

NT Believer's Gift of Tongues

I. **Here's all 17 NT References to "Tongues" --used as a spiritual gift, occur in:**
(Mk 16:17) (Acts 2:4, 11) (Acts 10:46) (Acts 19:6)
(1 Cor 12:10, 28,30) (1 Cor 13:1,8) (1 Cor 14:5-6; 18, 21-23, 39)

II. We must ***test all things!*** (1 Thes 5:21; 1 John 4:1; Rev.2:2)

III. Tongues Were ***Known & Knowable*** Human Languages !

A. (Acts 2:4,8) "How do we hear each man in ***our own language?***"
These folks were impressed by their knowable human languages.

B. (1 Cor 14:21) "Men of strange tongues"—referenced ***Assyrian language***
(See the Old Testament passages. Isa 28:10-11; 27:13)
Assyrian captivity introduced Israel to the strange tongue of the Assyrians. Jews didn't want to listen to Jewish Prophets, so God would speak to the Jews in the Assyrian language they didn't understand, but they'd get the message at the point of an Assyrian spear.

C. (1 Cor 14:2) "He who speaks in a tongue...no one understands"
What does that mean?

*No one in the local congregation normally speaking their ***native tongue*** would be likely to understand Swahili!*

*Isaiah uses this same language to show that no one understood Assyrian (except Assyrians).
(Isa 33:19) You will no longer see a fierce people, a people of unintelligible speech
which no one comprehends.*

Obviously the Assyrians understood Assyrian (Isa 27:13). *Even so today in America, if one spoke in the Tibetan tongue—no one in your congregation would understand. It's a known & knowable human language... ***but it would not be intelligible*** to any person in your congregation!*

D. (1 Cor 14:22) "Tongues are for a sign to the unbelievers"
*Consider: if one in a congregation was speaking Tibetan, and a Tibetan came in, that would impress him enormously—and be a sign that God is working miracles here.
But he wouldn't be favorably impressed with a congregation speaking confusing gibberish!*

IV. Spiritual gifts were passed on--***by the Apostles!***

A. The Spirit was give through the Apostles' hands (Act 8:16-18; 19:6; 2 Tim 1:6)

B. Phillip the evangelist was there on the spot and although he could do miracles, he couldn't PASS ON the gift to other believers (Acts 8:13-15).

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V. Modern "Tongues" are not identical with Biblical "Tongues" (Acts 2:8)

A. The Modern "Tongues" are *NOT Earthly languages*.

"The types of inventory and distribution would indicate that this... bears no resemblance to any actual language treated by linguists. There is the tendency to employ one's own inventory of sounds in nonsense combinations, but with simulated foreign features."
Eugene Nida, Linguist of American Bible Society.

B. The Modern "Tongues" are *NOT Angelic languages*.

"We undertook to play a taped example of tongue speech privately for several different interpreters of tongues. In NO instance was there any similarity in the several interpretations. One said [he] was praying the healing of his children; another concerning a fund raising effort."
Dr John Kildalh; Psychology of tongues Speaking..

VI. Conclusion: *People may be sincere today—but modern attempts at tongues are NOT a manifestation of anything scriptural.*

**Furthermore, even if the manifestation were scriptural—
Even the WAY they do what they do is UNSCRIPTURAL.**

**They generally just start up in a babble and confusion of sounds.
But the apostle Paul expressly dictates that confusion SHOULD NOT
BE OCCURING...and if anyone speaks in a tongue it should be
2 or at the most 3 (1 Cor 14:27a).**

**Some of these folks speak 300 at a time--violating (1 Cor 14:40)
"Let all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner."**

**Finally, one should interpret—but usually this doesn't happen either.
(1 Cor 14:27b).**