

"Ten Scriptural Reasons for Speaking in Tongues" By Pastor Jeff
(from a book by Kenneth Hagin entitled, Why Tongues)

The following are ten scriptural reasons why every believer should practice speaking in other tongues everyday:

1) Speaking in other tongues is the initial evidence or sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Ac.2:1-4; Ac.10:46; Ac.19:1-6)

2) Speaking in other tongues is a means of spiritual edification. It is a flowing stream which should never dry up, and which will greatly enrich our lives spiritually. It allows God to teach us all things and charge us up with excitement about His Word, His faith and His love in our daily lives. (1st Cor.14:2, 4 & 14; Jo.14:26)

3) Speaking in other tongues reminds us of the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence. (Jo.14:16-17) Some have overcome a chronic violent temper by daily practice of speaking in other tongues--by being more aware of God's continual presence they were able to avoid behaving in a way displeasing to God. (Also see our book table for a sheet entitled "Confessing God's Word for Emotional and Verbal Self-Control", which can be read out loud every morning.)

4) Speaking in other tongues is praying in line with God's perfect will. (Ro.8:26-27) It keeps selfishness out of our prayers. If God's people insist long enough on having things a certain way, even if it isn't best for them, God will often permit it, such as when Israel wanted a king. (1st Sa.8) Speaking in other tongues keeps us from missing God's best due to our own selfishness.

5) Speaking in other tongues stimulates faith. (Jude:20) Trusting God for unknown words helps us to trust Him more fully in other areas as well. Kenneth Hagin has observed many people who were able to receive physical healing for a long-term disease simply as an immediate result of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

6) Speaking in other tongues is a means of keeping free from worldly contamination. 1st Cor.14:28 describes how a believer in a church meeting can speak to themselves in unknown tongues in such a way that no one else even notices, similar to quiet whispering. This can also be done whenever a believer is surrounded by ungodly conversation--by allowing the Spirit to quietly flow out of them in other tongues, they can consciously resist and repel the ungodly influence and pray for those involved, yet without creating strife.

7) Speaking in other tongues allows us to pray for the unknown. (Ro.8:26-27) God knows everything, and His Spirit can pray through us for things about which we know little or nothing. There are cases on record of people receiving a sudden inner prompting to pray in other tongues, accompanied by a sudden vague awareness of trouble. They continued praying in other tongues until they had a note of praise, or an inner peace that the matter was settled. Then they received a vision or dream from God showing how miraculous deliverance had come. Later they were able to discuss the matter with those who had actually been present, and who could confirm that the situation occurred exactly as they had seen it in their vision or dream.

8) Speaking in other tongues gives spiritual rest and refreshing. (Is.28:11-12; Jo.14:26-27) The Holy Spirit is our Comforter.

9) Speaking in other tongues provides the most perfect way to pray and give thanks. (1st Cor.14:15-17)

10) Speaking in other tongues brings the tongue under subjection. (Ja.3:8) Yielding the tongue to the Holy Spirit is a giant step toward fully yielding all of our members to obey God.

"PRAYING IN TONGUES" By Pastor Jeff

In his book entitled, The Holy Spirit--the Missing Ingredient, Dr. Frederick K. C. Price of Crenshaw Christian Center gives his personal testimony of receiving the Holy Spirit baptism with other tongues. Dr. Price had been a denominational pastor for 17 years in a church that did not preach on the Holy Spirit baptism with speaking in other tongues. But as Dr. Price writes, there was a nagging sensation within him that something was missing, and that he was lacking power, joy and victory to be used of the Lord to the fullest extent.

Dr. Price longed to see the same works that Jesus had done--demonstrations of the power of the Spirit of God in signs, miracles and healings. Through exposure to the ministry of Kathryn Kuhlman and Oral Roberts, Dr. Price came to see that all these miracles were the result of the operation of the Holy Spirit, and he determined to receive the full operation of the Holy Spirit in his own life and ministry.

Finally, Dr. Price found one book that stated that anyone can receive the Holy Spirit in the privacy of his own room--all that was necessary is to ask Jesus by faith to baptize you (Lk. 11:13; Mk. 11:24) and then open your mouth and speak in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance (Acts 2:4). However, Dr. Price made the mistake that many have made, thinking that the Holy Spirit would then take over his mind and tongue and speak for him, without him making any effort to make any sounds on his own. He waited and waited, in sincere desperation, with his mouth open, but nothing happened.

In extreme frustration, Dr. Price began to visit several different legitimate Christian ministers who were teaching on the Holy Spirit with speaking in other tongues. One of them said, "Ask the Lord Jesus to baptize you with the Holy Spirit, believe that He has done it, open your mouth, lift up the sound of your voice and speak forth whatever words the Holy Spirit places on your lips." Fred did as instructed, but all that came out of his mouth was the sound one makes when the doctor tells you to stick out your tongue and say "a-a-h." Fred was thinking to himself, "Is this supposed to be a language?" To him it sounded like someone choking--he didn't want anyone to hear him--he felt like an idiot.

However, the minister encouraged him by telling him that this was genuine and that the language would become, by use, more fluent and intelligible. Dr. Price now realizes that one hang-up that kept him from receiving a fluent language sooner was that he expected to have very pronounced emotional feelings, since this experience was so important and so spiritual--but the only feelings he had were feeling like an idiot, and so he wasn't convinced that anything had happened.

Finally, Dr. Price realized that we are to walk by faith, and not by sight--that we are to walk by what the Word tells us and not by what our feelings tell us--and when the Word says the Lord will give the Holy Spirit to those of His children who ask him for it, then once we've asked, we have to believe it has been done, and then our appropriate corresponding action of faith is to initiate syllables with our tongues and lips, that sound like what we think speaking in tongues is supposed to sound like, all the while listening inside ourselves so that we can begin to recognize the unknown language of the Holy Spirit stirring around inside our hearts. The more we practice speaking with other tongues, the more fluent and free the language will become, and the sooner the feelings of joy will follow!

"PRAYING IN TONGUES, PT. 2" By Pastor Jeff

God controls the manifestations of His spiritual gifts, including gifts of healings, working of miracles, and gifts of special faith, but believers control the atmosphere that sets the stage for the miraculous to happen. For example, we see in Mk. 6:5 and Mt. 13:53 that in his own hometown, Jesus could not do many mighty works, or miraculous gifts of the spirit, because of their unbelief. Also, in Mk. 5:37, Mk. 7:33 and Mk. 8:23, we see Jesus removing himself from certain people and their attendant atmospheres of unbelief so that he could more effectively minister to those in need. The atmosphere of faith provided by believers will make or break the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon a service, and it is the anointing that destroys the yoke of sickness and every other satanic bondage. (Is. 10:27) It is the anointing that allows the Word to be preached in such a way that the blind can receive their sight, and the captives can receive their deliverance! (Is. 61:1) 1Co. 12:31 tells us to covet earnestly the best gifts; 1Co. 14:1 tells us to desire spiritual gifts. So, we must cherish the anointing and do all we can to cultivate the proper atmosphere for God's anointing to flow.

One of the ways we give God the honor and cooperation He deserves is by receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit with the initial evidence of speaking in unknown tongues. The higher the percentage of people in any given congregation who have received the Holy Spirit baptism and practice a fluent daily prayer language in unknown tongues, the greater will be the atmosphere of faith in that congregation, and the easier it will be for God to bring forth miraculous manifestations of His Spirit to meet people's needs. In other words, those who refuse to receive the Holy Spirit baptism and a fluent daily prayer language in unknown tongues are actually hindering the atmosphere necessary for God's miracles to happen. Jesus said in Mk. 16:17 that speaking in unknown tongues would be a sign following believers--refusing to speak in unknown tongues is a sign of unbelief, and unbelief hinders God from doing miracles. So, we can increase the miracles in our church by increasing the percentage of people who are speaking in unknown tongues as the initial evidence of the Holy Spirit baptism, and we can increase the percentage of people with the Holy Spirit baptism and speaking in unknown tongues by teaching more on the subject.

Willie George is well-known for "Gospel Bill" children's ministry and "Fire-By-Night" teen ministry. Willie grew up in a Pentecostal church where he saw first-hand how a lack of teaching and an over-emphasis on emotionalism could hinder people from receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit with a fluent daily language in unknown tongues. We don't want to totally discount emotionalism in church--there is a place for wholesome, appropriate emotional expressions that make God attractive to people, and don't scare them or repulse them. Without a good little kick of emotions every now and then our walk with God can get boring. After all, God created our emotions, and He knows how they can bless us, not hurt us.

But Willie saw that one key to helping people receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with speaking fluently in other tongues is to help them recognize that born-again children of God who have asked God for the Holy Spirit baptism are then supposed to initiate the speaking themselves, by faith, and not wait for God to come take over their minds or mouths. As they initiate the speaking, at the same time they listen inside their hearts for the language sounds the Holy Spirit is giving. They speak as the Spirit gives the utterance.

“I Couldn’t Believe It Could Happen To Me”

(Jack Hayford’s testimony of beginning to speak in other tongues by the Holy Spirit)

I knew when I entered LIFE Bible College that I was called to Pentecostal ministry, but by the time I entered my senior year in 1955, I still hadn’t been baptized in the Holy Spirit. The countdown was on—I was going to graduate in eight months, but I couldn’t become a licensed Foursquare minister without having the experience of speaking in tongues.

It hadn’t yet happened to me because of three presuppositions: First, I thought it was a qualification that you had to speak with tongues before you could receive the Holy Spirit; second, I had a feeling that there was a need to wait or “tarry”; and thirdly, I was confused about, “How does the tongues part start?”.

Somehow, I thought that you had to speak with tongues first to qualify for the fullness of the Spirit. I had it reversed, thinking you needed to have this supernatural experience and *then* you’d be filled with the Spirit. That was a big hurdle for me. But no where does the Bible say we “earn” anything from God. It’s just as ludicrous to say that after you speak with tongues, you’ll be filled with the Holy Spirit, as if you would say, that after you clean up your act and be good, God will save you.

Rather than being a qualification, tongues is one of the indications that you’ve been filled with the Spirit, the grace and the power of God. Tongues is a gift and a privilege, not a proof.

The second misconception was that there was a need to wait. This was a common practice from the early part of the 20th Century through the 1950s. They’d call it “tarrying,” from Luke 24:49: “Tarry in Jerusalem until you receive power from on high.” A lot of good things came out of people seeking the Lord, humbling their hearts before Him, worshipping and just waiting upon Him. In that environment, people often received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, so there came the conclusion that this “tarrying” was an important part.

In my mind, I thought there was some process of “earning” my spiritual language. *Am I worthy? Am I clean enough?* I would later come to recognize that when Jesus saved me, He cleansed the vessel of my life *completely*; and, by the work of that grace, fully qualified me as a worthy vessel to be filled with His Spirit. *Right now.*

There was one other thing I was confused about: How does the tongues part start? I’ve talked with people to this day who think that the Lord is going to make them speak with tongues; that there’s going to be some sort of seizure over which they have no control. I couldn’t imagine how else it would happen.

Before I’d left for college, in January 1952, there’d been a series of meetings at our church led by a man by the name of Clement Humbard and his brother, Rex. Both men had preached about the grace and power of God, and on that Sunday morning, Clement had preached about the fullness of God. It was incredibly moving. I went to the prayer room after that sermon. While I was praying, I could say four syllables. I carried those four syllables in my mind for years. I thought, *That sounds like tongues.* And I also thought: *I wonder where I heard that?*

I didn’t know it was the Holy Spirit prompting me to speak. A short time after that, in prayer, there came three more syllables, and I remember thinking, *I know I didn’t make those up.* When people say to me today, “I want to be sure that I don’t make it up,” I ask them, “Do you want to make it up? If not, what makes you think you can make up a language by accident?”

People also say, “I want to be sure it’s *all of God.*” Let me tell you, God doesn’t want it to be all of Him. He gives the language, but if you’re ever going to speak, you’re going to have to decide to speak, just as much as you have to decide to receive Jesus as Lord. (OVER)

If we're coming to Jesus, worshipping Him and asking to be filled with His Spirit, we're not going to do anything wrong. The most foolish notion people have is when they fear "the devil will get in." Can you imagine worshipping the Lord, inviting Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit, and Jesus saying, *This guy wants to get baptized with the Holy Spirit but I'm gonna give him a demon instead?*

About a year and a half after hearing Rex Humbard, I was praying one day, and there were five more syllables—kind of a "sentence." I dreamed about saying those syllables and then speaking in tongues, but it still didn't happen. And I didn't know if it ever would.

Then in 1955, in my senior year, I was at a crusade with Jerry Jensen. He preached a sermon, "If You're Not Saved, Why Not? If You're Not Filled With the Spirit, Why Not? If You're Not Healed, Why Not?"

Suddenly the words jumped at me: *If you're not filled with the Spirit, why not?* I thought: there's no *reason* why not. At the invitation, I went to the altar, got down on my knees and prayed:

Lord, I believe that those syllables that have been there for so long are very likely from You, but I've been afraid to speak them for fear I would do something wrong. I'm going to speak those syllables, and I ask that You will, in Your grace, accept it as an offering of worship to You from the hunger of my heart. If indeed it is something that You've intended as launching for me that I've been afraid to exercise, then I ask two things: Allow me to continue speaking beyond those syllables, and that this would be a part of my life every day for the rest of my life."

Ironically, to the best of my awareness, I have never again spoken those same syllables. They were only the Holy Spirit's ignition switch to release me. I won't be surprised if, when I get to heaven, I find out that they were the Holy Spirit saying, "*Jesus, this guy is sincere. I'm trying to get him released in his praise to you.*" All I know is that after I prayed that prayer, I continued praying in tongues, and I was thinking to myself, "This is too easy."

How I finally received the gift of tongues was far more normal than I ever believed it was. Spiritual language is a Holy Spirit, God-given, potential for every believer. For the majority of people I've met, receiving their spiritual language flowed out of a basic opening up. Praying to receive the gift of tongues and then worshipping the Lord in song is the most natural way.

Don't be afraid of doing something wrong because you don't know how. When Jesus was walking on the water, He beckoned to Peter to come to Him. There came a moment when Peter had to decide, "I'm standing here and I'm going to go there." There comes a moment where you decide to step out and walk in a miracle. And though I could never imagine it happening to me, *it did*.

When I came home from that meeting with Jerry and told Anna that I was baptized in the Holy Spirit, she was excited. I got up the next morning and went into the living room and prayed, "Jesus, last night I said that as You make this real, I want this to be a part of my life every day. Now, as I pray today, I ask you, let me move on with exercising my spiritual language." And I just started to worship and began speaking with tongues. It's been a regular part of my life since then.

And that's how it finally happened to me. The *benefits* are another subject!

