

The Biblical Purpose for TONGUES"

I Corinthians 14:20-22

INTRODUCTION:

*We are to base our beliefs on Scripture, not experience or emotional feelings.

What is the Nature of Tongues?

- A. Tongues were literal languages (Acts 2:2-11) (never gibberish or a "heavenly language")
- B. Tongues were revelatory in nature (Acts 2:11)
- C. The gift of tongues was a miraculous sign gift

What is the PURPOSE of Tongues?

SEE: I Cor. 14:20-22

- I. Tongues were given as a **SIGN** (v.22)
(*"Tongues are for a sign"*)

- II. Tongues were given as a sign to **UNBELIEVING ISRAEL** (v.21)
(*I will speak unto this people (Israel) [see: Isa.28:11-12]*)

- III. Tongues were given as a sign of **JUDGEMENT** to unbelieving Israel (v.21)

What is Wrong With Speaking in Tongues?

- A. Today's "tongues" is wrong,
because it is encouraged for everyone.

- B. Today's "tongues" is wrong,
because it is interpreted as proof of spiritual maturity.

- C. Today's "tongues" is wrong,
because it is claimed to be the sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**D. Today's "tongues" is wrong,
because it is not practiced according to the rules laid down in
Scripture.**

1. First: Tongues speaking must acknowledge the Lordship of Christ (I Cor. 12:3).
2. Second: There must be an interpreter (I Cor. 14:5, 27, 28).
Edification was necessary if the gift was to be exercised in the church (I Cor. 14:3, 4, 5, 6, 17, 19).
3. Third: The "tongues" speaker must realize that "tongues" is not a priority gift (I Cor. 14:19); therefore, boasting of such a gift is unwarranted.
4. Fourth: Tongues should be exercised in the presence of unbelieving Jews (I Cor. 14:21-22).
Jews require a "sign" (I Cor. 1:22).
The sign gift of tongues was to "this people" (I Cor. 14:21 - Israel).
5. Fifth: No more than three persons may exercise this gift at any one meeting (I Cor. 14:27).
6. Sixth: Women are not to speak with tongues in church (I Cor. 14:34, 35).
7. Seventh: The gift must be governed by love (I Cor. 13:1), and by orderliness (I Cor. 14:40).

**E. Today's "tongues" is wrong,
because God said "Tongues would cease" (I Cor. 13:8).**

Three explanations for modern day tongues:

1. **Intentional counterfeit**
2. **Psychological counterfeit**
3. **Satanic counterfeit**