

LESSON 11 IN THE SALVATION SERIES

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For the past few weeks we've been able to dispel many of the myths concerning the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. There are a number of aspects concerning this area of the Believer's life that one must keep in mind:

1. Just as salvation is a personal experience with God, so is being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. No one can force the gift of the Holy Spirit or speaking in tongues upon you. The Word of God says that if you earnestly desire these two components as a vital part of your Christian experience, simply ask.
2. Speaking in unknown tongues is **not** a gift that is meant to show others how spiritual we are. It is direct communication with God, not with men. *For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.* (1 Cor. 14:2)
3. There are many benefits to receiving the gift of tongues:
 - When you don't know what to pray for as you ought, the Spirit of God makes intercession for you with groanings which cannot be uttered (Romans 8:26).
 - Helps to build on your faith as a Believer: *But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost...* (Jude 1:20)
4. Speaking in unknown tongues is one of the signs of having the Holy Ghost, but it is not the *only* sign. A person *can* be filled with the Holy Ghost without having the gift of speaking in tongues. *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal* (1 Corinthians 13:1).
5. Acts 2:4, which refers to "other" tongues is not to be confused with "unknown" tongues, which is mentioned in First Corinthians 14:2. Other tongues is a reference to "other languages," not unknown tongues.
6. Speaking in unknown tongues is a benefit to you personally, not those around you...unless there is an interpretation afterwards so that others can be edified: *I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.* (1 Cor. 14:5)

Hindrances to receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit:

- **RECEIVING BAD TEACHING:** Many religious teachings, such as tarrying at the altar, and other step-by-step rituals have hindered the people of God from being filled with the Holy Ghost. This is because when they follow

