

Questionnaire - To Lovers of Truth

1. What does the Word '*Tongue*' ('*Glossa*') mean in the original Biblical Greek language? (A) The Physical organ of the tongue (B) Unknown languages (C) Ethnic or known human languages (D) Both A & C
2. In Acts 2:4-10 the '*tongues*' were (A) Heavenly languages (B) Languages unknown to mankind (C) Known human earthly languages
3. In Acts 10:44-47 the '*tongues*' were (A) Heavenly languages (B) Languages unknown to mankind (C) Known human earthly languages
4. Why was there no 'interpretation' of languages in Acts 2? (A) There was no interpreter present (B) The tongues were all known human earthly languages and understood by the hearers.
5. Are '*tongues...of Angels*', (1Cor.13:1) (A) Heavenly languages (B) Known human earthly languages (C) Private prayer languages (D) Both A or C.
6. The word '*spirit*' mentioned in 1Corinthians chapter 14 refers to (A) Always the Holy Spirit (B) Always the human spirit (C) Sometimes the Holy Spirit
7. The word '*prophesy*' ('*propheteuo*') in 1Corinthians 14 means (A) To *foretell* the future (B) To *forthtell* the Word of God
8. Where did the experience of the modern unknown tongues movement begin? (A) 'Azusa St. Revival' 1906 (B) Topeka 'Revival' 1901 (C) The Shakers (D) The Methodists (E) Acts 2
9. The words '*understanding*' and '*edification*' are mentioned in 1Corinthians 14 (KJV) (A) Not at all (B) Seldom mentioned (C) More than a few times each word is emphasised
10. The Corinthian church used
(A) Only one language (B) Spoke two languages (C) Spoke many different languages **(Answers over back)**

'Prayer Language'

The term '*prayer language*' is a term used by Pentecostals/Charismatics to denote the use of their personal unknown 'tongues' during prayer. The term is a recent invention in the second half of the Twentieth Century and popularised by men such as Oral Robert and other Word-Faith teachers to make tongue speaking more acceptable to mainline churches.

When I was a Charismatic Catholic I once went to a seminar where 'tongues' was taught, received, and passed onto many who were present. Many that day received the 'Baptism with the spirit and speaking in tongues'. I can remember questioning why it had to come in such a mechanical fashion, with people taking deep breaths and making any sounds that came to their minds, or repeating syllables over and over.

Tongues enthusiasts often teach that it is a 'direct line to God' or that the 'Devil cannot understand the language'. Yet there is absolutely *no* Biblical proof for any of these claims.

Added to this, anyone who has studied the cults in depth will know that many of the cults and the eastern false religions can all speak in unknown 'tongues'.

The problem with much teaching on unknown tongues is that it tends to separate an elite group of people who have this experience and they supposedly have something that other Christians do not have. Yet God has no favourite prayer method. Jesus taught much about prayer and the devotional life but never once mentioned anything of a 'prayer language'.

Anything which is new in theology or in Christian experience is not new and is not truth! This is because anything that is God's truth is not new! There is not the slightest hint that any person in the Bible used a 'prayer language'. When Jesus prayed and interceded in the garden He never used anything like a 'prayer language'. There are also no references in the Bible to private prayer being different to public prayer. The disciples specifically asked Jesus how to pray. He gave them

a pattern prayer but never once mentioned or used a 'prayer language' as is taught today.

In Matthew 6:7 Jesus spoke against babbling like pagans. The Greek word used in '*vain repetition*' is '*battalogo*' which means to '*utter in an incoherently or meaninglessly repetitious manner*', (*Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*); or a '*making of sounds suggestive of speech but lacking the meaning, content, intelligibility, and articulateness of normal adult human speech*', (*Websters' New Dictionary of synonyms*). Would not these describe much of unknown 'prayer language' today?

Paul in the middle of his many corrections to the Corinthians on the use of tongues speaks of putting away childish things and to think like adults, (1Cor.13:11). In chapter 14 he continually contends for '*understanding*' and that the mind be fruitful. The first step of faith is the mental acceptance of a fact. It requires mental understanding. It is impossible to love with an unfruitful or inactivated mind. We are told to love our God '*with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength*', (Mk.12:30). A language that is not understood and known is unfruitful. It is possible, as in the Corinthian church, to think one was speaking by the Holy Spirit but actually be cursing God, (1Cor.12:3).

Standard techniques of occult practices (eg. Automatic Writing and hypnotic activities) are to make the mind *passive*. Yet this is one way evil spirits can oppress and even possess. Sincerity does not stop demons from affecting one's life. My experience in cultish and occult teaching have convinced me that true Christians can and have been deceived and oppressed, although not possessed. There are several cases of Christians discovering their 'tongues' were really demonic, yet most people would have accepted them as upstanding Christians. The problem with 'prayer languages' is that they cannot easily be tested by the recipient. **(Cont. over page >)**

Answers to Questionnaire

1. **D.** Both A & C

The Greek word 'glossa' always refers to *known human earthly languages*, (as in the three only Biblical *historic* cases of New Testament 'tongues' - Acts 2,10,19); or to ethnic languages, (Rev.7:9); and sometimes to the physical organ, (1Cor.14:9).

2. **C.** Known human earthly languages.

The word translated 'language' (vs.6) and 'tongue' (vs.8) is the Greek 'Dialektos' meaning known ethnic languages or dialects.

3. **C** Known human earthly languages.

Verse 45 says 'on the Gentiles also' and verse 47 says: 'as well as we'. Here the Gentiles had received the *same* experience as the Jews had in Acts 2 - 'tongues' as known languages. How could they 'magnify God' (vs.46) if there was no understanding?

4. **B.** The 'tongues' were all known earthly languages and understood by the hearers.

5. **B.** Known human earthly languages.

In *every* instance in the Bible, Angels *always* spoke in known human earthly languages, (eg. to Abraham, Lot, Jacob, Peter)

6. **B.** Always the human spirit.

The 's' is not in capitals but in small print. The 'spirit' in 1Corinthians 14 is the *human spirit*. Verse 14 proves this conclusively: 'my spirit prayeth'. The difference between the Holy Spirit and the human spirit is shown in Romans 8:16 where the two are contrasted: 'The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.'

7. **B.** To forth-tell the Word of God.

The Greek word 'prophetes' means 'pro' - forth, and 'phemi' - to speak - 'to tell forth the message of God'. This is the primary sense. The secondary sense - to foretell - is seen mostly in the Old Testament where the prophets foretold of a salvation to come.

8. **B.** Topeka 'Revival' 1901

In 1901 at Topeka, Charles Parham encouraged his students to repeat the experience the disciples had at Acts 2. A student, Agnus Ozeman, spoke in what was thought to be Chinese but was later shown to be an unknown ecstatic utterance. This counterfeit experience spread and later the Azusa St 'revival' became the seedbed for the Pentecostal movement as we know it today. Charles Parham denounced the unknown 'tongues' and other phenomena at Azusa St. as counterfeit. See the articles 'Pentecostal/Tongues roots - The Amazing Facts' and 'The other Side of Azusa St.' available from TA Ministries.

9. **C.** More than a few times each word is emphasised.

The word 'understanding' is written 9 times and 'edification' 5 times. Paul uses these words to argue for *known* understood languages ('glossais'-'tongues' - plural) or to prophesy, as opposed to unknown or ecstatic tongues ('glosse'-'an unknown tongue' - singular). He argues for edification of the church, to supposed to edification of self.

10. **C.** Spoke many different languages.

The common language was Greek. The Romans spoke Latin. The Jews spoke Hebrew and Aramaic. The Corinthian community also had other dialects. Paul spoke all of the languages above and likely other dialects as well.

If you did not score 10/10 we encourage you to study this topic! Seminar tapes are available in either Audio (\$8.50 - 2 tapes) or video (\$14.90) on the subject of 'tongues'. Tapes include seminar handouts.

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One writer says of 'prayer languages': '*I have never yet met one person anywhere in the world who said he developed his prayer language from reading the Bible, without any guidance or testimony from others. It is not the natural birthright of the believer.*' *

Jude 20 exhorts us to '**pray in the spirit**'. For years I was taught that this was 'praying in tongues'. One day I looked up this phrase in the commentaries of the great men of old. Not one of them mentioned anything about a 'prayer language' or 'praying in tongues'! There is absolutely no evidence from the Greek or any other means of interpretation that this phrase means 'praying in tongues'. If it was speaking in tongues then the *only* way we should pray is in tongues or else we would not be '*in the Spirit*'! When Jesus prayed the Lords Prayer - was it not '*in the Spirit*'? When the great men of God in ages past prayed, did they not pray '*in the Spirit*'? It is a fact that this new teaching of a '*prayer language*' was never heard of for 1,900 years! If this '*praying in the Spirit*' is praying in an unknown tongue, then we must *always* and *only* pray this way

because Ephesians 6:18 says: '**praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...**'!

The meaning of '*praying in the Spirit*' has unfortunately changed for some Christians. The phrase once meant no more or no less than - *the Holy Spirit helping us to pray!* The Holy Spirit is the '**comforter**', (Jn.14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7). The word '**comforter**' comes from '*paracleo*' meaning '*to comfort, encourage or exhort, referring to an aid.*' The phrase '*praying in the Spirit*' simply refers to *the Holy Spirit aiding us in prayer!*

Many Christians would still argue that the Holy Spirit could still give an inspired heavenly 'prayer language'. However, if this is so then it defies and goes beyond Scripture. The word '*spirit*' in 1Corinthians 14 is always a small 's' - the *human spirit*! Any unknown tongue based on any Scripture in this passage is human and not divine. Added to this, why would Paul teach private unknown tongues or a '*prayer language*' when he dissuades the use of it in the church throughout 1Corinthians 14? **Terry Arnold**

* '*Is there a prayer language*' by Wesley Duewel