

The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:8-11

1. Distinguishing of Spirits (v.10b)

This is the supernatural ability to discern the presence of an evil spirit or the validity of a person's teaching (cf. Acts 16:16 1 Tim 4:1; 1 John 4:1). It is also possibly related to the exorcism of demons (cf. Lk. 10:20; Acts 8:7).

2. Various Tongues (v.10b)

Paul addresses this subject at length later in this epistle (1 Cor. 14:2ff). When Paul uses this term in his other epistles he is referring to speech in known human languages (Rom. 3:13; 14:11; Phil 2:11). It was given as a sign for unbelievers (1 Cor. 14:22) and may need an interpreter for all who are present to understand (1 Cor. 14:4). This gift of tongues, or languages, was God's enabling of a believer to miraculously and spontaneously speak a message directly from Him (cf. 1 Cor. 14:14-15) in a language unknown to the speaker (Acts 2:7-8; 10:46-47; 19:5-6).

A. Tongues is Connected to Gift of Prophecy (Acts 2:11-18)

B. Tongues is Connected to the Office of Apostle (Acts 8:14-15)

C. Tongues is Speaking in Known Human Languages (Acts 10:47)

D. Tongues in Acts is the Standard (Acts 19:1-10)

3. Interpretation of Tongues (v.10b)

This is simply the divinely giving ability to interpret a person's speech in an unknown language. This was to be done in the congregation of believers (1 Cor. 12:30; 14:26-28).