

# Agape Seeds of the Heart

## Leadership Training

“Everything You Need to Know About Speaking In Tongues”

***Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Mark 16:17***

Introduction: Tongues have become either a badge of super-spirituality or a misunderstood mystery in modern churches. In an age of spiritual confusion and hyper-emotional experiences, few topics divide the church more quietly than tongues. So, what does the Bible actually say about speaking in tongues?

The tongues of Pentecost were the reversal of the tongues of Babel. At Babel God ‘*confused*’ the tongues so people could not understand. In ***Acts 2:6***, those who heard were ‘*astonished*’. The word is the same in both passages. God brought confusion at Babel, but astonishment at Pentecost. What had divided people and driven them away from God would now unite them and draw them toward God. The nations God cosigned to idolatry would now come to Him.

The New Testament has many references to people speaking in tongues, though it does not state clearly that everyone should. Yet in the early church it was so common no one was surprised by it, and neither should we be. It should be a part of normal Christian experience, not just something that happens to crazy charismatics. Tongues, like the other gifts listed in ***1 Corinthians 12***, is a gift for today. There is no Biblical evidence that God intended any gifts to cease after the early church was established. Where they have ceased is where we have grieved The Holy Spirit, and for that we need to repent.

1. Tongues are Biblical, but often misunderstood:

In ***Acts 2*** the Apostles began speaking in other languages ‘*tongues*’ as a sign of God’s power. But tongues aren’t just random spiritual noise. They are God-glorifying, Spirit-enabled speech, meant to edify the church and stir awe in believers and unbelievers alike ***1 Corinthians 14:22***. This was not a circus. It was a sign of The Spirit’s power, meant to unite nations under one gospel message.

2. There’s more than one type of Tongues:

The Bible describes different expression of tongues.

- A. Public Tongues – For the edification of the church, (needs interpretation). Some are meant for corporate edification, but only with interpretation present, ***1 Corinthians 14:27-28***.
- B. Private Prayer Language – Personal communication with God ***1 Corinthians 14:2***. Some are private prayer languages, unintelligible without interpretation.
- C. Known Human Languages – As in Acts 2, when others understood the languages. Some tongues are known languages, understood by others.

Tongues are not one size fits all. And it's not chaos, it's ordered, purposeful, and always rooted in The Spirit. Not everything labeled tongues today fits these biblical categories because of the abuse of the gift.

3. Tongues Are Not Proof of Salvation or Spiritual Maturity:

This is where a lot of people get hurt. *'If you don't speak in tongues, you're not saved'*. That is not true, nor is it scripture, that is spiritual manipulation. Some people also say, speaking in tongues is evidence of having The Holy Spirit, but that's not true, **1 Corinthians 12:30** makes it clear, NO. The real test of spiritual maturity is not gifts but fruit, **Galatians 5:22**. A tongue can be faked, Love cannot.

4. Tongues Without Love Is Just Noise:

Let's be real, some of us have seen people speak in tongues in the church and then cuss, gossip, lie, hate, or live a double life outside, **1 Corinthians 13:1**. Paul's sternest rebuke to the Corinthian Church was not that they had spiritual gifts, but that they used them selfishly and without love.

5. Tongues May Strengthen the Believer Privately:

Tongues, in private, can strengthen your spirit when words fail. It's not about pride, it is intimacy, **1 Corinthians 14:18** and **Romans 8:26**. Imagine your soul groaning before God with no human vocabulary to describe the weight. That's the space where The Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. Tongues can be a beautiful gift for deeper prayer, personal renewal, and spiritual warfare, **1 Corinthians 14:4**. The goal is not spiritual highs, but spiritual growth.

6. Churches Need to Teach, Not Just Display:

Here's the problem: many churches are loud with tongues but silent on theology. We need what Paul emphasized: order, clarity, and understanding. If people are confused, but not convicted, we've failed, **1 Corinthians 14:23**. We must not prioritize experience over explanation. Miracles without meaning are just moments. But when people understand *'why'*, they become disciples, not just spectators.

Final Thoughts: Tongues are not the main thing, but they can be a beautiful thing when done biblically, humbly, and in love. Don't settle for hype. Don't get stuck in fear. Let your hunger for the truth guide you deeper into the Word and closer to the Spirit. Because the real flex isn't just speaking in tongues, it's walking in the Spirit! Don't chase hype, chase Jesus Christ.