

The Importance of Praying in Tongues (Part 2)

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Scripture References

1 Corinthians 14:1-3, <i>MSG</i>	Romans 8:26, 27, <i>AMP</i>
Philippians 4:7	Isaiah 48:17, <i>NLT</i>
1 Corinthians 14:2, <i>AMPC</i>	Psalms 32:8, <i>AMP</i>
James 1:5, <i>TLB</i>	Mark 7:13

Summary

Most people do not understand how to pray in the Holy Spirit or the advantages this kind of prayer gives them. Tongues brings us closer to God and gives us access to supernatural understanding. We are in spiritual warfare with the devil; when we feel stress and pressure from the enemy, praying in tongues gives us peace. It allows us to speak to God even when we do not have the right words to utter. Life can be unpredictable and relying on our own understanding can lead us down a blind alley. Praying in the Spirit makes God's infinite wisdom available to us so that He can lead us down the correct path. Religion has no comprehension of this kind of prayer, though it puts us in touch with tremendous power. When we yield to God in this way and are willing to let Him lead us, we begin seeing amazing results we cannot logically explain.

A. Tongues deepens and strengthens our relationship with God; we speak directly with Him.

1. Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it—because it does. Give yourselves to the gifts God gives you. Most of all, try to proclaim his truth. If you praise him in the private language of tongues, God understands you but no one else does, for you are sharing intimacies just between you and him. But when you proclaim his truth in everyday speech, you're letting *others* in on the truth so that they can grow and be strong and experience his presence with you (1 Corinthians 14:1-3, *MSG*).
 - a. Praying in tongues opens the door to deeper intimacy with God; a Christian life is all about a personal relationship with Him.
 - b. In the midst of spiritual attacks, praying in tongues gives us peace and refreshes us.
 - c. The enemy tries to steal our peace. However, when we pray in tongues the peace of God, which passes all understanding, begins flowing through our hearts and minds (Philippians 4:7).
2. For one who speaks in an [unknown] tongue speaks not to men but to God, for no one understands *or* catches his meaning, because in the [Holy] Spirit he utters secret truths *and* hidden things [not obvious to the understanding] (1 Corinthians 14:2, *AMPC*).
 - a. *Speaking* in tongues allows us to have a direct conversation with God, with no one else involved. The *gift* of tongues is the ability to speak in tongues and follow up with an interpretation for others to understand.
3. If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him; he will not resent it (James 1:5, *TLB*).

- a. Praying in tongues releases wisdom and directions for our lives. It also enables us to ask God for what we need when we don't have the right words; it is praying the perfect prayer.

B. Praying in the Spirit helps us overcome our weaknesses and allows God to lead us.

1. In the same way the Spirit [comes to us and] helps us in our weakness. We do not know what prayer to offer *or* how to offer it as we should, but the Spirit Himself [knows our need and at the right time] intercedes on our behalf with sighs *and* groanings too deep for words. And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because the Spirit intercedes [before God] on behalf of God's people in accordance with God's will (Romans 8:26, 27, *AMP*).
 - a. We may not know we need to pray at all; and even if we *are* aware of it, we might not have the right words. These are weaknesses of the flesh. Praying in tongues helps us overcome those weaknesses.
2. This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is good for you and leads you along the paths you should follow” (Isaiah 48:17, *NLT*).
 - a. God actually needs us to pray; we must never ignore the Holy Spirit's prompting to do so. Praying in the Spirit allows God to lead us down the path we should follow.
3. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you [who are willing to learn] with My eye upon you (Psalm 32:8, *AMP*).
 - a. We live in an environment in which people are unwilling to learn; this translates into people coming to church simply to “do church.” In order to live successfully we must be willing to learn from God.
 - b. God's promise to lead us is contingent on our willingness to learn; we must always be students of His grace.
 - c. Religion has made people unwilling to learn; they have put up a fence around their religious traditions.
 - d. Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye (Mark 7:13).

Category: prayer

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