

4. One who speaks in tongues speaks to God, not to human beings, unless there is interpretation.

I Corinthians 14:2 -- "For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God."

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

5. Uninterpreted tongues may edify the speaker, but do not edify the church.

I Corinthians 14:4-5 -- "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified."

I Corinthians 14:13 -- "For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says."

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

6. The content of tongue-speaking includes "the wonders of God," "praise to God," "prophecy," "mysteries," and possibly "revelation, knowledge, and instruction." All of these except "mysteries" involve public expression, and therefore require interpretation.

Acts 2:11 -- ". . . we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

Acts 10:46 -- "For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God."

Acts 19:6 -- "When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues, and prophesied."

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."

(possibly) 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."

7. Tongue-speaking has various purposes

a. Following the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost, tongue-speaking served as a sign to confirm the opening of the door of salvation to successive groups of people; e.g., the Gentiles and some disciples of John the Baptizer.

b. The purpose of tongue-speaking for unbelievers is as a sign, to confirm the supernatural origin and nature of the Word of God in general and the gospel in particular.