

**Topic:** Heavenly Language  
**Text:** **Mark 16:17**  
**Theme:** “Reasons why Jesus advocates speaking in tongues”

## Introduction

- Jesus urges Christians to be powerful and to exercise supernatural abilities.
- One way to achieve this is through speaking in tongues, a heavenly language that needs interpretation to understand it. It is the basic and the “easiest” among the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit found in 1 Corinthians 12 (wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirit, tongues, interpretation of tongues).
- Among these gifts, tongues is the only evidence that you are baptised with the Holy Spirit.
- In chapter 14, there is a comparison between the gifts of prophecy and tongues. Paul tells us that prophecy is superior to tongues. True! But, it doesn't make tongues a lesser gift.
- Remember, it was Jesus Himself who advocates speaking in tongues in Mark 16:17. Also, Paul warns, “... do not forbid speaking in tongues” (1 Corinthians 14:39b); and punctuates verse 18 with, “I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.”

### I. TO BE ABLE TO MINISTER TO ONESELF

*1 Corinthians 14:4a He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself...*

*V14a For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays... (NIV)*

#### A. To edify his own spirit (1 Corinthians 14:4a)

1. “To edify” means to strengthen/encourage/comfort/uplift.
2. When your spirit is down and low, what will one do? Praying in tongues is the most effective way to recharge your own spirit.

#### B. To let his own spirit pray (1 Corinthians 14:14a; 2c)

*V2c ... he utters mysteries with his spirit. (NIV)*

1. When he prays in English, it is his brain praying.

2. When he prays in tongues, it is his spirit praying.
3. His spirit knows more than his own brain, as God is Spirit, "spirit to spirit" talk. The communication is direct, the link is faster, so to speak.

## **II. TO BE ABLE TO MINISTER TO OTHERS V. 22A**

*V22 Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers.*

*V27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.*

### **A. To lead the unbelievers to salvation (Acts 2)**

- On the day of Pentecost, 120 disciples spoke in different neighbouring languages. Three thousand were saved after Peter preached the gospel, and it was the speaking in tongues that "triggered" the "Jerusalem Revival."

### **B. To reveal God's message to the believers through interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 14:27)**

#### TWO WAYS OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES:

- 1) One on one with God, like praying in tongues, singing and praising in tongues, that DOES NOT NEED interpretation.
- 2) In group, like church service when someone speaks in tongue loud during worship time, it needs interpretation.

## **III. TO BE ABLE TO MINISTER TO GOD**

*1 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.*

*V27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.*

### **A. To let you pray to God with no one understanding you (even Satan) (v 2a,b,c)**

- Sometimes, the enemy can block your prayers because Satan understands your prayer; but not when you are praying in tongues.

**B. *To let you spirit, through the Holy Spirit, talk to God (v 2c; Romans 8:26-27)***

- If words are not enough to pray for your needs, the Holy Spirit Himself intercedes for your unutterable prayers.