

c. The purpose of tongue-speaking for believers is to edify them. Private tongue-speaking edifies the individual, but it is not clear how it does this. Public tongue-speaking edifies the church, but only if it is interpreted.

Acts 2:5-12 -- "Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs -- we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!' Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?'"

Acts 10:45-46 -- "The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. 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 14:5 -- "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 14:26 -- "What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church."

I Corinthians 14:4 -- "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church."

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

I Corinthians 14:22 -- "Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers;"

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

8. It is more desirable to speak or pray or sing with both the mind and the spirit than it is to do these things with the spirit alone.

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 14:14-15 -- "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind."