

SOME PRINCIPLES PERTAINING TO TONGUE-SPEAKING,

DRAWN FROM ACTS AND I CORINTHIANS

by Robert J. Dunzweiker

1. Since the Spirit of God distributes various gifts to individuals according to His will, some (not all) are able to speak in tongues, and some (not all) are able to interpret tongues.

I Corinthians 12:8, 10 -- "To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, . . . to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues."

I Corinthians 12:28-29 -- "And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, . . . and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? . . . Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?"

2. Tongues are expressions of the human spirit, not the mind.

I Corinthians 14:2 -- "For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit."

I Corinthians 14:14 -- "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful."

3. Tongue-speaking in itself is nonintelligible utterance. Not even the tongue-speaker knows what he/she is saying.

I Corinthians 14:2 -- "For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit."

I Corinthians 14:6 -- "Now, brothers, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction?"

I Corinthians 14:9 -- "So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air."

I Corinthians 14:14 -- "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful."

I Corinthians 14:19 -- "But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue."

I Corinthians 14:23-25 -- "So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, 'God is really among you!'"