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## Book 12

# The Truth about Tongues

## *Is There A Super Prayer Language?*

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The chapter numbers below are color-coded according to the following categories in order to help you prioritize your reading:

**Best:** The most helpful, interesting and/or important chapters of the book.

**Essential:** Important chapters to understand the topic of the book.

**Specialized:** Chapters for the finer or more complex points of the topic of the book.

### Part I: Understanding the Biblical Gift of Tongues

**12.1:** **The Serious Topic of Tongues:** *Understanding the Modern Tongues Debate* [13 pp]

A) *Defining the Tongues Debate*

B) **The Difficulties & Importance of the Tongues Debate**

*Extras & Endnotes*

**12.2:** **The Biblical Gift of Tongues Was Real Human Language:** *Not Gibberish* [14 pp]

A) **The Biblical Evidence**

B) **The Historical Evidence**

C) **Answering Modern Arguments to the Contrary**

*Extras & Endnotes*

**12.3:** **The Biblical Gift of Tongues Was Miraculous & Meaningful,** *Not Meaningless* [15 pp]

A) **Tongues Was a Miracle!**

B) **Tongues was a Miraculous Sign Especially to Jews to Authenticate New Divine Revelation**

B.1) Biblical evidence

B.2) Historical evidence

**C) Tongues Produced Meaningful, Although Not Significant, Speech**

- C.1) Only enough speech to demonstrate a miracle was sufficient
- C.2) Not intended to communicate the Gospel

*Extras & Endnotes*

**12.4: The Biblical Gift of Tongues Was Minor & Rare:  
*Not Learned* [17 pp]****A) Tongues was a Relatively Minor Gift in the Early Church**

- A.1) The Apostle devalued it
- A.2) Pentecostals are wrong to make it a required sign of Spirit baptism

**B) Tongues was Relatively Rare in the Early Church**

- B.1) Paul used it more than all the Corinthians combined
- B.2) Scarcity in Church history

**C) Tongues was a Spiritual Gift, Not a Learned Human Skill**

*Extras & Endnotes*

**12.5: The Biblical Gift of Tongues Was Controlled: *Not Pagan Ecstatic Prayer* [13 pp]****A) The Lord Had Commands for How Tongues Was to be Used in the Church**

- A.1) Only "two--or at the most three—should speak, one at a time"
- A.2) "If anyone speaks in a tongue someone must interpret"
- A.3) If a translation was not available, the would be "tongue speaker" was to remain silent
- A.4) Women are not to speak in tongues at all in church
- A.5) It was sin against God to violate these commands & leaders allowing this should be ignored

**B) Modern Tongue Speaking Matches An Ancient Pagan Practice, Not the Biblical Gift**

*Extras & Endnotes*

**Part II: Understanding 1 Corinthians 14****12.6: Tongues & the Contexts of 1 Corinthians 14:  
*Luke & Paul Were United in Their Understanding* [16 pp]****A) The Importance & Difficulty of Properly Interpreting 1 Corinthians 14****B) The Biblical Context: *The book of Acts***

- B.1) Interpret Obscure Scripture with Clear
- B.2) 2 Types of Tongues in 1 Cor 14

B.3) Luke & Paul Were United in Their Understanding

- C) **The Moral Context:** *Sinfulness and selfishness*
- D) **The Relational Context:** *A deteriorating relationship*

Extras & Endnotes

## **12.7: Tongues & the Religious Context of 1 Corinthians 14:** *Obscure Utterances in the Pagan Mystery Religions* [21 pp]

- A) **Tongue Utterances in Ancient Religions, Corinth, and World-wide Today**
- B) **The Apostle's Concern of Pagan & Even Demonic Influences in the Corinthian Church**
- C) **The Apostle's Desire to Abolish Pagan Tongue Utterances & Preserve the Gift of Tongues**

Extras & Endnotes

## **12.8: Tongues & the Greek Text of 1 Corinthians 14:** *Not Everything Spiritual is Holy* [12 pp]

- A) **Not All Spiritual Manifestations are Holy:** *The unknown pneumatika vs. the authentic charismata*
- B) **Not All Tongues are Christian:** *The unknown glosse vs. the Christian glossais*

Extras & Endnotes

## **12.9: Is There a "Super Prayer" Gift?:** *Understanding 1 Corinthians 14:2 & 28* [13 pp]

- A) **Biblical Problems with Praying in a Tongue**
- B) **Historical Problems with Praying in a Tongue**
- C) **Practical Problems with Praying in a Tongue**

Extras & Endnotes

## **12.10: Was the Gift of Tongues Meant to be Self-edifying?:** *Understanding 1 Corinthians 14:4* [12 pp]

- A) **The charge of self-edification was a rebuke to the selfish Corinthians**
- B) **Real spiritual gifts are for the edification of others**
- C) **Edification requires understanding**

Extras & Endnotes

## **12.11: Did the Apostles & Christ Teach Mindless Prayer?:** *Understanding 1 Corinthians 14:14-15* [13 pp]

- A) **The Apostle Paul's Instruction to Pray With Our Spirit *and* Mind:** *1 Cor 14:15*
- B) **The Apostle Peter's Instruction to Pray With Our Minds:** *1 Pet 4:7*
- C) **The King's Instruction to Not "Babble Like Pagans" When We Pray:** *Matt 6:5-9*

*Extras & Endnotes*

## **12.12: Answering More Questions About Tongues** [10 pp]

- A) **Are We All Supposed to Pray in a Tongue?:** *1 Cor 14:5*
- B) **Why Did Paul Command that Tongues Not Be Forbidden?:** *1 Cor 14:39*
- C) **Is the Spirit's Intercession the Gift of Tongues?** *Rom 8:26*
- D) **Is "Praying in the Spirit" the Gift of Tongues?** *Jude 1:20 & Eph 6:18*
- E) **Did the King Invite Us to Ask for the Gift of Tongues?** *Luke 11:13*
- F) **A Paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 14:1-40**

*Extras & Endnotes*

### **Part III: Past Cessation & Explanations for Modern Tongues**

## **12.13: The Historical Cessation of the Gift of Tongues** [24 pp]

- A) **The Importance & Controversy Surrounding the Cessation of Tongues**
- B) **Early Church:** *Condemnation of Montanism*
- C) **Fourth & Fifth Centuries:** *Augustine: "it passed away"*
- D) **Middle Ages & Reformation:** *Condemnation of Jansenists*
- E) **1700-1800's:** *Condemnation of French Prophets, Irvingites, Shakers, & Mormons*
- F) **Early 1900's:** *Condemnation of Pentecostals*
- G) **1980's to present:** *Gaining political popularity*
- H) **Summary of the History of Tongues**

*Extras & Endnotes*

## **12.14: Legitimate & Alarming Explanations of Modern Tongues:** [19 pp]

- A) **The Importance of Discerning the Source of Modern "Tongues"**
- B) **The Certainty of Fraud**
- C) **The Likelihood of Fleshly Influences**

**D) The Possibility of Demonic Influences**

*Extras & Endnotes*