

What Does the Bible Say About Speaking in Tongues

(Pastor Michael Clifford)

BASIC PRINCIPLE: When approaching a question or subject we ask: "what does the Bible say?"

2 Timothy 3:16-17

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

- **1. The origin of speaking in tongues.** Acts 2:1-11
- 2. What is speaking in tongues? "Glossai" – "Tongue Talking" or "Recognizable Tongue"
- **3. What was the purpose of speaking in tongues?** To validate the ministry of the Apostles and for initial witness (especially for the Jews).
- 4. Speaking in tongues was used when introducing the Gospel to a new group. Acts 11:44-48
- 5. Speaking in tongues was a miracle sign for the Jews.
 1 Corinthians 1:22

- 6. Speaking in tongues is rarely mentioned in the New Testament Of Paul's 13 epistles only one mentions tongues (1 Corinthians).
- 7. Speaking in tongues is not mentioned in the later books of the New Testament.

Speaking in tongues is last mentioned in the Bible in 1 Corinthians which was written in 55 AD. Most books of the Bible were written after 55 AD, the last being the Book of Revelation which was written between 94-96 AD.

- **8. Speaking in tongues is inferior to Prophecy.** 1 Corinthians 14:1-5
- **9. Speaking in tongues always needs an interpreter.** 1 Corinthians 14:6-19
- 10. Speaking in tongues is not the same as "having a private prayer language" which is seen as self-edifying and of little to-no value. Some interpret it as gibberish that the pagans did in their ecstatic utterances. 1 Corinthians 14:2-5
- **11. The Age of Miracles ended with the Apostles** Cessationism

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