
Book 12

The Truth about Tongues

Is There A Super Prayer Language?

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The chapter numbers below are color-coded according to the following categories in order to help you prioritize your reading:

Best: The most helpful, interesting and/or important chapters of the book.

Essential: Important chapters to understand the topic of the book.

Specialized: Chapters for the finer or more complex points of the topic of the book.

Part I: Understanding the Biblical Gift of Tongues

12.1: **The Serious Topic of Tongues:** *Understanding the Modern Tongues Debate* [13 pp]

A) *Defining the Tongues Debate*

B) The Difficulties & Importance of the Tongues Debate

Extras & Endnotes

12.2: **The Biblical Gift of Tongues Was Real Human Language:** *Not Gibberish* [14 pp]

A) The Biblical Evidence

B) The Historical Evidence

C) Answering Modern Arguments to the Contrary

Extras & Endnotes

12.3: **The Biblical Gift of Tongues Was Miraculous & Meaningful,** *Not Meaningless* [15 pp]

A) Tongues Was a Miracle!

B) Tongues was a Miraculous Sign Especially to Jews to Authenticate New Divine Revelation

B.1) Biblical evidence

B.2) Historical evidence

C) Tongues Produced Meaningful, Although Not Significant, Speech

- C.1) Only enough speech to demonstrate a miracle was sufficient
- C.2) Not intended to communicate the Gospel

Extras & Endnotes

12.4: The Biblical Gift of Tongues Was Minor & Rare: *Not Learned* [17 pp]

A) Tongues was a Relatively Minor Gift in the Early Church

- A.1) The Apostle devalued it
- A.2) Pentecostals are wrong to make it a required sign of Spirit baptism

B) Tongues was Relatively Rare in the Early Church

- B.1) Paul used it more than all the Corinthians combined
- B.2) Scarcity in Church history

C) Tongues was a Spiritual Gift, Not a Learned Human Skill

Extras & Endnotes

12.5: The Biblical Gift of Tongues Was Controlled: *Not Pagan Ecstatic Prayer* [13 pp]

A) The Lord Had Commands for How Tongues Was to be Used in the Church

- A.1) Only "two--or at the most three—should speak, one at a time"
- A.2) "If anyone speaks in a tongue someone must interpret"
- A.3) If a translation was not available, the would be "tongue speaker" was to remain silent
- A.4) Women are not to speak in tongues at all in church
- A.5) It was sin against God to violate these commands & leaders allowing this should be ignored

B) Modern Tongue Speaking Matches An Ancient Pagan Practice, Not the Biblical Gift

Extras & Endnotes

Part II: Understanding 1 Corinthians 14

12.6: Tongues & the Contexts of 1 Corinthians 14: *Luke & Paul Were United in Their Understanding* [16 pp]

A) The Importance & Difficulty of Properly Interpreting 1 Corinthians 14**B) The Biblical Context:** *The book of Acts*

- B.1) Interpret Obscure Scripture with Clear
- B.2) 2 Types of Tongues in 1 Cor 14

B.3) Luke & Paul Were United in Their Understanding

C) The Moral Context: *Sinfulness and selfishness*

D) The Relational Context: *A deteriorating relationship*

Extras & Endnotes

12.7: Tongues & the Religious Context of 1 Corinthians 14: *Obscure Utterances in the Pagan Mystery Religions* [21 pp]

A) Tongue Utterances in Ancient Religions, Corinth, and World-wide Today

B) The Apostle's Concern of Pagan & Even Demonic Influences in the Corinthian Church

C) The Apostle's Desire to Abolish Pagan Tongue Utterances & Preserve the Gift of Tongues

Extras & Endnotes

12.8: Tongues & the Greek Text of 1 Corinthians 14: *Not Everything Spiritual is Holy* [12 pp]

A) Not All Spiritual Manifestations are Holy: *The unknown pneumatika vs. the authentic charismata*

B) Not All Tongues are Christian: *The unknown glosse vs. the Christian glossais*

Extras & Endnotes

12.9: Is There a "Super Prayer" Gift?: *Understanding 1 Corinthians 14:2 & 28* [13 pp]

A) Biblical Problems with Praying in a Tongue

B) Historical Problems with Praying in a Tongue

C) Practical Problems with Praying in a Tongue

Extras & Endnotes

12.10: Was the Gift of Tongues Meant to be Self-edifying?: *Understanding 1 Corinthians 14:4* [12 pp]

A) The charge of self-edification was a rebuke to the selfish Corinthians

B) Real spiritual gifts are for the edification of others

C) Edification requires understanding

Extras & Endnotes

12.11: Did the Apostles & Christ Teach Mindless Prayer?: *Understanding 1 Corinthians 14:14-15* [13 pp]

- A) The Apostle Paul's Instruction to Pray With Our Spirit *and* Mind:** *1 Cor 14:15*
- B) The Apostle Peter's Instruction to Pray With Our Minds:** *1 Pet 4:7*
- C) The King's Instruction to Not "Babble Like Pagans" When We Pray:** *Matt 6:5-9*

Extras & Endnotes

12.12: Answering More Questions About Tongues [10 pp]

- A) Are We All Supposed to Pray in a Tongue?:** *1 Cor 14:5*
- B) Why Did Paul Command that Tongues Not Be Forbidden?:** *1 Cor 14:39*
- C) Is the Spirit's Intercession the Gift of Tongues?** *Rom 8:26*
- D) Is "Praying in the Spirit" the Gift of Tongues?** *Jude 1:20 & Eph 6:18*
- E) Did the King Invite Us to Ask for the Gift of Tongues?** *Luke 11:13*
- F) A Paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 14:1-40**

Extras & Endnotes

Part III: Past Cessation & Explanations for Modern Tongues

12.13: The Historical Cessation of the Gift of Tongues [24 pp]

- A) The Importance & Controversy Surrounding the Cessation of Tongues**
- B) Early Church:** *Condemnation of Montanism*
- C) Fourth & Fifth Centuries:** *Augustine: "it passed away"*
- D) Middle Ages & Reformation:** *Condemnation of Jansenists*
- E) 1700-1800's:** *Condemnation of French Prophets, Irvingites, Shakers, & Mormons*
- F) Early 1900's:** *Condemnation of Pentecostals*
- G) 1980's to present:** *Gaining political popularity*
- H) Summary of the History of Tongues**

Extras & Endnotes

12.14: Legitimate & Alarming Explanations of Modern Tongues: [19 pp]

- A) The Importance of Discerning the Source of Modern "Tongues"**
- B) The Certainty of Fraud**
- C) The Likelihood of Fleshly Influences**

D) The Possibility of Demonic Influences

Extras & Endnotes