



# Spiritual Language & Speaking in Tongues

*Adapted from FireBible Article: Speaking in Tongues by Danny Duvall*

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them ability. The speaking in tongues in 1 Corinthians 12:4-10 and 28 is the same, in essence, as the **gift of tongues**, however it is different in purpose and use.<sup>1</sup>

The *FireBible* article, *Speaking in Tongues*, gives a deeper understanding of this truth. If you do not have a *FireBible* you will still enjoy studying this lesson. If you want to purchase one, [click here](#).

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<sup>1</sup> "The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit," The Assemblies of God, <https://ag.org/Beliefs/Statement-of-Fundamental-Truths#8> (Accessed August 22, 2017).

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**Isaiah 28:11 (ESV)** For by people of strange lips and with a foreign tongue the LORD will speak to this people,

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The scripture is full of reasons a believer should be open to speaking in tongues. The following verses will assist in understanding this experience which moves us toward a Holy Spirit-empowered life.

In the *FireBible* article, note the History of Spiritual language throughout the life of the church.

- Early church:
- Roman Church:
- Historical outpouring:
- Topeka Kansas:
- Modern church:

The fruit of speaking in tongues includes, but is not limited to, the initial evidence of receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

## **1 Corinthians 14:5 (ESV)**

Now, I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophecy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

**1. Speaking in tongues as the initial physical evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is based on experiences of the early church.**

## **Acts 2:4 (ESV)**

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

## **Acts 10:44–46 (ESV)**

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> And the believers

from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. <sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared,

### **Acts 8:14–17 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, <sup>15</sup> who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, <sup>16</sup> for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 19:6 (ESV)** And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

2. Not all believers speak in tongues but this prayer language is available for all believers.
3. Churches who do not embrace the use of a spiritual language fail to layer biblical history, truth and first century correction of the early church.
4. Luke wrote the book of Acts. The work of the Holy Spirit as taught in the book of Acts must be the ground work for Paul's discussion on speaking in tongues in his letters.
5. Speaking in tongues is key. We have the Books of Acts as given, with all the teaching of the Apostles layered on top of Acts.

6. There are many dynamics brought to the believer when he or she prays in a spiritual language.

7. Speaking in tongues in scripture is sometimes referred to as praying in the Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 14:14 (ESV)** For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.

**1 Corinthians 14:16 (ESV)** Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?

**Praying in the Spirit is useful to the Believer in:**

a. Talking to God

**1 Corinthians 14:2 (ESV)** For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

b. **Edifying themselves**

**1 Corinthians 14:4 (ESV)** The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.

**Jude 20 (ESV)** But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,

a. Praying **effectively**

b. The believer's prayer language has real **meaning.**

**1 Corinthians 14:10 (ESV)** There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning,

c. The believer's prayer language assists you in the **vast scope** of needs in your life.

**Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)** praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

d. The believer's prayer language impacts issues beyond that which you have **knowledge**.

**Romans 8:26 (ESV)** Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not **know** what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

**1 Corinthians 14:14 (ESV)** For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.

e. Your prayer language helps you give **praise** to God appropriately.

**1 Corinthians 14:17 (ESV)** For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

f. A prayer language is used **expansively** in the personal time of great men and woman of God.

**1 Corinthians 14:18 (ESV)** I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.

g. Your prayer language can enlarge the current of God's **love** flowing out of you.

**1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV)** Pursue **love**, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

**Jude 20–21 (ESV)** <sup>20</sup> But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> **keep** yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.



**Romans 5:5 (ESV)** and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

## GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS:

Read **Acts 2:1-47 (ESV)** and answer the following from the *FireBible* study notes:<sup>2</sup>

1. What did the feast of Pentecost celebrate?
2. What are the three signs that showed the Spirit was descending on the 120 disciples at Pentecost?
3. What prophecy did this event fulfill?
4. What decision came to people as the last days began?

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<sup>2</sup> Quentin McGhee, *Unlocking the Treasures of Your Fire Bible: Resources for Spiritual Understanding*, Springfield, MO, Life Publishers and Faith & Action Series, 2012, Page 228.

5. How was Pentecost related to Luke 24:49?
6. What began at Pentecost?
7. What gift did the disciples encourage others to receive?
8. What is the key to continuing Christ's work on earth?
9. What did the people outside on the street think was happening at Pentecost?
10. How does the Spirit's ministry through believers compare to the Spirit's ministry through Jesus?
11. Summarize in your own words the *FireBible* study notes on **Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)**



Read the *FireBible* article: *Speaking in Tongues*. Answer the following:<sup>3</sup>

## True Speaking in Tongues

1. What biblical sign today shows that a believer is filled with the Spirit?
2. How can believers praise God in a language they never learned?
3. Do those who speak in tongues speak in another language? Explain.
4. On the Day of Pentecost, how many of the 120 spoke in tongues?
5. Who speaks in tongues: the believer or the Spirit? Explain.

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<sup>3</sup> Quentin McGhee, *Unlocking the Treasures of Your Fire Bible: Resources for Spiritual Understanding*, Springfield, MO, Life Publishers and Faith & Action Series, 2012, Page 229.

6. Can a believer respond to the Spirit by speaking quietly or loudly?
7. How can each believer be sure he or she is filled with the Spirit?
8. What are two different purposes for speaking in tongues?

## False Speaking in Tongues

1. Do supernatural signs (such as tongues, prophecy, healings, or miracles) *always* show the presence of the Holy Spirit? Explain.

Is it biblical to try teaching a person to speak in tongues? Explain.

2. Summarize these verses in your own words:

1 Timothy 4:1-2

Matthew 7:22-23

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

3. What does 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 say about the Antichrist (the *lawless one*)?
4. Which article in your *FireBible* discusses the true baptism in the Holy Spirit?
5. What are three sure signs that show a supposed supernatural signs are false or from demons?