclusively spoken to God. Like other talents, speaking in tongues is a gift from the Holy Spirit. Not everyone gets given this talent.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common benefit. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another, gift of healing by that one Spirit, to others 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. All things are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, exactly as he decrees (1 Corinthians 12:7-11).

This passage says that each and everyone has a talent from the Spirit but is distinct from each other. Some have skills that others do not have, and that is true with the gift of speaking in tongues. Now, since speaking in tongues is a gift from the Spirit, consequently, it is only spoken to God Almighty.

According to the biblical worldview, speaking in tongues is not utilized to preach the gospel. All three stories of the act of speaking in tongues mentioned in the Bible revealed evidence of supernatural occurrences and were not made while Paul was presenting the gospel. These three accounts are as follows:

First, in Acts 2:2-3,Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a tremendous wind came from heaven and filled the entire house where they were seated. They saw what looked to be tongues of fire that divided and came to settle on each of them.

Second, in Acts 10:44-48, while Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit came on everybody who heard the message. The circumcised Christians who had arrived with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, “Surely no one can stand in the way of them being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he commanded that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they requested Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Lastly, in Acts 19:1-7, while Apollos remained at Corinth, Paul traveled the way into the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he discovered several disciples and questioned them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” So Paul inquired, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they said. Paul added, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He advised the people to trust in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they talked in tongues and prophesied. There were probably twelve males in total.

These three reports always had a supernatural event connected to them but were not done when preaching, but rather when encouraging people.

In most current practices, the act of speaking languages is done without a supernatural phenomenon, which does not correspond to how the Bible has described the practice of speaking in tongues. Other modern-day practices utilize it to proclaim the gospel while others use it via ministry, and some not at all

In conclusion, speaking in tongues is an exceptionally significant issue that should be studied in the everyday Christian llife by consistently learning about it via God’s Word.

It has a lot of significance and, to conclude, it is a form of prayer, a form of praise, a means of growing the self, and a form of edifying others. It is also uttered largely in secret by the individual’s thoughts, is a gift from the Holy Spirit, and is spoken solely to God.

CHAPTER 3

How To Receive The Holy Spirit and Speak in Tongues:

Jesus declared that the world would not be able to receive the Holy Spirit, but only those that love Him and fulfill His commandments (John 14:15-17). Peter stated something similar while he was teaching the gospel to the high priest, he said, “we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who follow Him.”

So, if we want to be able to receive the Holy Spirit we need to obey Christ by repenting of our sin and resolving to follow Him.

We must know that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift for every believer in Christ.

The Bible makes it plain that the Spirit of God isn’t for the super Christians, but it is for everyone who follows Jesus.

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:38-39).

The word “the promise” is used often in this scripture, and also by Jesus, to allude to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Realize that all you have to do is accept the Holy Spirit

It is crucial to realize that you do not need to ask God to baptize you in the Holy Spirit. The reason for this is that God has already given the Holy Spirit to the church on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2.

All the believer needs to do now is to accept Him. You do not need to wait for the Spirit to fill you.

Here are few passages that demonstrate this:

“Now when the apostles who were in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they despatched Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they would receive the Holy Spirit” (Acts 8:14-15).

“Paul, having travelled through the higher regions, arrived at Ephesus. And meeting certain disciples he asked to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” (Acts19:1-2).

Now observe from these two texts that the apostles never prayed for God to give them the Holy Spirit, rather they prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit. If we fail to comprehend this we might be waiting for God to accomplish something that he has already done.

Now all that is necessary is to pray with faith for the Spirit of God to come and fill you. Both Jesus and the apostle Paul clarify that all we have to do is ask the Father for the Holy Spirit, in trust, and He will cheerfully give Him to us.

God wishes to baptize us in His Spirit more than we want to be baptized by Him, and all it takes is for us to ask Him in trust.

Now, it is vital to stress that we should not get caught up in the manifestations that the baptism in the Holy Spirit may bring. The crucial thing to remember is that the Spirit is not a person. When we accept Him, we aren’t getting a sensation, but a Divine Personality that wishes to dwell on the inside of us.

Of course, feelings may emerge, but they are not a must. Just as we are saved by faith and water baptized by faith, so too we are baptized in the Holy Spirit by faith.

We should never compare our experiences with others, because the Bible says, people who “compare themselves among themselves are not wise” (2 Corinthians 10:12). So, just because someone had an incredible experience and you did not, doesn’t mean you are any less filled with the Spirit of God.

We receive the Spirit through faith, and faith is constantly in work separate from the senses. Just as the writer of Hebrews says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the proof of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

Once you ask the Father to baptize you in the Holy Spirit, all you have to do is just begin to talk in tongues knowing that Holy Spirit will direct your words as He did for the disciples in the upper room(Acts 2:4).

CHAPTER 4

Benefits of Speaking in Tongues when praying:
Just as Paul was not unaware of the power of prayer and speaking in tongues, neither were the early Christians. The early Christians recognized that they should not forsake prayer:

But we shall guve ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the word.
Acts 6:4

They were a praying Church and how vast and magnificent things they accomplished through prayer. Even when they grew extremely busy in ministry, they did not let business come in the way of prayer. In the exact translation, it states, “But we will commit ourselves always to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.” Pay attention to the term "prayer" The early Church recognized that praying in tongues was the prayer. Praying in tongues was known as the prayer. The early Church spent significant time and attention on it. This was common information among the early disciples, and it should be so in the current church.

Prayer, particularly praying in tongues, is a fundamental component of spiritual development and awareness of the spirit. There is no way around it! If you desire to develop in the anointing, you must become a person of prayer. Jesus was a Man of prayer, as was the apostle Paul, and the early Church was formed and built on prayer. The Holy Writ (Bible) teaches that prayer, and specifically, tongues had a very major role in the life of the early Church, and it must play a big role in your life.

1. Tongues is the entryway into the supernatural
Praying in tongues is useful since it is the entryway into the spirit world. There is a portal into the world of the spirit and it is via languages. John remarked, “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day” (Revelation 1:10).

(Revelation 1:10). No surprise Christians do not know about accessing the spirit world. Tongues is the key that opens the spirit realm. As long as Satan can keep you away from languages, he can keep you away from miracles. Notice the phrase, “howbeit in the spirit” (1 Corinthians 14:2). (1 Corinthians 14:2). When you pray in tongues, you are instantly in the spirit. Paul was explaining that God is in the spirit, and when we pray in tongues we are in the spirit where God lives. In other words, when you start praying in tongues you are entering God’s miracle zone.
Tongues is the prayer in the New Testament.

2. Praying in tongues is a direct channel to God
For he who speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no one understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.
1 Corinthians 14:2

Tongues is your connection to God. How many people would want to have an audience with God? Millions! There are people all across the globe doing all sorts of strange things to get their deity to hear them. Some are piercing their bodies, while others are making all sorts of sacrifices, but Paul reveals to us a direct channel to the Almighty. People of all faiths know that when we gain a meeting with God, miracles will flow.

Through tongues, you may have a direct connection to God. The Word declares, “no one understandeth him…” (see 1 Corinthians 14:2). This indicates Satan does not comprehend when you pray in the spirit. He understands what you are doing, but he cannot comprehend what you are saying. He is powerless to destroy your prayer. It is odd how some say, “Tongues is of the devil,” and then Paul adds, “Tongues is talking to God.” Through tongues, you have a direct connection to God.

Tongues are the believer’s direct route to the throne chamber. Do you get that? This is vital for you to comprehend!

3. Praying in tongues involves communicating heavenly mysteries—divine coded secrets
Praying in tongues means uttering celestial mysteries–divinely coded secrets. 1 Corinthians 14:2 states, “For he that speaketh in an un-known language speaketh not unto men, but toward God: for no one understandeth

him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries." Notice the word mysteries. This is a loaded term that has several connotations, which are eye-opening. Some translations render this term "secrets." The Greek word is musterion and the meanings are:

Hidden things
Divine secrets
Coded language
Coded language
Secret counsels that regulate God in His relationship with the righteous, hidden from the ungodly and evil persons but obvious to the godly
Knowledge hidden from wicked, but truth provided to the righteous
Images and forms
W.E. Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words defines mysteries as "primarily that which is known to the mustes, meaning they began from mueo, which means to introduce into the mysteries." In the New Testament, the term mystery does not mean "the mysterious," as with the English word. Rather, it describes something which, being beyond the sphere of unaided natural awareness, can be made known only by divine revelation, and is made known in a way and at a moment designated by God to those who are illumined by His Spirit.

In the common meaning, a "mystery" suggests information concealed; its Scriptural import is truth revealed. Look at First Corinthians 14:2 again. It states, "no one understandeth him." This implies Satan does not grasp what you are saying when you pray in the Spirit. Therefore, Satan cannot undermine your prayer. Now look at its stated meaning, "But that which, being beyond the limit of unaided natural cognition, can be made known only by divine revelation." Therefore when you pray in tongues, secrets or plans will be made known to you. Let's look at some different translations of 1 Corinthians 14:2:

The New International Version states, "For anybody who talks in a tongue does not speak to mankind but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit."
The Weymouth New Testament renders it this way, "Yet in the Spirit, he is speaking hidden truths."

The Bible reads, “...because in the [Holy] Spirit he utters secret truths and hidden things [not evident to the understanding].”
When you pray in tongues, you are proclaiming the mysteries of God, which will convey benefits and affect your life. You are prophesying your God-ordained future. By praying in the Spirit, you are building a path of blessings and power for you to walk in and enjoy.