

Four Uses of Speaking in Tongues

1. Praying 2. Singing 3. Blessing 4. Giving Thanks unto God

Scripture Reference: 1 Corinthians 14:15-17 (NKJV) 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. 16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say ‘Amen’ at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? 17 For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified.”

In this passage, Paul highlights the different ways speaking in tongues can be used:

- **Praying with the spirit**
- **Singing with the spirit**
- **Blessing with the spirit**
- **Giving thanks well**

Understanding "He who occupies the place of the uninformed"

Paul refers to those who are unlearned in spiritual matters. These individuals cannot understand tongues without interpretation; thus, they are not edified by it. Therefore, Paul advises using understanding in prayer and blessings when in the company of others to ensure they can say "Amen" and be edified.

Directed Toward God

Speaking in tongues is directed toward God, not people. For example, if someone prayed in tongues at dinner, others wouldn't understand, as it is meant for God. Paul suggests praying with understanding in such contexts, or interpreting the tongues so everyone can be edified.

Scripture Reference: 1 Corinthians 14:2 (RSV) “For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.”

Benefit 9: Speaking in Tongues Assists in Bringing Our Tongue Under Subjection

Challenge of Controlling the Tongue

James 3:8 states, “but no human being can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison.” This indicates the difficulty humans face in controlling their speech.

Divine Assistance

Though humans struggle to control their tongues, God, who is Spirit, can help. Through the baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues, believers receive divine assistance in taming their tongues.

Scripture References:

- **John 4:24 (NKJV)** “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
- **1 Timothy 1:17 (NKJV)** “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

By leaning on the Holy Spirit and engaging in speaking in tongues, believers can better manage their speech, aligning it with God's will and purpose.

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