



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

Introduction

- 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
- Is this gift still active in the Church?
- Final Remarks

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)
- The Purpose of Speaking in Tongues
 - It was given to them to make evangelizing possible and effective
 - Translation is necessary
- 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