



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

Introduction

- “the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:4)
- “...everyone heard them speak in his own language.” (Acts 2:6)
- “... we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.” (Acts 2:11)

Warnings about signs and wonders

- Virtue is more important to God than the gift of tongues
 - “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matt. 7:22-23)

Warnings about signs and wonders

- Obtaining spiritual gifts should not be the goal of our spiritual life nor the source of my joy
 - “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” (Lk. 10:20)
 - “And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, “Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:18-19)



Warnings about signs and wonders

- Pride may be associated with signs and wonders
 - “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.” (2 Cor. 12:7)
 - “Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.” (1 Cor. 14:12)



Warnings about signs and wonders

- Those who follow signs are more likely to be deceived
 - “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception...”
(2 Thes. 2:9, 10)

The Purpose of Speaking in Tongues

- Definition: a gift of the Holy Spirit by which a believer is given the ability to speak in a foreign language without having been taught it beforehand.
- It was given to them to make evangelizing possible and effective.
 - “Others mocking said, ‘They are full of new wine.’” (Acts 2:13)
 - “Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers...” (1 Cor. 14:22)

The Purpose of Speaking in Tongues

- Translation is necessary
 - “So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without significance. Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks will be a foreigner to me... Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.” (1 Cor. 14:9-11, 13)

Is this gift still active in the Church?

- “Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; **whether there are tongues, they will cease...**” (1 Cor. 13:8)
 - It was given to the apostles for the purpose of communicating with foreigners
- God wants man to participate in His work of salvation in the way he is able, and God will do what man cannot.



Final Remarks

- The gift of tongues was not a common gift
- It is not the greatest gift
 - “...he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.” (1 Cor. 14:5)
- Speaking in tongues is not associated with a high level of spirituality

Conclusion

- “For God is not the author of confusion but of peace...” (1 Cor. 14:33)
- Warnings about signs and wonders
 - Virtue is more important to God
 - Obtaining spiritual gifts should not be the goal of our spiritual life
 - Pride may be associated with signs and wonders
 - Those who follow signs (miracles) are more likely to be deceived
- The Purpose of Speaking in Tongues
 - It was given to them to make evangelizing possible and effective
 - Translation is necessary

Conclusion

- Is this gift still active in the Church?
 - It was given to the apostles for the purpose of communicating with foreigners
 - Now there is no need
- Final Remarks
 - The gift of tongues was not a common gift
 - It is not the greatest gift
 - It is not associated with a high level of spirituality