

**EMPOWERED**  
the person & work of the holy spirit

**PART 7**  
**Spiritual Language**  
**- The Truth About Tongues**

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**ACTS 2:1-4**

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

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a FRAMEWORK for  
SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE

**Speaking in tongues  
is God's idea.**

**LUKE 11:13**

*"How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"*

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a FRAMEWORK for  
SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE

**Speaking in tongues  
was first introduced  
by Jesus.**

**MARK 16:17**

*"These signs will follow those who believe: In my name they will...speak with new tongues."*

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a FRAMEWORK for  
SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE

**Speaking in tongues  
was the first sign fulfilled  
at church's birth!**

ACTS 2:4

*"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."*

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a FRAMEWORK for  
SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE

**The Father promised it!**  
**The Son prophesied it!**  
**The Spirit produced it!**  
**The Church appropriated it!**  
**The Bible promotes it!**

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ABOUT SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE:

1. I won't demand that you agree with me.
2. I won't force you speak in tongues.
3. PCC will be a church that embraces those who speak in tongues, and those who don't.
4. If you speak in tongues, it is not a status symbol, or a substitute for spiritual growth.
5. If you don't speak in tongues, you are not a second class Christian.

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QUESTION 1

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF  
TONGUES, AND HOW SHOULD  
IT OPERATE IN THE CHURCH?**

Spiritual language has two  
functional purposes:

- 1) **The grace of tongues**
- 2) **The gift of tongues**

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**T H E G R A C E**  
o f T O N G U E S

*Manifests through Spirit-baptism  
for prayer, praise, and spiritual  
warfare for **private** use.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 14:18**

*"I thank God I speak in tongues  
more than all of you."*

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**T H E G R A C E**  
o f T O N G U E S

**1 CORINTHIANS 14:28**

*"If there's no interpreter, the  
speaker should keep quiet in church  
and speak to himself and to God."*

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**T H E G R A C E**  
o f T O N G U E S

**ROMAN 8:26-27**

*"The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We  
don't know what we ought to pray for,  
but the Spirit himself intercedes for  
us through wordless groans...he  
intercedes for us according to God's will."*

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**T H E G I F T**  
o f T O N G U E S

*Manifests through Spirit-baptism  
for the purpose of exhortation or  
prophecy for **public** use in the church.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 14:27**

*"If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the  
most three—should speak, one at a time,  
and someone must interpret."*

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**GROUND RULES**  
FOR THE GIFT *of* TONGUES

**1.**

It is to edify the whole church through instruction and encouragement.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:27,31

*"If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret ... so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged."*

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**GROUND RULES**  
FOR THE GIFT *of* TONGUES

**2.**

It is never to be used more than two or three times in a gathering.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:27

*"If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret."*

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**GROUND RULES**  
FOR THE GIFT *of* TONGUES

**3.**

It is always to be interpreted.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:28

*"If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God."*

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**GROUND RULES**  
FOR THE GIFT *of* TONGUES

**4.**

With interpretation, it is to be carefully considered.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:29

*"Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said."*

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**GROUND RULES**  
FOR THE GIFT *of* TONGUES

**5.**

It is to never to be unruly—the speaker has control of whether or not to use the gift.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:32-33,40

*"The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace... But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way."*

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**QUESTION 2**

**DO I HAVE TO SPEAK IN TONGUES TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?**

Jesus gave it as the first sign of his presence and power in your life. The first church embraced it as its spiritual birthmark. So why wouldn't you desire it?

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**CLEAR & COMPELLING EVIDENCE**

ACTS 10:45-46

*"Peter was amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For he heard them speaking in tongues and praising God".*

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**The historical record of the early church demonstrates that spiritual language was the primary physical evidence of baptism with the Spirit!**

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**THE TRUEST EVIDENCE OF  
YOUR SPIRIT-FILLING IS THE  
FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.**

**GALATIANS 5:22-23**

*"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,  
peace, patience, kindness,  
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness  
and self-control."*



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**the BEAUTY of  
SPIRIT LANGUAGE**

- It is a key to deepening dimensions of the Spirit's person and his miraculous work in my life.
- It is a current and continuous miracle.
- It is a powerful voice expressing the wonders of God.

**ACTS 2:11**

*"We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"*

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**QUESTION 3**

**IS SPEAKING IN TONGUES  
IRRATIONAL?**

Spiritual language is neither irrational nor rational. It is supra-rational; it is mysterious.

*In many areas of faith, we fully embrace mystery: the Trinity, Jesus' God-man nature, the virgin birth, the resurrection, the rapture, etc.*

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**A FINAL PLEA**

*Open your mind and offer an eager heart to the possibility of tongues, and God will reveal to you the beauty of spiritual language.*



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