

The Twenty Two Scriptural Values of Speaking in Tongues

(What is the value of the gift of tongues? Who would need or want it?"— Personal Testimony)

1. **It is a supernatural way that the deepest part of you, your spirit, is fully released to worship God.**
What is the verb in this passage? I Cor. 14:14-15; I Thes 5:23 [Psychology is based on an erroneous assumption that your intellect is the center of you! [You must see that "tongue's is prayer by your spirit; this will change your whole concept. [Have you ever been hurt in your spirit? [The Gift of tongues is the prayer part of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit!]] [It is not gibberish, it is prayer.]
2. **It is a supernatural way to sing to the Lord Jesus, a new song of the Lord!** I Cor: 14:15
3. **It is a supernatural way to bless others with the Spirit, in the Spirit.** I Cor. 14:16
Notice the phrase "occupy the room of the unlearned" (Greek idiots = ignoramus, illiterate, uneducated.
4. **It is a supernatural way to give thanks well to God -- to keep a thankful spirit!** I Cor. 14:17
5. **It is a supernatural way to enhance your private devotions.** I Cor 14:18-20.
6. **It is a supernatural sign to those who do not believe in the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** I Cor 14:22
7. **Praying in tongues is a supernatural means of staying free from contamination by the ungodly filthy, talk and actions while at work or school.** *You can secretly, silently, speak to yourself and God. It builds a wall shutting everything out. You can shut out unbelief and criticism also. I Cor 14:18 [John Osteen Illustration] [Five ways to resist the devil: silence, rebuke, rebellion, quote Scripture and praying in the spirit!]*
8. **It is a supernatural way to speak mysteries to God which the devil can not understand.**
(The only way he could understand, would be, that God gave him the interpretation). I Cor. 14:2; I Cor 13:1--This passage is a reference to an angelic language.
9. **It is a supernatural way to build yourself up in the inner man.**
This eliminates selfishness from prayers; it is a perfect prayer coming from you spirit. I Cor 14:3-4
10. **It is a supernatural way to give a prophetic message to edify the whole church.** I Cor: 14:5, 39.
Do you agree with Paul? This message is for a particular person/group, and for a particular situation.
11. **The Gift of tongues brings the "rest" of the Lord to those who are weary, yet they would not hear.**
I Cor 14:21; compare Isa 28:11-12 and (Heb 4:9-10).
12. **It is a heavenly "refreshing" that lets the Holy Spirit's life i.e. His fruit flow into you.**
Isa 28:11-12; compare Gal 5:22-23. [Speaking in tongues is a Holy Ghost coffee break]
13. **It is a way of preaching the wonderful works of God in a language you never learned.** Acts 2:1-13.
14. **It is a supernatural way of praise and worship -- a supernatural way of magnifying God.**
Acts 10:44-46. Since it is worship, it is one of the most important gifts enabling you to express love to Jesus. [If it is a way to worship, who cares if it is the evidence of anything—you want it.]
15. **It is a supernatural way to make intercession according to the will of God, when you do not know how to pray.** Rom 8:26-27, "with groanings that can not be uttered" or articulated in a known language.
[Anna Flowers--Swahili--Ruby the missionary in Africa.]
16. **It is a means of watching in prayer—God gives visions or mental pictures while you intercede for others.**
Eph. 6:18 [Prayer is the seventh piece of armor in spiritual warfare!]
17. **It is a supernatural way to build yourself up in the most holy faith.** [Jude 20-21]
Faith is the only item listed both as a fruit and gift of the Holy Spirit.
18. **It is a supernatural way to keep yourself in the love of God.** [Jude 20-21] See also Rom 5:5 [When you feel resentment rising up—do three things: shut up; pray in tongues secretly; and do not speak until God speaks.]
19. **It is a supernatural way of staying full of the Holy Spirit!** *It is much more than the evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. When a person states that tongues is the evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, it is a watered down statement. They have understated the truth. It is the divinely appointed prayer method by which you get refilled every day and thereby live full of the Holy Spirit constantly. [Zechariah 4:6] [Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 13:9]*
20. **The gift of tongues is the gateway into all the other gifts of the Holy Spirit, since it is prayer.**
When you pray in tongues the Holy Spirit begins to flow in revelation and power. [See I Cor 12:7-11] I have found that praying in tongues is the key to moving in the three revelation gifts.
21. **It is the supernatural way of taming the tongue.** [James 3:1-10.] *The tongue that has cursed, argued, complained, gossiped, slandered, been guilty of backbiting, boasting, and all kinds of foolishness is at last tamed. A person praying in the spirit can pray a perfect prayer of praise and intercession. Ironically, the unruly member is the only member of the body that can be perfect before the rapture.*
22. **It is a unique spiritual gift identified with the New Testament Church, being the fulfillment of the prophecy by Jesus that believers would speak in tongues.** [Mk 16:17] *All the gifts of the Holy Spirit, including miracles, deliverance, and healing occurred in the Old Testament. The two exceptions are speaking in tongues and the interpretation of tongues. Thus these two gifts are identified with the N. T. Church, the Body of Jesus Christ!!!*

A number of years ago I was on an extended fast, preaching a series of meetings in a Midwestern town. While I was waiting on the Lord, God said to me, “Open My Word and I will show you the scriptural values of praying in tongues.” I opened my Bible and this came to me all in one afternoon. I didn’t get any of this from a book; it’s what the Lord gave to me that day.

When people ask us, “Who needs tongues, or what good is it?” we should not get angry—it is a valid question. Instead of getting upset, we should be prepared to give a clear, concise and biblical response.

It is a supernatural way for your spirit to be released to worship God

1 Corinthians 14:14 says, “*If I pray in a tongue my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.*” The verb in that sentence is not tongues; it is “pray.” If I *pray* in a tongue, my spirit *prays*. The fact that this is prayer automatically makes it important. Unless you are a person who thinks prayers are useless.

Tongues is a supernatural way for the deepest part of you, your spirit, to be fully released in worship of God. In America, we assume that the brain is the most important part of a person. We put our little kids on the school bus at age five, and send them off to program their brains. But, no one ever talks about training the human spirit.

God’s Word says the deepest part of you is not your mind. The Greek word for “soul” is “psuche.” Psychology says the center of you is your psyche, or your soul. Medical science as a whole treats mankind as two-dimensional: body and soul. But, the Bible says you are a body, soul and spirit and that the deepest part of you is your spirit. When you pray with your mind, the deepest part of your center is not praying! Paul said, “If I pray with the spirit, the deepest part of me prays, but my mind cannot understand.” By praying in the spirit, or in other tongues, you can always go a step deeper than your intellect.

When somebody does evil against you, you don’t just get hurt in your soul. You get injured in your spirit. It is deeper than your mind, deeper than your brain, even deeper than your emotions. People get wounded in their spirits. Jesus said, “*I am come to heal the broken hearted and set at liberty those that are bruised.*” He was talking about people’s spirits, which affects your mind and emotions.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 tells us, “*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” Notice the order. It says, “whole spirit, soul and body.” Wholeness begins at the spirit. And, tongues allows the deepest part of you to pray. Its inner healing begins.

It is a supernatural way to sing a new song to our Lord Jesus

1 Corinthians 14:15 says, *“What is the result then? I will pray with the spirit. I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.”*

Paul was saying here, “I refuse to be limited! I will pray with my spirit and I will also pray with my mind. I will express myself to God through both outlets.” Singing in tongues is a powerful way to worship the Lord. With just these two methods of supernatural communication, singing and prayer in the Spirit, how could anyone say that tongues is the least of the gifts?

Tongues is the unique gift identified with the New Testament

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover,” (Mark 16:17-18).

Of all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, only the gift of tongues and the interpretation of tongues are unique to the New Testament. Examples of all of the other gifts can be found in the Old Testament. The only two gifts that are not present in the Old Testament are speaking in tongues and the interpretation of a tongue. In some ways, we could say that if you don't believe in tongues and the interpretation of tongues, as far as supernatural things of the Spirit go, you are an Old Testament Christian.

Now, there are obviously other things different about the New Covenant. The Messiah has now come. The Messiah has died and risen on the third day. We have a better mediator in Jesus, (Hebrews 8:6). We have a better covenant based on better promises. But in the realm of the grace gifts, only tongues and the interpretation of tongues are unique in the New Testament following the New Birth as an experience.

It is a supernatural way to bless others in the Spirit

1 Corinthians 14:16, *“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 are saying?”* The phrase, “occupies the room of the unlearned,” in the Greek language flows from the word “idiotus,” from which we get the word “idiot” today. The literal translation would be: “occupy the room of the idiots.” It could be translated illiterate, uneducated, ignoramus, and

moron and so on. The point he is making is that these people just do not understand... yet!

I occupied that room as a Baptist pastor for 10 years. I was ignorant when it came to the gifts. I was saved. I was sincere. It was a good “brother in the Lord,” too. All of those things were true in my life. But when it came to the gifts of God and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, I didn’t know very much. I occupied the room of the idiots. I can be mean about myself in saying that today... because looking back... it was a humorous aspect. But it really was quite serious.

There are wonderful Christians who are in that room now. We don’t have to be mean about it, but it is still a fact. The truth is, we’ve all spent time in that room.

It is a supernatural way to maintain a thankful spirit!

“For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified,” (1 Corinthians 14:17).

Paul says speaking in tongues is a way not only to bless but to give thanks. You can lay your hands on someone, pray over them in tongues, and bless them! You can bless people! You can bless your children before they go to school. You can bless people without even laying hands on them! It is the way to give thanks well. Speak to God in tongues and give Him thanks.

It is a supernatural way to enhance your private devotions

“I thank my God I speak in tongues more than you all. Yet in the church I would rather speak five words to my understanding that I may teach others also than ten thousand in a tongue,” (1 Corinthians 14:18-20).

Paul is saying that tongues are primarily a private devotion gift and prayer tool. In the church or in a public forum I would much rather speak in a known language. But when I am alone in my prayer closet, and I need answers, I will pray with my spirit and with my understanding.

A supernatural sign to those who do not believe in the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

“Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers. But prophesying is not for unbelievers, but for those who believe,” (1 Corinthians 14:22).

I’m going to put a spin on this that you may not agree with. If you don’t, that is perfectly okay with me. Just consider this for a moment. I don’t necessarily think Paul is talking about believing for salvation here. I think he’s talking about

believing in the Baptism. Because that is the context of the passage. The whole context is about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. Paul is saying, "Tongues is a sign not to those who believe in the Baptism, but to those who don't believe. Prophesying is not for unbelievers in the Baptism, but for those who believe in the Baptism."

That has come to be my understanding of that verse. And although other people might see it differently, I think it deserves consideration... the clue to the meaning is always in the context.

Praying in tongues is a supernatural means of resisting the devil

1 Corinthians 14:28 says, "*If there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church and let him speak to himself and to God.*"

You can blot out everything around you and just have a direct relationship with the Lord by praying in the Spirit... momentarily blind. No one even knows that you are speaking. While you're at work, you're not going to speak out for interpretation; it is just between you and God. Just turn it on and live free of all the garbage surrounding you.

Let me give you an illustration. John Osteen is a great Texas Baptist minister. He was standing in line to pay His gas bill while another fellow in front of him was expressing his anger toward the gas company. He began to "four letter" cuss and scream and yell. Brother Osteen said the whole room turned blue with this guy's anger and obscene language. John clicked on the tongues and then out loud he suddenly said, "Hold it, wait a minute. Praise god, hallelujah, and glory to Jesus. Bless Your Holy Name." Everyone in the place turned and looked at him like he was nuts and he said, "I just wanted equal time!"

There was filth and everything all around him and still he tuned in to God. He just gave the interpretation which was worship and praise. We need for God to have equal time in a lot of our work situations today. We must resist the devil and I know of five particularly effective ways to do this:

1. Speaking in tongues
2. Ignoring the devil
3. Rebuking the devil
4. Rebelling against the devil
5. Quoting scripture

Most Christians think that the only way to resist the devil is rebuking, "I rebuke you." Jesus did that when He was angry with Peter about His going to Calvary. In the wilderness Jesus quoted scripture, but there are at least five ways right here. Meditate on them and think about it.

I primarily like to use rebellion against the devil. Do exactly the opposite of whatever the devil is pressuring you to do. Everyone likes to rebel, and this flavor of rebellion is not against God, but the devil. You want to punch somebody out? Bake them a cake instead. And make sure it is a good cake!

A supernatural way to speak mysteries to God which the devil can not understand

“He who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, howbeit in the spirit he speaks mysteries,” (1 Corinthians 14:2).

God said to me one day, “The only way the devil could possibly know what you were saying is if I gave him the gift of interpretation... and that is not going to happen!”

It is a supernatural way to build up your inner man

“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself. But he who prophesies edifies the church.” If you are praying in tongues, it is a perfect prayer. A lot of our understood prayers are selfish and very limited. They are not perfect. Verse 5, *“I wish you all spoke with tongues. But even more that you prophesy. For he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless he interprets that the church may receive edification,”* (1 Corinthians 14:5).

A tongue and an interpretation together are like the two nickels that equal a dime. Prophecy here is the dime. A tongue with an interpretation ends up being equal in value to prophecy. And when someone speaks out in tongues legitimately, if they will but ask for it, God will often give them the gift of interpretation. It brings the prophetic aspect of ministry alive in a powerful way.

It is a supernatural way to give a prophetic message which will edify the whole church

Now we know from scripture that God desires that all of us move in the gifts of prophecy. Prophecy is when God gives a specific message for a particular person or group, on a particular occasion. That prophecy will bring comfort, edification, revelation or empowerment to those whom it is intended.

Tongues brings the “rest” of the Lord to those who are weary

“In the law it is written: ‘With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; and yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,’ says the Lord,” (1 Corinthians 14:21). This New Testament scripture comes from Isaiah 28:11, *“For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people.”*

“To whom He said, ‘This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,’ And, ‘This is the refreshing’; Yet they would not hear.”

Many today are weary, and the prayer language is a way to tap into God’s rest.

Have you ever awakened from a fitful night’s rest? It is so refreshing to wake... fully energized and refreshed for the coming day. Tongues is a heavenly “refreshing” that allows the Holy Spirit’s life to flow into you.

The best way to refresh yourself is to enter into that spiritual level of refreshing by praying in the Spirit. And as you pray in the Spirit, your emotions, mind and body will be refreshed. This is because you tap into the energy of God down at the spiritual level. God Himself said it, *“This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest.”*

It is a Holy Ghost coffee break!

It will do more for you than any nap ever could. A nap may refresh your body, but when you pray in the Spirit you refresh your entire being. What a tremendous tool!

In 1 and 2 Timothy we read, *“Neglect not the gift that’s within you,”* (1 Timothy 4:14) and *“Stir up the gift that’s within you,”* (2 Timothy 1:6). As with every Gift of God, we need to stir up the gift of tongues within us. I don’t write this to tickle your intellect, but to release you in God. Understanding this will help you move forward powerfully in God.

A way of preaching the wonderful works of God in a language you never learned

Most everyone is familiar with the events surrounding the Day of Pentecost. If you read the story in Acts 2:1-47, in the King James, we read, *“the Holy Spirit fell on them all and they all began speaking in tongues and it was noised abroad.”* You see after they were baptized in the Holy Spirit it was not till several hours later that they spoke the Gospel in other unknown languages. The initial outpouring so shocked everybody that they spread all over Jerusalem getting the crowds together. When all were gathered together there was one person speaking, Peter, but 14 different languages were heard!

You may ask, “Why doesn’t that happen today?” Well, it does!

At the Evangelistic Center in Kansas City, Missouri, one day a man stood up, gave a mighty message in tongues but it wasn’t interpreted. It was assumed that everybody was completely out of order.

But it turned out there was a Jewish Rabbi in the service. He said to the pastor, “I want you to tell me about this man.

Has he ever had training in Hebrew?"

The Pastor said, "No, he hasn't even been to college. He's just basically an average Joe. Why do you ask?"

The Rabbi answered, "He was speaking in perfect Hebrew saying that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is coming back soon." This is evidence that people today do give messages that are in known languages that they themselves do not understand.

It is a supernatural way to magnify God

Acts chapter 10:46, "*They heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.*" So it is a supernatural way of worship and praise.

It is a supernatural way to intercede when you do not know how to pray

Romans 8:26-27 says, "*We can pray with groaning that cannot be uttered or articulated in a known language. The Spirit of God will pray according to the will of God.*"

We had a woman in our church who was a Registered Nurse at the local Hospital. Her name was Anna Flowers. One day as she was doing her dishes and drying her hands on a towel the Spirit fell on her and she began to speak in a harsh and guttural language; something totally different from her normal prayer language. It shocked her and disturbed her a bit. She said, "God, what was that language?"

God simply replied, "Swahili." She called me and asked, "Where do people speak Swahili?"

I answered, "Well, Swahili is spoken in some parts of Africa."

To make a short story out of it, several months later we found that at the exact time when she had that season of spiritual intercession in tongues, they were loading an Assemblies of God missionary with breast cancer onto an airplane which would fly her back to the United States to die. The woman did not die. Instead she was healed at that precise moment. That was a totally amazing experience... demonstrating that God does in fact move in mysterious ways.

It brings visions and mental pictures while you intercede

In Ephesians 6:18 we see that the purpose of the armor in spiritual warfare is prayer. You rarely hear anybody talking about, "*praying always with all supplication in the spirit, being watchful to this end, with all perseverance and*

supplication for all the saints.” Yet all of the armor is to be taken up as an adjunct to the purpose of “praying always” in the Spirit.

It is good to have the shield of faith. It is good to have your loins girded with truth. It is wonderful having your feet shod with the Gospel of peace. However, an army stands or falls with its line of communication. When a squadron gets cut off and out of communication with its command, people always die and missions are unsuccessful. Without communication you can’t direct the artillery. Air support can’t be called in... and today... we need air support.

The same is true in the Spirit. Nothing is more important to spiritual warfare than intercession. Here Paul says to us, “*praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit being watchful.*” Today that would read, “See to it that you always do this above anything else.”

If you have a teenager in trouble, pray in tongues and into your mind will come mental pictures of God’s analysis of the situation. It could be your pastor or someone in your church who is struggling. He not only has a better plan... but a victory plan! It could be a relative. It could be somebody at work. God wants to show you what is going on and work with you to bring victory to others.

A supernatural way to build yourself up

How many folks do you think would like to have more faith? There are at least two ways to increase your faith. The one we hear about most often is, “*Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,*” (Romans 10:17). We’ve all seen how reading the Bible can bring about a sudden surge of faith in God.

But Jude 20 says, “*But you beloved, building yourself up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.*”

We don’t hear about this aspect of building and releasing faith really so much and it’s too bad. When you pray in the Spirit, you are on the Spirit level where faith begins to flow into you. That is why it is always good to pray in tongues as you pray for someone’s healing. Pray in the Spirit a while and let faith start to flow.

It is a supernatural way to keep yourself in the love of God

Jude 21, “*Praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God.*” Praying in tongues will fill you with both faith and love. Have you ever felt anger come up your esophagus? You can just feel it rising up. Can you identify with that? The Lord once told me to do three things in response to this sensation: “Shut up, pray in tongues, and don’t say anything until I do!”

Now, that is how to control your temper! Bite your lip, pray in tongues silently – so folks don't know what you're doing – and don't say a word until you get a word of wisdom. I have found it will work every time. God always knows exactly what to say and do in every situation.

It is a supernatural way of staying full of the Holy Spirit!

Jesus once said to me, “When people say that tongues is the evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, they are misunderstanding the issue. When you teach that, people will pray in tongues that one day and never use it again.” Jesus said, “Tongues is far more than evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. It is the supernatural means of staying filled with Me.”

My wife and I were praying for a lady once who was having all kinds of problems. My wife asked, “Do you have the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?”

She said, “Yes I do.”

“Do you pray in tongues regularly?”

The lady said, “I prayed in tongues when I got the Baptism 18 years ago.”

We were shocked!

It is akin to being a military officer with an automatic sidearm that has been fired but once. Can you imagine a fighter pilot who never flies again once he gets his “wings?” It just doesn't happen! A military man who never uses his weapons will lead his men into captivity! Looks kind of like the church today doesn't it? Many have been taught this fallacy: the “tongues are a trophy” in our Christian walk.

This lady had been taught that tongues is the evidence and that once you have the evidence, you can just lay it on a shelf like a trophy.

Tongues is so much more. You've got to use that gift every day on the way to work, when you get up in the morning and whenever a problem comes.

Now, tongues is an evidence of the Baptism, but not just evidence. It is the prayer part. There are some people who have the Baptism in the Holy Spirit but have not yet spoken in tongues. But, if you refuse to exercise the prayer part of the Baptism, you will miss so much.

The gift of tongues is the gateway to operating in all the other gifts of the Holy Spirit

“As it is written, eye hath not seen nor ear heard nor hath entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him,” (1 Corinthians 2:9). We often hear this scripture misquoted and applied at funerals but it has absolutely nothing to do with funerals. It’s the next verse that explains this, *“but God has revealed them to us through the Spirit.”*

The Spirit searches all the deep things of God. That includes gifts (power) and fruit (character). *“Yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?”*

What is your spirit like? What is my spirit like? If you do not know my spirit, you cannot know me. This says it is the same with God. *“No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”*

This verse says that the Spirit of God is the revealer of all things. The best way to tap into a revelation is to get in the Spirit. And the best way to do this is to pray in the Spirit. Suddenly the hidden things are revealed!

It is the supernatural way of taming the tongue

I think just about every Christian has read James 3 where it says, *“The tongue no man can tame.”* Your tongue has gossip, slander, complaints, and a whiny tone and often it curses. Isn’t it ironic that when you get the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, the one part of us that can be made perfect in this life is our tongue? It can be “tamed” and we can pray a perfect prayer, releasing perfect worship and establish God’s will in the Earth.

Wouldn’t you be disappointed if after you were filled with the Holy Spirit God said He was just going to leave your tongue just as it was? God has not done that my friend. He says, *“I will reverse what happened at the tower of Babel. I will tame your tongue,”* which James says is *“full of deadly poison.”*

Tongues is that one unique spiritual gift identified with the New Testament Church. It is the unique fulfilling event of Jesus’ own prophecy about His Church. With the exception of tongues and the interpretation of tongues, all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, including miracles of healing, occurred first at times recorded in the Old Testament... But these two gifts were given specifically to the Church, the Body of Jesus Christ!!!