



The Spirit and Speaking in Tongues

1 Corinthians 14

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1. What stood out to you in the teachings on Speaking in Tongues and why?
2. Please review the following grid that Harpeth Christian Church uses on the question of gifts and miracles of the Spirit. What do you find most helpful in this approach?



SEEKING (OPEN), BUT DISCERNING APPROACH

- **WORD TEST** – Do the words, impressions or pictures align with God's word, His character and His purposes? Remember, anything the Holy Spirit communicates will never violate or contradict Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-4:4).
- **WISDOM TEST** – The Spirit is your counselor, so does the word given reflect wisdom? Does it match the advice of godly counselors? Does it reflect Christ-like love? Does it edify, encourage or give conviction? Is it in step with the lessons of history?
- **WATCH TEST** – If the Spirit speaks by giving direction, in God's providence, expect that the direction will be confirmed and work out in time. There should be the fruit of Christ-like love and the fruit of God's providential blessings, over time. (Psalm 23).

3. Review the following passages from 1 Corinthians 14. Which passage(s) stand out to you and why?

1 Corinthians 14:1 - Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:4-5 - Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:5 - The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.

1 Corinthians 14:26 - What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

1 Corinthians 14:27 - If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.

1 Corinthians 14:28 - If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.

1 Corinthians 14:39-40 - Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

4. Please review **HCC Position on Speaking in Tongues (1997)**. What are the strengths of this position paper? Explain.

Few areas of theology within the church have caused more division than the subject of spiritual gifts. Some in our church believe all of the spiritual gifts spoken of in 1 Corinthians 12-14 are for today. Others believe some of the gifts are for today. And, there are those who believe none of the gifts are for today. You can see the potential problems.

The non-negotiables at this church:

- We do not believe that this subject constitutes a salvation issue.
- You can believe some of the gifts are for today and be wrong and still be saved.
- You can believe that all of the gifts are for today and be wrong and still be saved.
- You can believe that none of the gifts are for today and be wrong and still be saved.

Remember, for those who believe that the gifts are present today, the Spirit of God does not work contrary to the Word of God. The following are Scripture references for churches where the gift of tongues and prophecy are used.

- No one has all the gifts, but the church is to be a body. 1 Corinthians 12:27-30
- All the gifts must be used to edify the church, not the individual. 1 Corinthians 14:4-5,26
- If someone speaks in a tongue, it will be one at a time. 1 Corinthians 14:27, 40
- There must be an interpreter. 1 Corinthians 14:28
- There must be one who discerns whether it comes from God. 1 Corinthians 14:28-33; 1 John 4:1
- If it is a prayer language, there is a place to pray. Matthew 6:6

Behavior that Unifies at this church:

- Because this is a non-salvation area of contention between believers, we will not encourage tongues in any of the gatherings of the church.
- We will not allow the discussion of a non-salvation issue like this to come up in a divisive way or to destroy the Lord's work.
- We do believe God does miracles and answers our prayer and through the work of the Holy Spirit, empowers us to serve Him and do good works.

Reminders:

- We have two great groups to help you connect and grow in community! Young Adults (18–mid-20s) meet Thursdays from 7–9pm in the Student Center. Young Professionals (mid-20s–early 30s) meet Sunday evenings in Cool Springs. Click below to learn more and get connected! <https://harpethcc.elvanto.net/form/cfe0e023-9187-4302-9480-642da3889c11>
- Our ministry partner, GraceWorks is having a Food Drive this month. The donation bins will be in the lobby starting Sunday, November 9th. They are most in need of **pasta, pasta sauce, tuna, canned chicken, and canned beans**. Please consider helping during this holiday season!
- **Save the Date!** Our annual Christmas Potluck is Sunday, December 14th. More details to come.
- **Save the Date!** Angel Tree begins Sunday, November 23rd and runs through Sunday, December 14th. Check out the tree in the lobby and consider purchasing gifts for those in need.