

We would like to apologize to everyone for getting the discussion guide out late. If you could send us feedback, we would like to know how many people are using it and how helpful it is because very few asked for it prior to sending it out.

The Mystery of the Gift of Tongues

What is the gift of tongues?

DISCUSSION: Have you ever used the gift of tongues or heard it used before? What was your reaction? How would you describe it?

An angelic language that is used to declare praises directed toward God in a worship service or in private prayer time. Tongues are always God focused and God directed.

For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God...
1 Corinthians 14:2 NASB

Truths about the gift:

1. It is a genuine spiritual gift and should never be made fun of or looked down upon or silenced. 1 Corinthians 14:39
2. The gift of tongues is a blessing in the life of a believer.
1 Corinthians 14:4
3. A person may ask God for this gift. 1 Corinthians 14:5 NIV

DISCUSSION: Do you see tongues as from God and as a blessing? Does it weird you out like it does Matt? Is it hard for you to imagine that God would use seemingly strange things to glorify Himself? (Leaders: if they have a real problem with it have them consider some of the things in scripture that are strange that they believe)

Falsehoods about the gift:

1. It is the sign that a person has been baptized in the Spirit. Acts
2. All believers must speak in tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:10
3. A person must be taught how to speak in tongues. Acts 2:4
4. Any and all babbling and/or chanting in an unknown way is the spiritual gift of tongues. 1 John 4:1

5. It is a sign of superiority or maturity. 1 Corinthians 14:20

DISCUSSION: Have you or other people you know believed any of these false things about the gift of tongues? What fed those beliefs if not scripture?

How do we use the gift of tongues?

1. Privately- Tongues can be used as a private prayer language when one wants to privately direct praises towards God.

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words...

Romans 8:26 NASB

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also. 1 Corinthians 14:14 NASB

2. Publicly with mature believers

So you see that speaking in tongues is a sign, not for believers, but for unbelievers. Prophecy, however, is for the benefit of believers, not unbelievers. Even so, if unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your church meeting and hear everyone speaking in an unknown language, they will think you are crazy. But if all of you are prophesying, and unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your meeting, they will be convicted of sin and judged by what you say. As they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, "God is truly here among you." 1 Corinthians 14:22-25 NLT

DISCUSSION: Are you willing to embrace all that God has for you whether it is tongues or some other spiritual gift even if it seems difficult or weird? Why or why not?

DISCUSSION: Are there things you feel God might want to do in your life that you are resisting?

Three biblical rules for the usage of the gifts of tongues:

1 Corinthians 14:27-28

1. One at a time must speak with a maximum of three tongues per meeting.
2. The tongue must be interpreted, or the usage must be stopped.
3. After it is interpreted, the interpretation and tongue must be weighed and judged according to scripture and the leading of the Spirit.

PRAYER: Spend 5+ minutes asking God to show you where you are resisting Him and His gifts and not pursuing things that you ought to be. Ask Him to help you open up to all that He is and that He might have for you.