

# **The Benefits of Speaking, Praying in Tongues**

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## **The Holy Spirit Baptism A Good Gift from the Lord**

Prior to the study of The Benefits of Praying in the Spirit (other tongues), allow me to share some related thoughts regarding the Baptism with the Holy Spirit based upon Psalm 23:5 which says:

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup runs over.”

It is my understanding that there will be no enemies in Heaven. To have a table placed before us in the presence of our enemies must be to have a table placed before us now, today. Isn't it wonderful to realize the Lord Our Shepherd has, now in this time, set a table before us? Upon that table, He has placed everything needed pertaining to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). What do you need today? It's on the table. Lord, thank you that salvation and eternal life are mine today. Lord, thank you for a fresh baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire today. Thank you for manifesting the fruit of your Spirit through me today. Thank you for manifesting the gifts of your Spirit through me today. Lord, thank you for an infusion of Holy Spirit power to tread upon the devil and his devices. Thank you that all my needs are met today. Thank you for a fresh cup of joy and peace. Lord, thank you that healing is mine today. Lord, thank you for every good and perfect gift that I've experienced and all those that await me (James 1:17).

Did you notice that there is also upon this table an anointing with oil to the point of running over? The anointing with oil poured upon the head has direct reference to the manner in which Old Covenant servants of the Lord were anointed for service by pouring oil upon their heads to the point of having the anointing oil run down upon their face, beard and garments (Psalm 133). I believe this declaration also has New Covenant applicability in the sense that it prophetically describes the anointing of the Holy Spirit that was poured upon all flesh on the Day of Pentecost? On that day we know the Holy Spirit anointing

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came upon believers to the point of overflow and they spoke with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4). Our Lord placed Salvation and the Holy Spirit infilling, our cups overflowing with the water of the Holy Spirit, on the table He prepared for us. In the very presence of our enemies, all the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Darkness, our Lord gave us the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit to defeat them!

"And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. Your old men shall dream dreams. Your young men shall see visions. And, also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days" (Joel 2:28-29).

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified" (John 7:38-39).

Both Joel and Jesus prophesied a future time when the Spirit of God would be poured upon, and into, men, women, boys and girls. Joel says some of the symptoms of this experience would be prophecy, dreams and visions. Jesus provides additional insight regarding this experience. He says it will be a post-resurrection time when believers in Him will experience an overflow of the Holy Spirit such that out of their hearts, inner man, there would be a gushing forth of living water, the water of the Holy Spirit! Peter added the ability to speak in other tongues to the list of symptoms that accompanied the Holy Spirit outpouring (Acts 2:16).

It is most important for a believer to grasp the truth that having the Holy Spirit flow forth from his innermost being is life producing! Jesus referred to a living flow of Holy Spirit water. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Life, the Spirit of Zoe, the very life of God. Paul said in Romans 8:11, "If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus

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from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, and the flow of Him out from our innermost beings, is a life producing experience. Life is produced in our spirits, souls, and bodies.

Luke 24:49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Acts 1:5, 8 "...for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now...But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Jesus adds more insight. The baptism, infilling, of the Holy Spirit will be an enduement of power, the very power and ability of God, because the Holy Spirit is God. To be endued with power is to be saturated with God's power and ability in every fibre and cell of your being! The root meaning of the passage is to be saturated like fabric dipped in hot dye. One cannot separate the fabric from the dye or the dye from the fabric. The Holy Spirit baptism is saturation to the point of running over with God's power and ability.

Acts 2:1-4 Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Here we have the event which inaugurated the church age. Jesus ascended to the Father's right hand and subsequently poured the Holy Spirit into/upon His disciples. They had already received the Holy Spirit (John 20:22). Now, they

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were baptized, immersed, filled to overflowing with Him. Out of their hearts, innermost beings, came forth the river of living water which Jesus had prophesied. A physical, naturally detectable, symptom of this life producing flow was Holy Spirit empowered utterance in other tongues.

Glossa is the Greek word translated tongues when the New Testament refers to speaking in other tongues. Glossa literally means a language not naturally acquired. When one speaks in other tongues as the Holy Spirit gives him utterance, he is speaking a language given supernaturally by God. He is not speaking a language naturally known or learned.

From the preceding, we learn that the pouring forth of the Holy Spirit is accompanied by prophecy, dreams, visions, empowerment with God's ability for witnessing (demonstrating the reality of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), and a flowing forth from the spirit of man a life producing flow of living water. This flow of living water is physically symptomized by a flow of other tongues as the Holy Spirit gives the utterance.

That all these phenomena are results of the Holy Spirit outpouring that Joel predicted is confirmed by Acts 2:16. "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel..." Jesus is the Source of this Holy Spirit outpouring as verified in Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, and John 1:33. Jesus is the One who pours forth the baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire.

If you question the availability of the baptism or infilling of the Holy Spirit now, thousands of years after Pentecost, consider these scriptures:

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him" (Luke 11:13).

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"Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:37-39).

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb 13:8).

Peter plainly says that the gift of the Holy Spirit is available not just to those present on the day of Pentecost, but to all who are afar off, to as many as the Lord will call. Have you been called to salvation through Christ Jesus? Are you born-again? If so, you are eligible to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit must, at least, include the baptism of the Holy Spirit, if it is not a direct reference to Holy Spirit baptism itself. I say this because the entirety of the chapter deals with the outpouring and manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Since Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever; if He baptized believers in the Holy Spirit in times past, He must be doing it now. Otherwise, He has changed!

If you wish to learn more about the baptism with or in the Holy Spirit, go to [jsmithmin.org](http://jsmithmin.org), click on Bible Studies and look for the teaching entitled Holy Spirit Baptism. The remainder of this study will be devoted to the benefits of praying in new or other tongues after you've received the Holy Spirit baptism. Remember that Jesus said, "These signs will follow those who believe...they will speak with new tongues" (Mark 16:17). If Jesus said believers would speak in new tongues, there must be Godly reasons for doing so. Here are some of them.

### **The Benefit of Praying in the Spirit or Praying in other Tongues**

Acts 2:11 "...we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

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Acts 10:44-46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

These verses tell you that to speak with tongues is to speak of the wonderful works of God and to magnify Him. Praying in the Spirit magnifies and exalts God and His mighty works! What is worship in Spirit and Truth (John 4:23-24) if it is not allowing the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, to speak through you the wonderful works of God and to magnify Him in other tongues?

1 Cor 14:15 I will pray with the spirit (*in tongues*), and I will also pray with the understanding (*natural language*). I will sing with the spirit (*in tongues*), and I will also sing with the understanding (*natural language*).

John 4:23-24 Jesus said, "The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

The Father is seeking those who will worship Him in spirit and truth. Could there be a more glorious means of doing that than allowing the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, to worship the Father through you as He gives you the utterance?

**Would you like to magnify the Lord, speak of His mighty wonderful works, and worship Him above and beyond what is possible with your natural language? Then pray, sing, and worship in other tongues as the Holy Spirit enables you, as He gives you the utterance.**

1 Cor 14:4 (Amp) He who speaks in a tongue edifies and improves himself...

Jude 20-21 (Amp) But you, beloved, build yourselves up founded on your most holy faith—make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher—praying in the Holy Spirit; guard and keep yourselves in the love of God...

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Would you like to be built up spiritually? Would you like to be built up in your faith? Would you like to have your spirit man rise up in faith like an edifice, higher and higher? Then, give yourself to prayer in the spirit, prayer in other tongues, as the Holy Spirit gives you the utterance.

**Just as you exercise your body to gain physical strength, you can gain spiritual strength, build up your faith, rise like an edifice spiritually, and keep yourself in the love of God by exercising your spirit through praying in other tongues.**

“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts...For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God...” (1 Cor 14:1-3).

God is Spirit and communication with Him is a spiritual transaction. Prayer in tongues is the Holy Spirit empowered spirit of man communing with God. It is deep calling to deep. It is spirit to Spirit communication. It is speaking to God. It is being built up, strengthened, spiritually. It is exercising the spirit man (John 4:24, Prov 20:27, Ps 18:28).

“In the spirit he speaks mysteries” (1 Cor 14:2).

“In the (Holy) Spirit he utters secret truths and hidden things [not obvious to the understanding]” (1 Cor 14:2 Amp).

**When you pray in the spirit, in other tongues, you are speaking to God! You’re praying His language! You begin to receive spiritual revelation, the mysteries of God and His Kingdom are increasingly opened to you. You receive revelation knowledge directly the Lord. The Holy Spirit opens the eyes of your spiritual understanding.**

This is all in accordance with the prayers prayed by Paul in Ephesians 1:16-21, 3:14-21, and Colossians 1:9-14. Paul said, “I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, that the eyes of your understanding be enlightened...” Also, Paul prayed that each believer would be filled with the knowledge of God, with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding... Who is the spirit of wisdom, knowledge, and revelation? It is the Spirit of 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” (1 Cor 2:11-12).

As you pray in the spirit, you are built up spiritually and you become more “in-tune” with God who is Spirit. I believe He is always desirous of communicating truth, understanding, knowledge, and direction to us. However, we may be so dull of spiritual hearing, so weak spiritually, that we miss His communiqués, the secret truths He wants to reveal. God is the source of all wisdom, knowledge, revelation, and enlightenment. He loves His children and wants to reveal Himself and His hidden nuggets of truth to us, but we may need to build ourselves up spiritually to be better attuned to His voice.

“In Him (Christ) all the treasures of divine wisdom [of comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God], and [all the riches of spiritual] knowledge and enlightenment are stored up and lie hidden” (Col 2:3 Amp). And, Jesus wants to share them with us! Listen to His words. “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you” (John 14:26).

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will



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tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore, I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you" (John 16:12-15).

Who is He? He is the Holy Spirit who indwells the believer. What will He do? He will speak what He hears (from the Father). He will show you things to come. He will take that which Jesus has (all the treasures of divine wisdom, insight, purposes, and knowledge of God) and declare it to you thereby bringing glory unto the Father and the Son.

**The mysteries of God have not been hidden from you. They have been hidden for you!** The disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" He answered and said to them, "Because **it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been given" (Matt 13:10-11). "For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light" (Mark 4:22). "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deut 29:28-29).

How does God reveal "His things" to us? He does it via Spirit to spirit communication, His Spirit to our spirit. The Holy Spirit of God reveals to your recreated human spirit the hidden things of God, the mysteries of His kingdom, the treasures of His wisdom, the things He has prepared for you, His plan for your life.

"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...But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

But he who is spiritual judges all things...For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ" (1 Cor 2:12).

**By virtue of the new birth you have the mind of Christ, but the mind of Christ is accessed and revealed to your spirit by the Holy Spirit.** If you are spiritually weak and feeble, you may miss the revelation of the mind of Christ as revealed by the Holy Spirit. What to do? Build yourself up in your most holy faith, rise like a spiritual edifice by praying in the Holy Spirit and by studying the word of God. Remember Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Matt 4:4-5)

God is not holding out on you. He has sent His Holy Spirit to indwell and fill you. The Holy Spirit is the One sent to enlighten your darkness. Consider these scriptures:

"Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness..." (Ps 112:4).

"The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart" (Prov 20:27).

"For You will light my lamp. The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness"  
(Ps 18:28).

"For You are my lamp, O Lord. The Lord shall enlighten my darkness"  
(2 Sam 22:29).

By His Holy Spirit communicating with our recreated human spirit, the Lord brings enlightenment to us. God is light, in Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). As you pray in tongues, a river enlightenment will flow to you.

Paul himself may be the foremost example of one who was enlightened, illumined by the Spirit. He wrote most of the epistles and he often said such things as, "I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you." "I say to you by the word of the Lord." "You have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given (*revealed*) to me for you..." Paul also said, "I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all." Is it coincidence that Paul prayed in tongues more than anyone and received more revelation from God than anyone in the New Testament (1 Thes 4:15, 1 Cor 11:23, Eph 3:21 Cor 14:18)?

**Praying in the Spirit, praying in tongues, builds your spirit man and enables you to better hear the voice of God who is Spirit. As you pray in the Spirit, the Father will increasingly enlighten you. He will show you things to come, bring to your memory things He spoke to you in the past, reveal His plan for your life, show you those things that He has prepared for you and given to you, and empower you to "walk out" His good plan for your life, the course He has made ready for you.**

Paul says, "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" Isaiah said, "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" (1 Cor 14:21, Isaiah 28:11).

As Paul is teaching regarding praying or speaking in other tongues, he refers to these words from Isaiah, "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."

Paul is saying that praying with "stammering lips and other tongues" brings rest and refreshing to the weary. Are you tired, weary? Do you need some peace

and rest? Then, give some time to praying in the Spirit, praying with stammering lips and another tongue. It will bring rest, refreshment, and, I might add, peace to your inner man. It has been my experience that the “rest of me is at ease if the inside of me is at ease.”

**During those times when the cares of this world are weighing heavy on you, when you're stressed; praying in the Spirit with stammering lips and another tongue will bring you to a state of peace and rest. I've done this hundreds of times and have never failed to be “better off” when I finish. Furthermore, as you are spiritually refreshed, you will more effectively discern the Lord speaking to you.**

Did you notice that 1 Corinthians 14:21 also says that **God will speak to people with stammering lips and another tongue?** When we speak in tongues, not only do we speak to God, but He speaks back! Sometimes He speaks to others via your “tongue.” Isn't this exactly what happened on the Day of Pentecost? The foreign visitors to Jerusalem heard the believers speak in the visitor's own languages! The languages were not understood by those who spoke, but they were understood by the listeners.

However, the Holy Spirit also uses the vocal gift of “interpretation of tongues” to speak to an audience. In his lesson (*1 Corinthians 14*) regarding the vocal gifts of the Spirit (prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues), Paul teaches that “tongues and interpretation of tongues” are a means through which God speaks to people, to a group. Therefore, says Paul, “Let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.” Each believer is exhorted to pursue love and desire (cultivate) spiritual gifts. Tongues, spoken in a proper setting, and their interpretation are spiritual gifts to be sought and practiced (1 Cor 14:1, 13). As one studies the “gift of prophecy,” it becomes apparent that the combination of tongues and interpretation of tongues accomplishes the same result as the gift of

prophecy. Nonetheless, Paul exhorts every believer to desire (*cultivate*) the gift of prophecy.

**Do you desire that God to speak to others through you? Then speak with stammering lips and another tongue! Pray for the gift of interpretation of those tongues, and desire to prophesy.**

“Likewise, **the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses**. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Rom 8:26-29).

**Is there a situation for which you know not what to pray?** The preceding verses tell us the Holy Spirit inspires our spirits to pray the perfect will of God regarding needs, weaknesses, infirmities (bad situations) for which we know not what to pray. When I’m at a loss to know what to pray in a given situation, I say, “Lord, I’m going to pray in tongues about this issue and trust that your Holy Spirit is empowering me to pray your perfect will regarding it. Furthermore, Lord, I believe you are causing everything associated with this issue (good, bad, or ugly) to work together for good. Amen”

**If we know we have prayed the perfect will of God, we are assured that our prayers will be answered!** “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him” (1 John 5:14-15)

**Praying in the Spirit (tongues) eliminates all selfishness, self-will, and carnality (fleshly natural motives) from our prayers.** How? When we pray in tongues it is not we, but the Holy Spirit who is choosing the utterances (words). My natural understanding (*mind*) is not involved in the process. Hence, any personal agenda is eliminated. Our ability to ask and not receive because we ask amiss is no longer an issue. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit knows the exact details of the issue at hand and He knows the exact will of the Father/Son regarding the issue. His prayer is exactly the one needed! “If I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit by the Holy Spirit within me prays, but my mind (*thoughts, feelings, will*) is unfruitful [*negated, not involved*]” (1 Cor 12:10, 14:14 Amp; James 4:3)!

**When we pray in other tongues as the Holy Spirit gives us the utterance, our tongues are tamed, a feat which is impossible with man.** Only truth and God’s will come forth when we yield our tongue to the Holy Spirit. James 3:8 says “No man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.” However, all things are possible with our God. As we yield our tongues to His Spirit, He does that which we cannot do. He tames our tongues. He causes them to say what He would have them say, not what we would have them say! Again, His will, not our will, is prayed!

“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. 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. 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? For **you indeed give thanks well**, but the other is not edified” (1 Cor 14:14-17).

Notice, **Paul mentions singing in the Spirit which means singing in other tongues.** How do we know? Because Paul contrasts singing with the Spirit and singing with the understanding. Throughout his teachings on vocal (speaking)

gifts, he speaks of “with the Spirit” and “with the understanding.” To pray or sing “with the understanding” is to pray or sing in our natural learned language, the one we grew up with and understand. To pray or sing in the Spirit is to pray in a language given by the Holy Spirit, not by our understanding, which is the language of “other tongues.”

**Speaking in tongues enables you to enter a new dimension of worship called singing in the Spirit! You worship the Father as the Spirit of Truth brings the words to your lips. When you’re worshipping in tongues, you’re worshipping with spiritual words given by the Spirit of Truth. Is this not the essence of worshipping in Spirit and truth (John 4:23-24)?**

**1 Corinthians 14:14-17 teaches us that to pray in tongues, to pray in the spirit, is to bless and give thanks well.** Who do we bless? To whom do we give thanks well? We bless the Lord for we have already learned that to pray in tongues is to speak to Him, to speak of His mighty acts, to magnify Him. We bless ourselves because we are spiritually edified thus better attuned to Him. The person or situation for which we are praying is blessed because we are praying the Lord’s perfect will regarding the issue at hand. Can there be a more effective prayer than the one which is prayed in total accord with His will? Finally, our effectual giving of thanks must be to the Lord for He is the One who understands what is being said when we pray in other tongues.

## **Summary of the Benefits of Praying in Tongues**

By praying in the Spirit, in other tongues...

- 1. We are doing what believers are supposed to do (Mark 16:17).**
- 2. We speak of God’s mighty acts and wonderful works.**

- 3. We magnify and exalt our God.**
- 4. We edify ourselves spiritually...become spiritually strong.**
- 5. We keep ourselves in the love of God.**
- 6. We worship the Father in spirit and in truth.**
- 7. We speak to our heavenly Father with tongues of angels (1 Cor 13:1).  
Is this the praise and worship of heaven?**
- 8. We experience increased revelation from Him, learn of His mysteries, secrets, and the hidden treasures.**
- 9. We gain increased revelation of those things He has prepared for us and given to us.**
- 10. We receive more revelation of His plan and purpose for our lives.**
- 11. We enter a rest and a refreshing—a respite from the cares of this world.**
- 12. We enable ourselves to hear His voice more proficiently.**
- 13. We pray the will of God regarding those areas of need where we do not know what to pray as we should.**
- 14. We remove selfishness and personal motives from our prayers enabling us to avoid “praying amiss.”**
- 15. We assure that our prayers are heard and answered.**



**16. We bless people, situations, and the Lord.**

**17. We sing in the Spirit thereby entering a new level of worship.**

**18. We give thanks well—express perfect thanksgiving to our Lord.**

Can you think of other benefits of praying in the Spirit, praying in tongues? If so, please notify me of them via [jsmithmin.org](http://jsmithmin.org). Apparently, there are many more. I just borrowed a book entitled Seventy Reasons for Speaking in Tongues by Dr. Bill Hamon. Nonetheless, based on the preceding reasons alone, don't you desire to speak, pray, sing, and praise in the Spirit, in other tongues, as the Holy Spirit gives the utterance? As Jesus said, "**If anyone thirsts**, let him come to Me and drink...out of his heart will flow rivers of living water...this He spoke concerning the Holy Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive" **Are you thirsty?**

## **Important Addendum!**

As I finished this teaching, 1 Corinthians 12:29-31 came to mind. There, Paul asks, "Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? **Do all speak with tongues?** Do all interpret? The implied answer to these questions is "No." Hence, you might believe Paul is saying some believers cannot speak with tongues.

In order to accurately understand what he is saying, you need to remember that 1 Corinthians 14 is devoted to teaching the church how to properly use the vocal gifts (tongues, interpretation of tongues, and prophecy) during a church service. Paul is saying that not everyone will speak with tongues during the service. It may be that everyone in the congregation has been baptized with the Holy Spirit and could speak out a message in tongues, but it would not be appropriate for all of them to do so during a meeting. Hear his words, "Whenever you come together, if anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three,

each in turn” (1 Cor 14:26-28). If the congregation consists of one hundred people, it would not appropriate for each of them to speak out a message in tongues. Therefore, not everyone will speak in tongues even though everyone may have the ability to speak in tongues.

Even though Paul is a dedicated “tongue talker,” he will not preach or teach in other tongues because he would not be understood. He says, “I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; yet in the church I would rather speak words with my understanding, that I may teach others” (1 Cor 14:18-19). During a church service, it is good and appropriate to have two or three people speak out a message in tongues. However, the messages should be accompanied by an interpretation given in the natural language which will enable everyone to understand what was said. Remember, “The manifestation of the Spirit (*gifts of the Spirit*) is given to each one for the profit of all.” Therefore, “Let all things be done decently and in order” (1 Cor 12:7, 1 Cor 14:40).