

Speaking in Tongues

What is the Greek definition of the word **tongues** in the New Testament?

*Tongues_NT:1100 **glossa** (gloce-sah'); of uncertain affinity; the tongue; by implication, **a language** (specially, **one naturally unacquired**):*

A language. Not gibberish.

Does the Bible have anything to say about speaking in tongues? You bet, and we're going to go to the book of Mark where we'll be presented with a time element, as well as where the speaking will occur.

Mark is talking about the seven events that must happen before the return of Christ Jesus. Satan is already here on earth and that's de facto, meaning, not just in spirit but in a body that we can see and touch and hear. Michael has already released him and his angels from heaven.

He is the world's religious and governmental leader right now and here he is bringing Christians up before his councils and he's going to question them on these matters.

Mark 13:9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

Only one of Father's election will be brought before these councils. Why, because they are smarter than the rest of us? Because Father loves them more than the others? No. Because Father can interfere in their lives without being accused of changing their final outcome on Judgment Day. They have already been justified in the previous heaven/earth age.

Those that stand before Satan during these days did not make a conscious decision to do so. The Holy Spirit has interfered in their life.

Beaten doesn't mean to be physically abused. What good could come out of that situation is Satan had these folks beaten with fists or clubs? C'mon, he is portraying himself as the true Jesus Christ...would Christ Himself do something like that? Of course not.

It means that they will be brow-beaten. Interrogated.

Mark 13:10 And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

Mark 13:11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

What is this **hour** here? It's called the **hour of temptation**. It's the five-month period of the Antichrist, Satan's last role that he will play/use to deceive people, just before our Lord returns. What? You didn't know about that?

And while we are standing there before these councils, Father doesn't want us to speak our own words because it's not **OUR** words that mean anything to Satan, it's **Father's** words that will mean something. So, don't think that you need to prepare some speech to say to everybody **IF** you happen to be one that is chosen for this task.

The Holy Spirit will provide the necessary words to say.

You must understand that when these “hearings” are going on, the entire world will be watching and listening. CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, NHK from Japan, the BBC from England, the INRA from Iran...news agencies from around the world will have reporters and cameras recording these events.

And when one of Father's elect is standing there, speaking the words provided by the Holy Spirit, and he/she is speaking English, how is the rest of the worldwide audience going to understand what they are saying if they themselves **do not** speak English?

Everyone will understand the English words spoken because the Holy Spirit will open their ears and they will hear the words in their own **language**, even down to the county and dialect in which they were born.

Father prepared us for that moment in the book of Acts, on Pentecost Day...

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

They were all of one mindset, with one duty. All twelve of the Apostles were gathered in this room, called the Upper Room, Judas Iscariot being replaced by Mathias. Our Lord having just Ascended into heaven, they were waiting on the Holy Spirit to come to them.

Pentecost is a one-day festival occurring fifty days after Passover, or a period of seven weeks with Pentecost being the fiftieth day.

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

The Holy Spirit had just entered the room. This word **wind** is actually the soul of the Holy Spirit as it entered the room...

Wind_ NT:4157 **pnoe** (pno-ay'); from NT:4154; **respiration**, a breeze:

Root Word_ NT:4154 **pneo** (pneh'-o); a primary word; **to breathe hard**, i.e. breeze:

Let me add the definition of the word soul...

Soul_ NT:5590 **psuche** (psoo-khay'); from NT:5594; **breath**, i.e. (by implication) **spirit**, abstractly or concretely (the animal sentient principle only; thus distinguished on the one hand from NT:4151, **which is the rational and immortal soul**; and on the other from NT:2222, which is mere vitality, even of plants: these terms thus exactly correspond respectively to the Hebrew OT:5315, OT:7307 and OT:2416):

I'm sure that there are some that find respiration and breathing hard to associate with a soul or spirit but it's the breath of life that Father breathes into each and every one of us when that little egg in your Mamma's womb gets fertilized by Papa.

A new human life has just begun, and another soul exits heaven to begin its journey away from the Father. Just minutes before, it was in the presence of God.

Acts 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

An outward, physical sign showing the presence of the Holy Spirit. Cloven means to part or distribute..

Cloven_ NT:1266 **diamerizo** (dee-am-er-id'-zo); from NT:1223 and NT:3307; **to partition thoroughly** (literally in **distribution**, figuratively in **dissension**):

The Holy Spirit goes out freely to all that believe on our Lord. It's the Comforter that brings us peace of mind, knowing that no matter what happens in this life, when it's all said and done, we will be with the Father in the eternity.

I believe that this dwelling of the Holy Spirit with these twelve men enables them to heal and perform the miracles that they are recorded as doing.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Other tongues means other **languages**. It wasn't unintelligible garbage that had to be interpreted by someone else because the person speaking was under some spell or influence and could not hear or understand what their own mouth was saying.

The Holy Spirit doesn't work that way. How could you have faith in something whose words had to be interpreted by another? The source itself being unable to speak clearly for itself.

Acts 2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

Every nation under heaven. There were people there from all over the known world at that time. Many people speaking many different languages, different dialects.

Acts 2:6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

As the Apostles talked outside, all of these different people, from different parts of the known world, speaking different languages, were able to hear and understand fully the words that they were speaking.

Acts 2:7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

Aren't these guys from Galilee? Some forsaken backward country town where nothing important ever happens? How in the world are they sophisticated enough to pull this off? Speaking in their own language and all of us understanding every word.

Acts 2:8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

There are so many different dialects in Italy that those that live in the south can barely understand what the northern Italians are saying and yet these people heard words that were specific to their own region, their own county.

Acts 2:9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

Acts 2:10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

Acts 2:11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

There are eighteen different languages listed here.

Acts 2:12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

What the heck does this mean?

Acts 2:13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

Of course, that was said with tongue in cheek irony because even a drunk couldn't pull this off.

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

Peter stands up and tells them to settle down and listen to him.

Acts 2:15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

Seeing it is but the third hour of the day. The third hour of the day would be 9:00 in the morning. Apparently, Peter has never been in the town that I live in if drinking at 9:00 in the morning is unusual. If you keep drinking, the night never ends, regardless of whether the sun is up or not. LOL.

Acts 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

Things really get serious here. What **WAS** spoken by the prophet Joel? *This is that* means that this is an **example** of what Joel was talking about. *This is that* means the subject matter that Joel was talking about.

Was Joel referring to the accusation of drunkenness from verse 13? Yes, he was. It also foretold of the conditions that the world would be in during the last days. It points to the **SIGNS** of things to come and we need to look at Jerusalem, the home of Father's children, and the Middle East and observe and understand what's going on there **TODAY**.

Peter is having them recall what Joel said would happen during the last days, **not** that these **WERE** the last days. In fact, the book of Joel is dedicated to telling the events that would be happening during the last days.

If the Apostles were indeed drunk, it still would not negate the seriousness and truth of the prophecies of Joel.

And in the next verse, Peter stops speaking, and our Father begins to tell us what **HE** says will happen during the last days.

Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Father will use anyone He likes, whether it be male or female, young or old, to foretell of the end time events.

The Holy Spirit will be very active during these days and whether you realize it or not, you and I are living in those last days. This last generation began in 1948 and it's getting some age on it. As old as I am I doubt that I will see the coming of the Lord but certainly you or your children will.

Let's continue on and go to 1st Corinthians and see what Paul wrote about speaking in tongues.

Paul is an interesting guy. He started out as a bounty hunter of Christians, dragging them screaming, kicking, and crying back to the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem, to be prosecuted for crimes against Caesar. Then Father knocked him down, picked him back up, dusted him off, and he ends up writing two-thirds of the books in the New Testament.

1st Corinthians 14:1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

Be kind to people. Study the Bible and tell others what you've learned.

1st Corinthians 14:2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

The first thing that you should know is that the word **unknown** is **NOT** in the Manuscripts. It was inserted by the translators to make the verse more readily understandable. What actually is written in the Manuscripts?

"For the one speaking in a tongue does not speak to men, but to God; for no one hears, but in spirit he speaks mysteries."

If your native language is English and you're speaking to a group that speaks and understands Spanish only, they won't know what you're talking about. God will, but they won't, and it will be a mystery to the group as to what you said.

1st Corinthians 14:3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

When you speak or teach, and you do it in a language that the audience can understand, it will be for the glorification of Father.

1st Corinthians 14:4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

There we have the **unknown** tongue again. Let's read it from the Manuscripts...

"The one speaking in a tongue builds himself up; but the one prophesying builds up the church."

He that speaketh in an unknown tongue. In an unknown language only makes himself look good. Standing up there acting like they're somebody important but it turns out that he/she is the dumbest person in the room because nobody understands what they're saying.

But if the people that you're talking to, the congregation of a church, understand what you're saying, they speak the same language that you're speaking, it's for the good of them and our Father.

Now, this nonsense of one or two people, out of a congregation of 200, are speaking gibberish and only the other person can understand and has to explain it to the other 198, this is a joke and they are only edifying themselves.

Is there a prophetic message coming forth? Probably not. You're going to end up looking like a fool. This speaking in gibberish is rarely done in front of the entire congregation.

1st Corinthians 14:5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

Paul hopes that all who teach can do it in the language of the people listening, **BUT IF NOT**, have an interpreter present that can translate what's being said and then everybody profits from it.

1st Corinthians 14:6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

If you teach to a group that doesn't speak or understand your language, what good is it? It isn't, it's wasting every body's time.

1st Corinthians 14:7 And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?

Paul attempts to explain this a little differently than using different languages. He says that a piped instrument gives off a different sound than, say, a harp. But if they both gave off the identical sound, how would you know which one was playing which notes? You wouldn't.

1st Corinthians 14:8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

If the trumpet gave out the same sound as a harp, who would know when the call to war was given? They wouldn't.

1st Corinthians 14:9 So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.

In this same manner, it should be applied to teaching as well because if those listening don't speak or understand your language, you're just speaking to the air.

1st Corinthians 14:10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.

There are not only many different languages in the world, but the people that speak those languages have a little different tone to their individual voice.

1st Corinthians 14:11 Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.

If he can't identify the speaker or the words that he's speaking, he might as well be speaking to another foreigner.

1st Corinthians 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

Maybe you want the gift of speaking and being understood by all nations, regardless of their language, as was done on Pentecost Day.

*1st Corinthians 14:13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an **unknown** tongue pray that he may interpret.*

"So then, the one speaking in a language, let him pray that he may interpret."

So, if you're going to teach to a group of people that won't understand your language....they speak Spanish and you speak English, take an interpreter along with you.

*1st Corinthians 14:14 For if I pray in an **unknown** tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.*

"For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful."

You can teach and pray in a language that they don't understand but only you and your soul and spirit will know what you're talking about.

1st Corinthians 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

What shall we say then? I can pray and my own spirit will understand and I can sing and my soul and spirit will understand also.

1st Corinthians 14:16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

And after you have spoken to these people that don't understand your language and you're ready to close it out, how are they going to know when to say Amen? They won't.

1st Corinthians 14:17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

You may have done a good job in teaching but nobody else got a thing out of it.

1st Corinthians 14:18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

Paul spoke in several languages. He spoke Hebrew, Syriac, Latin and street Greek. What do I mean by street Greek? He picked up on the Greek language by speaking and talking to people out on the street, he received no formal education in the Greek language.

So, sometimes he would say things that were only spoken by the people that lived on the streets and it was slang words. The proper name for this type of speaking is called colloquial speaking.

Colloquial... "1.(of language) used in ordinary or familiar conversation; not formal or literary:"

A dialect unto itself, so to speak.

1st Corinthians 14:19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

Paul says that he would rather speak five words in a language that everybody understood than ten thousand words that no one understood.

1st Corinthians 14:20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

Don't be as a child when I try to explain all this to you, but act like an adult with understanding.

1st Corinthians 14:21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

With men of other tongues and other lips. Father is saying that He will use whomsoever He chooses to get His message across to others. People that speak different languages and people from other places and races. And **STILL** they won't take in the truth of what His words are composed of. They'll still reject the message.

1st Corinthians 14:22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

Wherefore tongues are for a sign. The tongue, the language spoken by the Apostles on Pentecost Day and understood by all that were in attendance, regardless of where they were from, was a sign or an example, given by the Holy Spirit.

It was a sign to the unbelievers that something dramatic had just happened and they understood because they looked at each other in disbelief as to how something like this could happen.

1st Corinthians 14:23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

Now, Paul continues, if you get the whole darn church together and there's a lot of teaching and preaching and it's in a language that the unlearned or unbelievers don't speak or understand, they're going to say that they're all crazy.

Let me finish in 1st Corinthians with verse 33...

1st Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. KJV

Father does not create confusion by bringing babel into His Words. In fact, He tries to avoid confusion through the words of instruction and example in these 23 verses of Corinthians.

Well, there you have it. Have we read anywhere where speaking in tongues causes gibberish to come out of a person's mouth? Not that I've read. What I found out is that tongues mean **languages**, not garbage. Different languages.

When Father looks down from heaven and considers His creation of little human beings and He sees how smart we **THINK** we are, I wonder if He regrets not destroying us as He almost decided to do in Genesis 6:3.

We wouldn't know it even if He had.

Get away from these churches that teach this and all the other nonsense. You don't have to listen to some preacher to figure out how to please our Father. Many times, they'll teach you just the opposite.

Sometimes I can imagine the archangel Michael and our Father looking at each other and saying...

"What the heck are these people thinking? I gave them all the direction and knowledge that they'll ever need in their lifetime down there and they don't even read the Book. Instead, they make up nonsense such as this."

Place your love, your faith, your trust, and your life in Him. Read His Book. He will guide you.

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