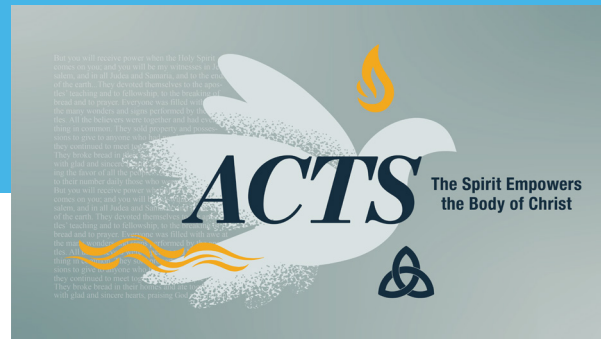


Discussion Questions

March 10, 2024

Acts 2:5-13 - Demystifying the Gift of Tongues



1. Discuss your experiences and/or feelings (either positive or negative) in relation to speaking in tongues.
2. Why do you think that for many Christians, the work of the Holy Spirit is often confusing, a bit scary, avoided, or downplayed?
3. Read: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
Going verse by verse, summarize what each verse tells us about how and why the Spirit works.

Have a couple people summarize in their own words, what we learn about Spiritual Gifts from this passage.
4. Read: 1 Corinthians 14:1-5
What is the main point Paul is making here?

Why does Paul think Prophecy is such an important Spiritual gift for them to desire?

How do you feel about desiring prophecy and tongues? Should we desire them today? Why or why not?
5. The sermon emphasized the importance of balancing rational understanding of God & His Word with subjective experiences of the Holy Spirit. How can we navigate this tension in our faith journey? Do you tend to lean more towards rationality or subjective experiences, and how does this impact your relationship with God?
6. How can we cultivate a greater openness to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our church community?

Acts 2:5–13 (NLT)

At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! Here we are - Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!"

Mark 16:15–17 (CSB)

Then [Jesus] said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues...

Different Kinds of Tongues

- A known foreign language that is unknown to the speaker.

1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (NIV)

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 14:27-28 (NIV)

If anyone speaks in a tongue, two - or at the most three - should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.

Different Kinds of Tongues

- A known foreign language that is unknown to the speaker
- An unknown language that is publicly interpreted
- An unknown language prayed privately to God

1 Corinthians 14:2

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 14:15–19 (NLT)

I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand.

For if you praise God only in the spirit, how can those who don't understand you praise God along with you? How can they join you in giving thanks when they don't understand what you are saying? You will be giving thanks very well, but it won't strengthen the people who hear you.

I thank God that I speak in tongues more than any of you. But in a church meeting I would rather speak five understandable words to help others than ten thousand words in an unknown language.

1 Corinthians 14:1–4 (NLT)

Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives - especially the ability to prophesy. For if you have the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking only to God, since people won't be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be mysterious. But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them. A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church.

1 Corinthians 14:26 (NLT)

*Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. **But everything that is done must strengthen all of you.***

1 Corinthians 13:8–10 (CSB)

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, **but when the perfect comes, the partial will come to an end.**

1 Corinthians 12:27,30 (NIV)

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

Dr. Ajith Fernando - Acts Commentary

To many, Christianity is restricted to entering the kingdom through a rational acceptance of the truth of the gospel, followed by their labor to live according to the Bible. This is indeed an important ingredient to Christianity. But Pentecost and its working out in Acts tells us that there is "something more." The greatest contribution of the Pentecostal movement is that it gave back to the church the importance of a subjective experience of Christ through the Holy Spirit in one's personal life and in corporate worship

Tim Keller

Christianity is neither rationalism nor mysticism. It's very rational and incredibly mystical, but you see, it's far too rational for mysticism and far too mystical for rationalism. Here's why. Christianity is a deep experience of a rationally held truth.

Dr. Ajith Fernando - Acts Commentary

One danger of an emphasis on subjective experience in worship, however, is that it can satisfy people so much that they neglect important Christian disciplines of day-to-day life, such as striving after personal and social holiness and mastering the Scriptures. It is possible for Christians to worship God with what seems to be deep intimacy on Sunday, and then to behave in unchristian ways in their workplaces on Monday. They concentrate so much on subjective experience that they neglect the hard work of pursuing a Christian mind that informs their lives and vitally influences the decisions they make and the way they behave.