

Words – 8

Proverbs 18:21 (The Message)

²¹ Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose.

Each of the words we choose to use carry enormous power with them

- Power to heal or wound
- Encourage or discourage
- Speak the truth or tell a lie
- To praise or to criticize

We are created in His image – “speaking spirit” – **Genesis 2:7**

James 3:2 (NKJV) The Tongue

² For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

The Baptism of Heaven

Turning our tongue into a fountain of life rather than a fire hose of destruction cannot be accomplished without turning to the only supernatural source of help available to us

- No man can tame the tongue but the Holy Spirit can
- The Holy Spirit – He is referred to as “The Promise of the Father” as well as “The Helper” – **Acts 1:4; John 14:26**
- The Holy Spirit brings “Power” into our lives

We see these baptisms clear in the life of Jesus

– **Matthew 3:16-17**

- *Salvation (Baptism into Jesus)*
 - Jesus was born of a virgin, conceived of the Spirit
 - He didn't need to be born again
- *Water Baptism* – By John in the Jordan River
- *Holy Spirit Baptism* – at the same event we see the Holy Spirit appear **like a dove** and descend and alight upon Him

Acts 19:1–6 (NKJV) In Ephesus

19 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples ² he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit **when you believed?**” So they said to him, “**We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.**” ³ And he said to them, “**Into what then were you baptized?**” So they said, “**Into John’s baptism.**” ⁴ Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a **baptism of repentance**, saying to the people that **they should believe** on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” ⁵ When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid hands on them, the **Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.**

Here we see all three baptisms

- Repent and believe – Salvation
 - Baptism into Jesus (Body of Christ)
- Water Baptism
- Holy Spirit Baptism

The Language of Heaven

Many people question if this is for them or why they don't get it immediately

- Example: me and Trish

Our prayer language is only one manifestation of many of the “gifts” administered by the “Gift” of the Holy Spirit

- If I gave you an expensive Swiss watch wouldn't the minute hand and second hand, be included?
- Inside would be all the mechanics that make it a special watch
- Those individual parts are only a part of the “Watch”

In the same way speaking in tongues is naturally part of the baptism of the Holy Spirit

John 16:7; 13-14 (NKJV)

⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.

- The Holy Spirit is the “Gift” that Jesus told His followers to expect

Common myths associated with speaking in tongues

#1 You can speak fluently immediately

- When a child begins to speak do they speak fluently?
- Enunciation?
- Vocabulary?
- When you learn a new language the same is true
- You grow in this gift as you would in any other
- e.g. teaching, leading, giving

Tongues, in a sense is a language you learn

You become fluent just as you would any language

#2 You can't control speaking in tongues

- This language is not just going to pop up out of nowhere
- It will not happen automatically
- You are in control of your prayer language, or any other spiritual gift for that matter
- You will not just blurt out a prophecy for someone or just start praying in tongues

1 Corinthians 14:32-34 (AMP)

³² for the spirits of prophets are subject to the prophets [the prophecy is under the speaker's control, and he can stop speaking]; ³³ for God [who is the source of their prophesying] is not a God of confusion *and* disorder but of peace *and* order.

Let's assume you had the gift of teaching

- You wouldn't just stand up in the restaurant and start teaching about spiritual laws
- You would have to make a conscious decision to do so

A gifted teacher is always in control of when and how that gift is exercised

- The first time you teach you will not sound like Billy Graham
- It will take some time and practice

Praying in tongues also takes faith

- It is the language of the Spirit
- It is not a natural word
- Your mind (soul) will not understand it

1 Corinthians 14:2 (NKJV)

²For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands *him*; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

- No one understand him
- It is the language of the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit understands it

1 Corinthians 14:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but **my understanding is unfruitful.** ¹⁵ What is *the conclusion* then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

- When (I) pray in tongues my spirit is praying
- What is the result?
- I will pray with the spirit (in tongues) as well as with understanding
- Both are important
- Paul says we will never understand praying in the spirit with our intellect or minds

But we can pray for the interpretation

1 Corinthians 14:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

- Our minds will not understand unless God gives us the interpretation
- The conclusion?
- We do both

When we pray in this way we are praying the perfect will of God for that situation

We are praying prayers of the Holy Spirit

When we pray in the spirit we are praying God's solution rather than what we hope is the answer

- It's like having and **experienced guide** lead us
- It's like having a floodlight instead of a flickering candle
- We can reach our destination much quicker
- We can hit the mark every time

John 16:13 (NKJV)

¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Praying in tongues (Holy Spirit) builds our faith

Jude 20 (NKJV)

²⁰ But you, beloved, **building yourselves up** on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit

- It's like spiritual weight lifting
- Strength training is done over time
- You don't walk into the gym and instantly become a world champion weightlifter – Hey Ahhnold!

Physical exercise must become part of your daily routine if you're going to become physically fit

- Studies show how beneficial exercise is
- Helps you physically, mentally and emotionally
- Helps you become more alert and produces endorphins which give you a sense of well-being
 - *We're Hans and Franz and were here to pump you up!*

Spiritual exercise not only helps your spirit but your physical body as well

You will also find...

- You are more alert and tuned in to the Lord
- The word will become more alive to you
- Your prayer life will be revolutionized

1 Timothy 4:8 (NKJV)

⁸For bodily exercise profits a little, but **godliness** is profitable for **all things**, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

- Godliness – Disciplined life in God – MSG

Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

The more time you spend praying in the Spirit, you'll become more like Jesus and find yourself thinking, speaking and doing things like Jesus

John 5:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

- Praying in the Spirit is wonderful
- Your spirit is praying and learning from the Holy Spirit
- Teaching us the things of Jesus and the Father
- It is something available for everyone not just a select few

1 Corinthians 14:5 (NKJV)

⁵ I wish you all spoke with tongues

- This is written by Paul
- *Inspired* by the Holy Spirit – 2 Timothy 3:16
- The Holy Spirit desires all of us to speak with tongues

1 Corinthians 14:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all

- It was part of the apostle Paul's lifestyle
- He wrote nearly 1/3 of the New Testament
- It was of primary importance

Let's consider the context of **1 Corinthians 14**

- Paul is writing a corrective passage
- The *Corinthian Church* was praying in tongues at inappropriate times during a corporate church service

In that setting, be sure to pray for an interpretation so that what they were saying could be understood by those present, particularly when unbelievers were among them

- *Paul is not saying that praying in tongues is not important or wrong*

1 Corinthians 14:1–5 (NKJV)

14 Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy. ² For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands *him*; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. ³ But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. ⁴ He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵ I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies *is* greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

- He who speaks in tongues “edifies himself”
- Do you need to be built up?
- Do you need encouragement?
- Praying in tongues is a great blessing!
- Speaking mysteries and edification to the one praying
- We need to be strong to encourage others

As Paul continues writing in **1 Corinthians 14:6-25**

- He continues to correct and instruct
- Never does he discount the validity of speaking in tongues
- He is merely striving to bring order in that particular church

1 Corinthians 14:26–28 (NKJV)

²⁶ How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, **each of you** has a psalm, has a teaching, **has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation.** Let all things be done for edification. ²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, *let there be* two or at the most three, *each* in turn, and let one interpret. ²⁸ But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

- Let all things be done for “edification”
- Can you imagine if we were all prayed up in the Spirit before a meeting?
- That’s the point

1 Corinthians 14:39–40 (NKJV)

³⁹ Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and **do not forbid** to speak with tongues. ⁴⁰ Let all things be done decently and in order.

- “do not forbid”
- Many denominations and churches have done exactly what we’re told not to do

And Jesus had something to say about it as well

Mark 16:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

- Speaking in tongues are signs that should follow those who believe
- It is the language of heaven
- It is a pure language
- Every other language has curse words and foul remarks
- Only this language is pure

It is prophesied that God will restore this language in the last days

Zephaniah 3:9 (NKJV)

⁹ “For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, That they all may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him with one accord.

- Could this be the language that God taught Adam?
- The last Adam came to Restore what the first Adam destroyed – Romans 5; 1 Corinthians 15:22
- This prophecy is specifically about the Messiah

In Genesis 11 God gave different languages because they were wicked yet speaking one language, *“now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them”*

- Act of mercy

The people of Babel wanted to make themselves famous the prophecy in **Zephaniah 3** and the fulfillment in **Acts 2** uses the same words

- “With one accord”
- We are to serve God with one accord
- Speaking in tongues is a language
- It allows us to have direct communication with the Father
- It is available for all believers
- Right here, right now!
- The only requirement is that you believe
- It will require faith!
- You will have to make a conscious decision to speak
- As you give the Holy Spirit control of your tongue, your words will begin to line up with God’s words
- Your life will begin to line up with God’s will for your life!

Zephaniah 3:9 (The Message)

“In the end I will turn things around for the people. I’ll give them **a language undistorted, unpolluted**, Words to address GOD in worship and, united, to serve me with their shoulders to the wheel.

- Let the Helper put words of life into your mouth and start taming the tongue