

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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Tongue-Speaking Part 1

The so-called “tongue-speaking” that you see on TV is nothing like what you find when you read the Bible.

Understanding this subject involves three primary points, the first one being the meaning of “tongues,” which simply means *language* (ex., English tongue). The miracle called “tongues” was the ability to speak a human language never studied or learned. By this, God “gave witness” that the speaker was telling genuine, divine truth (Hebrews 2:4).

It is tragic that today “tongue-speaking” is often associated with wild antics, unintelligible speeches, and appeals for money attributed to the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2, when the apostles spoke in tongues, the hearers said, “We hear them speaking in our

own tongues...” (2:11)—no one says that today when hearing someone claiming to speak in tongues.

In the Bible, the speaker knew what he was saying and could control whether he would speak or be silent. Those who spoke a language not known by any of the hearers and did not use an interpreter sinned (1 Cor. 14:4, 32, 28).

One way modern claims of tongue-speaking are proven false is by comparing the speaker’s teachings with the Bible. The Holy Spirit leads no one to teach salvation without or before water baptism (Acts 2:36-38; 8:29, 35-38).

Special Issue:

- **Tongue-Speaking**
- **What Does the Bible Say About Voting?**

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Tongue-Speaking Part 2

The ability to speak in tongues is listed among many other miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:7-10). These gifts were received when one of the apostles laid their hands on someone. In Acts 8, Philip went to Samaria, performed miracles, and preached Christ. As a result, men and women believed and were baptized, but the Holy Spirit fell *upon none of them* (v14, 16). Philip performed miracles but could not give, nor did baptism give, the Samaritans that ability. Two apostles came from Jerusalem, and *they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit* (v17). This is one reason no one is genuinely speaking in tongues today--- there are no apostles to distribute this gift, or the others.

Some people wonder if, or assert that, the Holy Spirit will directly give these gifts today, citing Cornelius, who spoke in tongues before his conversion. Acts 10:44-45; 11:3, 17-18 shows that this miracle was to convince the Jews that God accepted the Gentiles (which the Jews doubted). What happened in Acts 10 was as unique as what happened in Acts 2:1-4, making it clear that the gospel and salvation (not tongue-speaking) was truly for all men.

Tongue-Speaking Part 3

What was the purpose of tongue-speaking?

To understand “speaking in tongues,” you must understand God’s plan for revealing truth. When God revealed truth, He let a miracle prove the words were from Him. In Matthew 9:1-8, a miracle proved that Jesus was speaking truth.

Read Hebrews 2:1-4. Verse 3 reminds us that Jesus’ words are true, but how do we know His words are true? Verse 4 says that God was “bearing witness” by various miracles. Miracles were the way that God showed that the words of Jesus and the apostles were true. That is what happened in Acts 2—since the audience knew God gave the apostles the power to speak in those languages (tongues), they also knew God approved of what they taught. Speaking in tongues was a piece of evidence that the apostles’ message was true.

Today, the Bible records the words and miracles of Jesus and His apostles so we know what is right and have the evidence proving it is true. God is not giving new teachings or new evidence today. He has completed His plan for revealing and “bearing witness” to truth. Since we need no new message or evidence, tongue-speaking has ceased.

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

You are invited to:
Sunday AM Bible classes:
10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes
& Worship: 7:00 PM

What Does the Bible Say About Voting?

Our country’s founders decided that American citizens would have the right to vote, but government approval never guarantees God’s approval. What has God said about voting?

The Bible was not originally written to people who had the option to vote, so the word *vote* is absent. The apostle Paul had no right to vote but used other rights he had as a citizen of Rome (Acts 16:37; 25:11). This proves that God permits Christians to use freedoms a civil government offers (as long as the freedom does not violate God’s law, Acts 5:29). Like circumcision and eating meats, Christians who seek to please God by choosing to vote or not vote do not sin (1 Cor. 8:8; Gal. 5:6). Any who forbid or command voting create their own doctrine (Matt. 15:9). For example, *WatchTower* stated (“Jehovah’s Witnesses’ official publication) “In no country do Jehovah’s witnesses take part in politics... they do not take part in voting at elections” (May 15, 1964, p308).

Righteousness exalts nations but sin brings reproach (Prov. 14:34), so people who choose to vote ought to use God’s word in those decisions. For example, Arkansans are voting on an “alcohol amendment.” Since *wine is a mocker*, will more alcohol produce more righteousness or sin (Prov. 20:1)? God’s word helps us vote wisely.

Questions from this issue’s articles:

1. In Acts 2, when the apostles spoke in tongues, did the audience understand what they said?
2. In Acts 8, why did Peter and John leave Jerusalem and go to Samaria?
3. Tongue-speaking, and any miracle, was evidence of what, in the New Testament?
4. How can we know that God permits us to vote?

* Mail your answers to the church of Christ in Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501
OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

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