

TONGUE SPEAKING: MODERN vs. BIBLICAL

Text: 1 Corinthians 14:1-5

INTRO: In this lesson we will note some of the differences between modern tongue speaking & the Biblical gift of tongues.

While we question the correctness of the modern practices, we do not necessarily question their sincerity. (1) Those who are involved have been taught that they should speak in tongues, thus they try, work, etc. Because they believe they should, and believe they can, eventually they come to believe they do. The power of suggestion is frequently involved. (2) Emotion is an important factor in modern tongue speaking. Whatever other factors may be involved, we can examine the modern version of tongue speaking & see distinct & important differences between it & the Biblical kind.

| MODERN TONGUE SPEAKING | BIBLICAL TONGUE SPEAKING |
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| Most practitioners teach that all Christians should speak in tongues | Not all spoke in tongues, 1 Cor. 12:29-30 |
| Many look upon tongues as the supreme manifestation of the Holy Spirit. | Gift of tongues was of less value than the gift of prophecy 1 Cor. 14:5 |
| Most view tongue speaking as a sign <u>to believers</u> of their spirituality. | Bible tongues were a sign to unbelievers, 1 Cor. 14:22 |
| Tongues are often viewed as a sign of spiritual maturity. | Some tongue speakers were spiritually immature, 14:20. Such gifts were meant <u>only</u> for the infant state of the church & were soon to pass away, 1 Cor. 13:8-11. |
| View tongues as an enduring gift in the church. | Tongues & other miraculous manifestations were to pass away once God's will was perfectly revealed and recorded, 1 Cor. 13:8-11. |

NOTE: That tongues did cease is a matter of record. Attempts are

now made to restore the practice, but almost everyone admits that tongues did cease.

Many prefer tongues to plain language.

Paul preferred plain speech, 1 Cor. 14:9, 19.

Usually admitted to be an ecstatic utterance.

Real languages that could be understood & translated, 1 Cor 14:27; Acts 2:4-11.

Assemblies often characterized by numerous tongue speakers.

Limited to 2 or 3 speakers per assembly, 1 Cor. 14:27.

Often practiced whether or not an interpreter is present.

Not to be used unless there was an interpreter, 1 Cor. 14:28

Meetings often led by women

Women were taught to keep silent in the worship assembly. 1 Cor. 14:34-35.

NOTE: We grant that women were not restricted to total silence, but they were to do the same thing the tongue speaker was to do if there was no interpreter: not address the assembly.

La Porte, TX, May 15, 1983

Exton, PA, August 4, 1991

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 15, 1992

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, November 23, 2003