

"Why Pray in Tongues?"

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
Bishop Edward A. Smith

INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

Life Group Lesson Objective: Provide a BIBLICAL FOCUS to obtain a DEEPER understanding of “Why Pray in Tongues”.

Life Group Leader preparation:

WHY PRAY IN THE TONGUES? “For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit.”
1 Corinthians 14:2 NIV

John 14:12 – Jesus said, “greater works will you do because I’m going to the Father....

- Mark 16:17-18 – And these signs shall follow them that believe:
 - Cast out devils
 - They shall speak with new tongues
 - They shall take up serpents
 - If they drink any deadly thing it will not hurt them
 - They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover
- Ephesians 3:20 – God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we can ask or think, according to the power at work within us. God is doing the work through us: by the Holy Spirit, by our Faith – **these signs follow those who believe.**

Luke 24:49 – Jesus said, “And behold I send the promise of the Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until you be endued with power from on high.”

Acts 1:8 – And you shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you....and you shall be witnesses unto me....

WEEK #1: Why Speak in Tongues? Jesus said so.

Discussion Question: Are you an “unbelieving believer”? these signs follow those who believe. Remember Jesus told his disciples they couldn’t cast out the demon from the little boy, because of their unbelief. Lack of faith. The Disciples believed Jesus was the Messiah, but they didn’t believe they had the power to cast out the devil.

The Word of God teaches that when we are filled with the Holy Ghost, we will speak with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance.

- Speaking in tongues is the initial evidence, or sign, of the baptism of the Holy Spirit:
 - “And they were all FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, and began to SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:4).
- In Mark 16:17-18 Jesus said these signs follow those who believe.
- Acts 1:3 – Jesus showed himself alive by many infallible proofs: infallible means incapable of error, foolproof, perfect...
 - After Jesus rose from the grave.... proof (infallible) that he was God.
 - Act 1:14...they all continued in one accord – they were united
 - Acts 2:1 – they were in one accord...they were all believing, waiting for the Holy Spirit
 - Acts 2:4 – and they were ALL filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak in other tongues as they Spirit gave them utterance.

Group Discussion: We know what the Word says. What do you think some Christians struggle with speaking/praying in the Holy Spirit?

Life Group Leader: are all filled with the Holy Spirit in your group? Get others in agreement/unity so that all will receive the HS by the end of this lesson.

WEEK #2: God gave us power, love and a sound mind

Discussion Question: Would God send us a something that would be hurtful to us, something that would weaken us or be unhelpful/useless to us?

Tongues are meant for self-edification. I Corinthians 14:4 – He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself.

- He helps himself grow – GW
- Builds up his own soul – Phillips
- Helps himself grow spiritually – TLB

“WHY PRAY IN TONGUES?” – MARCH 2018

The person who speaks in tongues receives benefits from this gift, since v.4 says “He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself.” So, there is something gained from praying in tongues.

- But ye, beloved, BUILDING UP YOURSELVES on your most holy faith, PRAYING IN THE HOLY GHOST. – Jude 20

- Acts 2:4 – and they were **ALL** filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak in other tongues as they Spirit gave them utterance.

Group Discussion: Since the Word says we are edified (built-up spiritually) when we speak in our heavenly language; are we doing this on a regular basis(daily)? If not, why so?

WEEK #3: Tongues are for a sign – I Cor 14:22

Discussion Question: What is the purpose of Tongues?

Another word for sign is an indication; something meant to convey information...

- Jesus said these signs – these indications will follow THOSE WHO BELIEVE
- Paul said Tongues are for a sign....TO THE UNBELIEVER

When we pray in tongues where unbelievers are gathered; we should desire the best gifts to follow.... we want Tongues with an interpretation.... Prophecy.... otherwise unbelievers will think we're crazy.....I Cor 14:22-25

- **When the gifts of the Spirit are operating (by the Spirit); the secrets of the unbeliever's heart will be manifested/exposed and He (the unbeliever) will worship God!**

The church is edified when someone speaks with other tongues in the **public assembly** and there is an interpretation; which is prophecy. (the equivalent of tongues and interpretation) — is to speak unto men ". . . to edification, and exhortation, and comfort" (1 Cor. 14:3)

Note: 1 Cor. 14:4a is referring to a personal, private time when the believer is praying in the Holy Spirit and speaking just to God – this edifies the believer. The second part of verse 14b refers back to verse 3 - prophesying in the public assembly edifies the church body.

- **I Cor 12:31 – But covet earnestly (strongly desire) the best gifts....**

Paul devotes the entire chapter of First Corinthians 14 to the gifts of prophecy, and tongues and interpretation of tongues. In verse 33, he says, ". . . God is not the author of confusion ..." (1 Cor. 14:33).

Group Discussion: Give an example of how the gift of speaking/praying in the Holy Spirit has personally impacted your life as a believer?

Week #4 – When I don’t know what to pray...

Group Discussion Questions: You know you need to pray, but you don’t know what or how to pray...what do I do??

Eph 6:10 – Finally my brethren be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might:

- Part of your armor – Ephesians 6:18: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...
- 1 Cor 14:14 – For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with (in) the spirit, and I will also pray with (in) the understanding. NKJV
- I Cor 14:39.....do not forbid to speak with tongues
 - Romans 8:26-27 – We don’t know what to pray for as we ought....in the same way the Spirit helps us in our weakness...we do not always know what to pray for, but the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered (expressed). The Spirit searches hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is because He makes intercession for the saints.
- *Colossians 1:9 –11 Paul prayed “that we might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that we would be fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God...strengthened with all might according to His glorious power....*
 - Deut 28:8 – God said he would bless everything you set your hand to.... let Him bless your prayer life with Praying in Tongues....

Group Discussion: How can praying in the Spirit and listening to the Holy Spirit help us lead a victorious, abundant (Zoe) kind of life?